



Antelope Horn

Newsletter of the Kern-Antelope Historical Society, Inc.
Member of the Conference of California Historical Societies
PO Box 1255 Rosamond, CA 93560
September, 2021

Meetings:

Regular Meetings: **TENTATIVELY**

- 2nd Thursday of the month
(except July & August)
- 5:30 pm - at the Wanda Kirk Library, 3611 Rosamond Blvd., Rosamond, CA.

Board Meetings: **Temporarily - scheduled as needed.**

- 4th Thursday of the month as needed. All are welcome.
- 4 pm - location to be announced

Hello to all our Kern Antelope Historical Society Members,

Your KAHS Board is making plans, tentatively, to have our **first meeting in many months on Thursday, October 14th**. Please ‘stay tuned’ for more information, but put the date on your calendar. Our plans are to have this kick-off meeting at The Oasis, the Sladek’s property on Tropic Rd, south of Rosamond Blvd. More details to follow in the September newsletter and by email.

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of KAHS.
WEBSITE: www.kahs1959.org **EMAIL:** info@kahs1959.org
FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/KAHS1959/



California Admission Day - September 9th

Constitution Day - September 17th



We have another chapter from *In Love With Life in LANCASTER - Hard Times 1927-1932*, by Grace Graham Pickus. Although schools around here have already been in session for several weeks, they traditionally started in September, and I thought this would be a good time to share some of Grace’s experiences in high school. She describes life in the Antelope Valley during the early days of the community. (My comments are noted in italics, with my initials - jlw.)

As you may recall, her family arrived in California in May of 1927, for a fresh start after losing the the family farm in Illinois, due to heavy flooding and loss of crops. This book is available from KAHS. Contact us from more information. (Contact information is above.)

CHAPTER 7 HIGH TIMES IN HIGH SCHOOL

High school for me was a high adventure. I ran for office and made it sometimes. At one time or another I made most of my class teams—baseball, volleyball, basketball, and speedball where the ball was worked toward the goals with the feet. Some people might find it hard to believe today that one year I was the Spirit of Speedball? Aside from an occasional trip by bus to a “Play Day” with the girls at another school, girls sports were limited to interclass competitions. That arrangement made it pretty hard on the Freshmen teams. In the 1929-1930 year, the Freshmen girls won the “Catalina Channel” swim contest. They failed to win in any other sport.

Bernice Lindner and I walked to school together every day. We always stopped at the Post Office to get the package of fresh yeast which had come in on the morning train with the early mail; this yeast her father used in their bakery. The bakery had been started by Aaron Oldham and taken over by George Lindner, Sr., who then sent to St. Louis in 1914 for his son, George. This was the George who ran the bakery when we came to Lancaster, Bernice came to town with her parents when she was three years old; she told me that in those earlier days there were no paved streets in the village. The road going east of the railroad tracks to the high school was paved by 1927, but we faced into the sun going to school and in the afternoon had even brighter sun in our faces as we walked home. That was trial enough on a nice day, but when an icy wind off the Tehachapis or sand-blasting gusts were



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blowing, and that was often during the school year, we wondered why the powers-that-be had located the school so far out on the east side of town. (jlw: *When attending Del Sur I recall walking home from the bus stop one day and having to squat down and wrap my skirt around my legs to keep them from being blasted by blowing sand. Soon my mom must have noticed the time and the sand and drove down to pick me up. I was probably in the second or third grade and walked a mile from the bus to home; the bus didn't drive down the road even though it was paved!*)

All girls were required to wear uniforms, and what a blessing in disguise that was in those depression times. No one could out-dress anyone else. We wore dark skirts; regulation was navy blue, but one could wear black or dark brown without risking demerits. The white middie blouse had button-on navy collar and cuffs so that they could be removed when the blouse was to be washed. The regulation long black silkish tie which most of us wore could be tied in several ways so we could show some individuality, but not much. I had only two blouses so I always had to wash and iron one during the weekend so as to be fresh for Monday.

Friday was "free day" so if we did have a favorite dress we could show our style on Friday. It was a miserable Friday if you didn't have anything to wear but some dumb old thing you had already worn a dozen times, or your Sunday best, and your mother wouldn't let you wear that because it wasn't the proper thing to wear to school. Once after I had worn flat black oxfords all fall and winter, even to church with my best royal blue crepe dress, I got a pair of black patent leather shoes for Easter. They had ankle straps and cherry patent trim on the vamp, and two-inch heels. Oh! Glory! When I wore them with a black and white checked gingham dress with a flared skirt that next Friday, I felt like a million dollars.

There is something about coming downstairs, especially if one is wearing a well-fitted dress and high-heeled shoes, which makes a girl feel pretty. One never feels that way going up stairs. Why, I wonder? I used to run up the steps of the Center Building at High School two or three at a time, but coming down I took my time. As I looked to see who was watching me, I descended one step at a time and sometimes trailed one hand along the wide curved concrete banister just to feel the cool stone. It was a "lovely" feeling.

