



Antelope Horn

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

Meetings:

Regular Meetings: **TENTATIVELY**

- 2nd Thursday of the month
(except July & August)
- **Location and time to be determined.**

Board Meetings:

- 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,

Our **first meeting in many months will be Thursday, October 14th.**

This kick-off meeting will be at The Oasis, the Sladek's property on Tropic Rd, south of Rosamond Blvd. **Tammy Kelley, from Wreaths Across America, will be our guest speaker!** More details on pg 4.

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of KAHS.

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

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/KAHS1959/



Below is a continuation of an article, from the January, 2021 Antelope Horn, by Clarence Gerblich from the KAHS book, HERE ROAMED THE ANTELOPE. He does a great job of describing what it was like traveling and living in the Antelope Valley in the 'early days'. As you read, keep in mind that this account was written in 1963, recalling life and events in the early 1900's. Things have changed a lot since the sixties. Italicized comments in parentheses are mine.

Mr. Gerblich, his parents and two sisters arrived by train from Wisconsin in Rosamond at 3:30 am one morning in 1904. Check out the first portion of this article (available online at www.kahs1959.org, see "Documents" tab) to review how they got to their new home when no one was there to meet them, etc. Watch for more of his story in future editions of the Antelope Horn.

ANTELOPE VALLEY AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

by C. J. Gerblich

p. 54

Water was more or less plentiful in many parts of the Valley in the early days. There were many, many artesian wells and running springs—a few of which I will name. These were located in an east-to-west direction, approximately one mile north of the Rosamond-Willow Springs road (*today's Rosamond Blvd.* jlw). Many were used for watering the cattle. They were about three quarters of a mile apart, as follows: Beginning west and continuing east: Cottonwood Springs, Sage Springs, Bean Springs, Willow Springs, Frederick Springs, Milwaukee Springs, Barrell Springs, Rosamond Springs, and Indian Wells, just east of Rosamond. I believe that most of them are dry at this time, but there are still green spots around some.

The second general store to open in Rosamond was built in 1906 and run by Mr. Mathew Stone and his sister. He was followed in the same building by Mr. Charles Ammond. This store was located at what is now the residence of Mr. L. A. Angell (*the Angell house on Poplar St.*). In 1907, Mr. Ezra M. Hamilton built the Rosamond Hotel; now known as the Rock-A-Bye Club (*currently Maverick's Steakhouse*). This (*hotel*) was indeed a boon to Rosamond, as it provided up to the minute accommodations for all who were traveling. At the grand opening of this hotel, which I attended, a banquet was served to all, followed by dancing until sun-up to the accompaniment of a lively orchestra. Those were the days. At first the hotel was managed by Frank Anthony, who made daily trips to Willow Springs with a large covered wagon—unlike the stage coach type—with groceries, freight, mail and passengers. At that time Willow Springs was an accredited post office. It took about an hour and twenty minutes to make the nine mile trip with a high class, lightweight team of horses.

The first R. F. D. mail route between Rosamond and Willow Springs was run by Mr. Callus Spencer, a colored gentleman. He made his deliveries using a light buggy and one horse. I can well remember how that horse would shy when met by me on a motorcycle. Callus was a very patient person, however, and never said anything to me.

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In the year 1908, the Los Angeles Aqueduct was at the very height of its building career; the boom days were on, and activity was at its highest. I hit upon an idea of selling fresh fruit to the miners, cement finishers, and general laborers who were more or less isolated from any market, and who craved something fresh in the way of produce. So with a one-horse wagon I took a load of watermelons and grapes up to the Aqueduct. I had purchased melons at seventy five [sic] cents per dozen and grapes for one cent a pound at Willow Springs. On my first trip the profit was six dollars—really a fortune to a young boy. The miners almost fought to see who would be the first to be waited on. I sold out with a bang. After making several such trips, I took up an unusually large load and it was almost dark before the entire amount was sold. Deciding to remain there overnight with friends. I fed and watered the horse and tied her to the rear of the wagon. When I got up in the morning the horse was not to be found. She had gotten loose and gone home; approximately fourteen miles. There I was with a lot of empty fruit boxes, a wagon, and no horse. I went to the corral where the horses and mules were kept, and told my story to the team boss. He said: “Think nothing about that, my lad. I have a twenty mule [sic] team going your way in about thirty minutes. We’ll take your wagon.” This they did and I rode up on the driver’s seat with the ‘mule skinner’ as he was called. The mules next to the wagon were called the ‘wheelers’, and were the largest of the twenty mules. Picture a pull chain of about sixty feet in length with twenty mules attached, and then imagine how they would negotiate a sharp turn in the road without having the chain rub the legs of the rear mules. This was a seemingly difficult task, but easily performed in the following manner; Upon reaching a curve, the driver, upon a command to the mules, would stop all of them. Upon another command the four mules ahead of the wheelers would step over the chain and pull at right angles to the lead, thus preventing the chain from striking the other mules. The entire twenty mules were controlled by a single line called a ‘jerk’ line. I noticed the driver had a small box containing rocks about the size of olives. Frequently he would toss one of these rocks at a mule that was a bit behind on the pull. The response was immediate. It seems the driver had a name for every mule, and from my observations, each mule knew its name. My wagon and I were duly deposited in Willow Springs. From there, I walked the two miles distance to my home. It was indeed a common sight to see as many as three twenty mule [sic] teams camped at Willow Springs over night. These teams were used to haul supplies (cement, lumber, steel, etc.) for the construction of the Los Angeles Aqueduct.