The first two or three summers we were in Lancaster, many of the men wore white duck pants and white shirts, usually open at the throat. Just think of all the washing and ironing! The fellows at school wore cream-colored or light brown corduroys. Several of the "hot-shots" tried to see how long they could wear their cords without washing. Some of these pants had names and pictures and designs inked on; and some like Jerry Matay's, Don Hatfield's, and Everett (Red) Underwood's got so stiff their owners bragged that they could stand alone.

Many of the students came in by bus, and those too far out for that lived in the dormitories. The boys' dorm was small, usually housing from 12 to 20, but the girls' dorm was a good-sized two-story building on the south side of the campus. From 20 to 35 girls lived there during the week with two or three teachers who served as Dorm Mother advisors. The large livingroom with many windows was where the Junior-Senior banquets were held, and sometimes dances, and the boys' and girls' dorm parties were held there also. When I was graduated on a beautiful warm evening in June of 1930, we walked over from the auditorium where the graduation was staged to the Girls' Dorm, where a reception was held for the graduates and our parents and friends. Punch was served in crystal bowls, and it was so heavenly and so sweetly sad for we had truly come to a major milestone in our young lives.

A few students drove cars to school. Of course the campus wasn't closed so sometimes at noon those big shots took a carload of girls, some standing on the running board, and drove up and down in front of the school, turning at the far corners on two wheels and making the girls scream. Katie Batchelder, Violet Mahoney and Charlibel Nelson might well have been the ones screaming; they weren't what you'd call "fast", just more daring than most of us.

Mrs. Rena Weersing did the cooking for both the boys' dormitory and the school cafeteria, which was located along the east side of the boys' dorm. I had a dime to spend for my lunch each day. I usually selected the mashed potatoes and gravy—it was hot and filling. That cost five cents; for the other nickel I could get a nice serving of fruit or jello. Mrs. Weersing sometimes had cake, rice pudding or custard, but I figured that with the potatoes it added up to too many calories. However, when she had made chocolate pudding, I wantonly cast calorie counting to the wind and enjoyed this favorite dessert. Those were dimes well spent.

Mumps hit the high school in April of 1930. I was a senior and was determined that I should not get them. I moved out to their eastside ranch to stay with my Uncle Than and Aunt Gracie Rauch, but I did get the mumps and so did my Dad and a great many other townspeople and students. After a good bit of misery in the glands under our ears and elsewhere, we got over them and life went on.

(end of chapter)



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REMEMBERING 9/11 - AFTER TWENTY YEARS

This year, 2021, marks the twentieth anniversary of the terrorist attacks which hit the United States and rocked our world. I imagine most of the readers of this newsletter remember that day all too well, but for a large portion of our population (including all of the kids who have graduated from high school in the last couple years and younger) this disaster occurred before they were even born. So here is a brief review so that we never forget!

'The September 11 attacks, often referred to as 9/11, were a series of four coordinated terrorist attacks by the Wahhabi Islamist terrorist group al-Qaeda against the United States on the morning of Tuesday, September 11, 2001. Four California-bound commercial airliners, which took off in the northeastern United States, were hijacked mid-flight by 19 al-Qaeda terrorists. The hijackers were organized into three groups of five hijackers and one group of four. The first plane to hit its target was American Airlines Flight 11. It was flown into the North Tower of the World Trade Center complex in Lower Manhattan at 8:46 am. Seventeen minutes later at 9:03 am, the World Trade Center's South Tower was hit by United Airlines Flight 175. Both 110-story towers collapsed within an hour and forty-two minutes, leading to the collapse of the other World Trade Center structures including 7 World Trade Center, and significantly damaging surrounding buildings. A third flight, American Airlines Flight 77, flown from Dulles International Airport, was hijacked over Ohio. At 9:37 am, it crashed into the west side of the Pentagon (the headquarters of the American military) in Arlington County, Virginia, causing a partial collapse of the building's side. The fourth, and final flight, United Airlines Flight 93, was flown in the direction of Washington, D.C. This flight was the only plane not to hit its intended target instead crashing in a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, at 10:03 am. The plane's passengers attempted to regain control of the aircraft away from the hijackers and ultimately diverted the flight from its intended target. Investigators determined that Flight 93's target was either the White House or the Capitol Building.' (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/September_11_attacks)



A number of activities are being planned to memorialize this day at the actual sites of the attacks and other locations. There is a lot to be found on the internet if someone is looking for ways to participate, even for kids. Many firemen and other first responders are marking the anniversary in various ways. One such group left Santa Monica pier at the first of August, heading for New York City. The eleven bicyclists, led by retired LA county fireman, Buck Buchanan, are making a 3,000-mile trek that will take them through 14 states over the course of 40 days. Buchanan will carry the pictures of some of the victims, including the pilot of Flight 77 and the friends he lost when the Twin Towers fell. He says those photos will help him push through the physically and mentally challenging parts of the ride. They plan to stop at Shanksville, PA, then the Pentagon, finally arriving at the 9/11 Memorial for the 20th anniversary. The eleven riders are part of the non-profit group Fire Velo, which raises money for firefighter cancer awareness, mental health and wounded veterans. Should you be interested, you can follow their journey on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/FireVelo/>. As of today, they are in Ohio.