With all due respect to the late Dr. Arwine, I should like to relate the method of treatment which I received from him for a bone felon which developed on my right index finger. (*A felon is an infection in the pad of a finger, which can spread deeper; sometimes it can spread into the bone.*) The finger had swollen to three times its natural size and was very painful. I drove to Lancaster in a one horse [sic] buggy to see Dr. Arwine. After I had shown him my finger, he filled a white enameled basin with water. To this he added some blue liquid and instructed me to soak my finger in the mixture. Soon, he opened a drawer in his desk, took out a knife, a whet stone, and began to sharpen the knife. Imagine my feelings as he said ‘now hold still’ and proceeded to slit my finger open. Well, I saw the planets Jupiter, Mars, Venus, and many others too numerous to mention. After he wrapped my finger, I paid him his fee of one dollar and then went outside and laid down on the street.

At the time of which I speak, there was a cemetery in Rosamond about one and a half miles north of town. There were thirty to fifty graves at this site, most of them marked by small wooden fences and wooden crosses. I don’t know when this cemetery originated, but it was well kept in the early days. Today the highway goes over the plot and no one knows exactly where it was. I

Clarence Gerblick in 1910, shown with his new one cylinder Thor motorcycle.



recall three burials in the Willow Springs district. One in particular for Ray Connery, in 1908. The grave was marked by a headstone which is still there. Ray was a sign writer, about twenty-four years old, who came to Willow Springs for his health.

In August of 1910, I went to Los Angeles by train and purchased a one cylinder, four horse-power motorcycle. The machine was manufactured by the Thor people in Aurora, Ill. The average time between Los Angeles and Rosamond with an automobile was seven hours. I made the trip in three hours and forty-five minutes. Leaving Los Angeles at First and Main Streets at 8:00 a.m.; I was in Rosamond at quarter to twelve. The pavement ended at Glendale. Although the San Fernando Road was graded dirt, it was a good one, and kept wet to eliminate the dust. San Fernando Road was marked at intervals with El Camino road signs indicating the route of the Spanish Padres.

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These posts were steel with long steel arms from which a mission bell was suspended. The Mint Canyon road was indeed rough, and the Newhall grade very steep. In fact, the machine would not pull the grade, so I had to push it up the last two hundred feet. The open cut is still visible from Highway Six, and is an attraction for many historical groups. *(The latest I have heard is that this location is now on private property and not accessible and, also, largely overgrown but may be visible from the old San Fernando Road if you know where to look.)* After leaving the Mint Canyon, the road went down to Acton. Here I usually bought gasoline, served with a half gallon measure, and drawn from a fifty gallon barrel. From Acton the road went up and down to Palmdale. From there, due west about two miles to avoid the deep sand, then north and east to Lancaster. From Lancaster the road followed a northwesterly direction to what is now Avenue 60 W., then north to Willow Springs, and thence east to Rosamond. There were very few homes in the district at this time; being mostly a desert wilderness with huge herds of cattle everywhere. It was not long until I had a very unique experience in the use of my motorcycle. We were living at the E. M. Hamilton mill site. The mill was run on a twenty-four hour basis by the Antelope Valley Gold Mining Company who were having financial difficulties. Pay days were once a month in those days and pay day was close at hand. In order to meet the payroll, it was necessary to first deposit the gold in the First National Bank in Los Angeles. The man who was preparing the gold brick informed the general managers that he could not finish the brick until about thirty minutes before train time. Having no transportation other than horse and buggy, the general manager would have to leave for Rosamond in order to catch the train long before the brick would be ready. I was asked to take the gold brick into Rosamond on my motorcycle. I dashed into Rosamond five minutes before train time with a twenty-five hundred dollar gold brick tucked inside my shirt.



National Wreaths Across America Day December 18, 2021

In 1992, the Worcester Wreath Co, of Maine, had an surplus of wreaths nearing the end of the Christmas season, and the owner, Morrill Worcester, decided to use the wreaths to honor our nation's veterans by placing them at Arlington National Cemetery in one of the older sections of the cemetery that had been receiving fewer visitors with each passing year. This became a regular event for a number of years until this picture of the wreaths on the snow-covered graves at Arlington went viral in 2005 and thousands of requests came in for wreaths to be placed at national and state cemeteries throughout the country. In 2007, the Worcester family, along with veterans, and other groups and individuals who had helped with their annual veterans wreath ceremony in Arlington, formed Wreaths Across America, a non-profit 501-(c)(3) organization, to continue and expand this effort, and support other groups around the country who wanted to do the same. The mission of the group is simple: Remember, Honor, Teach!



If you are interested in sponsoring a wreath, only \$15 each, you can go online to the website below to learn more about the program and donate with a credit card or print out a "Sponsorship" form and send it off with a check. We have a local group who organizes the placing of wreaths at the

Mojave Cemetery. The local coordinator says there are now 510 veterans interred there! You may even have a friend or relative who served and is buried in Mojave. I hope you'll check out **Wreaths Across America**. For every two wreaths purchased, the organization gives a third one to the local chapter.

Check out the website and consider sponsoring a wreath. Here is the address for the **Wreaths Across America** website: <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/>.



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Kern Antelope Historical Society - October General Meeting Tammy Kelley with Wreaths Across America



Who: All KAHS members and friends are invited.

What: Learn about the *Wreaths Across America* program, especially at the Mojave Cemetery.

Where: at Don & Chavonne Sladek's - The Oasis - instructions below; this is the same location where we celebrated Gretchen's birthday in the past.

When: Thursday, October 14 at 6 pm; arrive early (after 5:30 pm) so you can get a snack and get settled.

Other details:

- **Please bring your own chair** if possible.
- *We will be outside*, a jacket might be needed - if summer ever goes away.
- Bottled *water and a light snack*, individually wrapped, will be *available*.
- Masks are optional, feel free to wear one if you prefer
- If you haven't joined yet, due to not meeting in person, this will be the perfect opportunity.



Sladek Ranch - 2801 Jefferies St.

Directions to the Sladek Ranch: Coming out of Rosamond on Rosamond Blvd.:

1. Go west to Tropico Rd/ 55th St West (stop sign at the intersection south of the middle school).
2. Drive south on 55th St., a paved road.
3. Drive to the dirt road which angles across the desert and turn right (going southwest).
4. Enter the gate into the Sladek Ranch directly opposite dirt road.



Special Announcement: In honor of our first, in-person meeting in over a year and a half and to get into the fall spirit, we will be giving away a horseshoe art pumpkin, similar to the one pictured, donated by Rae Winters. Be sure to get your free ticket for the drawing when you arrive. Must be in attendance to win.





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Website: www.kahs1959.org

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:

- Maverick's Steakhouse
- Roberto's Mexican Food
- Guido's At The Hangar Italian Kitchen & Bar



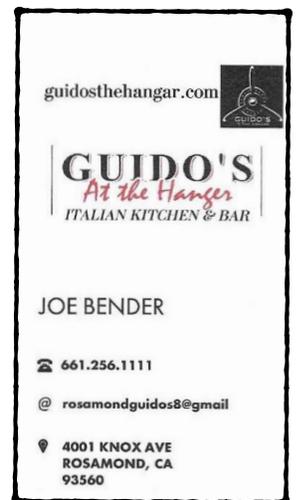
Kern Antelope Historical Society - Membership Application

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

	Type of Membership:	Dues:	Amount Paid:
Name _____	Student/Military	\$5	_____
Mail Address _____	Individual	\$15	_____
City, ST, Zip _____	Couple	\$20	_____
Phone _____	Family	\$30	_____
Email _____	Business	\$35	_____
Date _____			

- Note:**
- Club Year is June 1st through May 31st of the following year; new members, paying after February 1st, pay only half.
 - Zelle: info@kahs1959.org

*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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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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Cell: 661-917-9286

Rosamond Chamber of Commerce

Wayside Cafe
 Where we're all Family
Jamie Price
 Owner
 2435 Sierra Hwy
 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:

Second Thursday of the Month, September through June
Location and Time to be determined
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