The list is growing. Gretchen, Chavonne and Mac are working to collect as much valley history as possible by way of preserving interviews of local residents who have a story to tell about life here in the Kern-Antelope Valley area. We haven't been able to meet due to the virus, but we can bring history to you. Here is the link for the Kern Antelope Historical Society webpage that will take you directly to the Video section: <http://kahs1959.org/Videos/videos.html>. In case you missed any of these interviews, here is a list. We hope you will check them out.

- Artist Ramon Ramirez with Gretchen Winfrey, July 2021
- Our Historical Artist with Gretchen Winfrey (Jedd Strange), June 2021
- History of the Carol's Department Store in Mojave, May 2021
- Terry Burton on Gold Processing, Interview by Chavonne Sladek, April 2021
- John Joyce, Interview by Gretchen Winfrey, February 2021
- JOE PAULEY interviewed by GRETCHEN WINFREY, January 2021
- THE FINAL TOUR, PAULEY BROS. STEEL, Interview by Chavonne Bradley, Autumn 2020





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Email: info@kahs1959.org

Please visit the website for more information about Antelope Valley history. Copies of recent newsletters are available, as well as other information. The first online KAHS book is also available. *Glimpse of the Prehistory of Antelope Valley*, by Stuart Glennan, is described as "Archaeological Investigations at the Sweetser site".



New Members for 2021-2022 - We are so happy to have you join us.

Welcome to the Kern Antelope Historical Society:

David Logan
Seaneen McArdle

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Please note: a new year has started, as of June 1st. Membership payments are due June 1st. You can make a check, payable to Kern Antelope Historical Society and mail it, along with the coupon below to:

**Kern Antelope Historical Society
PO Box 1255
Rosamond, CA 93560**

You may also pay using Zelle!

Thanks for those who have already paid!

How to Pay your KAHS Membership Dues with Zelle®

1. Get started by enrolling your email or U.S. mobile number through your mobile banking app or with the Zelle app.
2. Enter the KAHS email address - info@kahs1959.org.
3. Enter the amount to send and be sure to designate the reason for the payment such as "Sally Smith Individual Membership". KAHS will get a notification of your payment and the reason.



KERN ANTELOPE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Mail to: Kern Antelope Historical Society
PO Box 1255
Rosamond, CA 93560

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

	Type	Dues
Date _____	Student & Military	\$5
Name _____	Individual	\$15
Address _____	Couple	\$20
City, ST, Zip _____	Family	\$30
Phone Number _____	Business	\$35
E-mail _____		

Club Year - June 1st through May 31st



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The Kern Antelope Historical Society greatly appreciates its business members.
We hope you will support them and say thanks when you see them.

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 Where we're all Family
 Jamie Price
 Owner
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 Rosamond, ca
 661-256-3437

For Sale by KAHS

Books - \$10 (*\$8) Each:

Here Roamed the Antelope
Bears - Borax and Gold
Along the Rails from Lancaster to Mojave
The Antelopes Left and the Settle-ers Came
In Love with Life in Lancaster (Hard Times
1927-1932)
Antelope Valley Pioneers
Castles in the Valley - Shea's Castle
A Page in the History of Antelope Valley: the Arthur
Pickus Story: His Home for Seventy Five Years
Mojave, A Rich History of Rails, Mining and Flight
Gold-Fever - 40 Years Digging Antelope Valley
History
Antelope Valley News and Views During Part of the
Great Depression 1925-1935

Video DVD - \$15: Antelope Valley Yesteryears

Maps - \$4 (*\$3): Historic Settlers Circle Map

Online Book: *Glimpse of the Prehistory of Antelope Valley*

**Members' Discount Prices in Parentheses*

2020-2021 Executive Board

Officers:

President: Gretchen Winfrey winfrey3314@yahoo.com
Vice President: Delores Julian ddjulirosa@yahoo.com
Secretary: Janet Winters poppiesrme@gmail.com
Treasurer: Kelly Gonzalez gonzakel@sbcglobal.net

Directors At-Large:

Terry Landsiedel
Joe Pauley
Chavonne Sladek

WEBSITE: www.kahs1959.org **EMAIL:** info@kahs1959.org

General Meetings:

5:30 pm-Second Thursday of the Month, September through June

At Wanda Kirk County Library - *temporarily postponed!*

3611 Rosamond Blvd. Rosamond, CA 93560

(Exceptions: June, September & December -

Location to be announced)

Memberships:

\$5 - Student & Military; \$15 - Individual; \$20 - Husband & Wife;
\$30 - Family; \$35 - Businesses

The Kern Antelope Historical Society was established in 1959 for the purpose of learning and preserving the history of California, especially the Antelope Valley, which includes parts of Los Angeles and Kern counties. Speakers are invited to talk at our monthly meetings about aspects of our various cultures. Subjects range from Indians of the past to the Space Age. The Society offers field trips for members to significant locations in and around the valley throughout the year. Come join us to learn more about the wonders of this area we live in and also meet some new people.

KERN ANTELOPE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 1255

ROSAMOND, CA 93560



Since 1959