



# Antelope Horn

Newsletter of the Kern-Antelope Historical Society, Inc.  
Member of the Conference of California Historical Societies  
PO Box 1255 Rosamond, CA 93560  
February, 2022

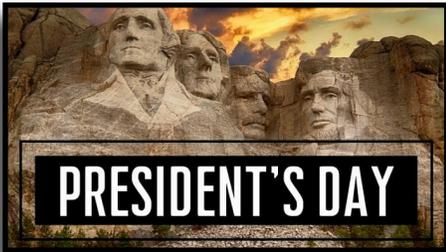
## Meetings:

### Regular Meetings:

- 2nd Thursday of the month (**except July, August & December**); 5:30 pm.
- Wayside Chapel Community Church - Felsite Ave, Rosamond

### Board Meetings:

- 4th Thursday of the month as needed; 4 pm.; all are welcome, email for directions.



Monday, February 21, 2022

## Hello to all our Kern Antelope Historical Society Members,

We were so happy to get to get back together in November and December, then a new variant of Covid came along and the KAHS Board decided to postpone the January meeting. Our plans were to resume meetings in February, but as the virus has proved highly contagious, we have postponed our meeting for another month for the safety of all our members. Hopefully, we will be able to get back together in March. Watch for the March newsletter or look for information on our Facebook page - [www.facebook.com/KAHS1959/](http://www.facebook.com/KAHS1959/) for the latest information. There will be no meeting in February. In the meantime, you can brush up on local history by checking out some of our YouTube videos at our website: [www.kahs1959.org](http://www.kahs1959.org)

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

In honor of President's Day, several presidential quotes have been included.

"On matters of style, swim with the current, on matters of principle, stand like a rock."  
— Thomas Jefferson

Have you ever stopped to check out California Registered Historical Landmark No. 652 in Mojave along Hwy 14? Do you know why it's there? I have to say that I don't recall ever stopping to have a look. Maybe this article will spark your interest, as it has mine, and the next time you head through Mojave you can take the time to check it out. Our feature this month is an article taken from *MOJAVE - A Rich History of RAILS, MINES and FLIGHT*, published in 1996, by the Kern Antelope Historical Society, to commemorate the 120th birthday of Mojave. The book is a compilation of articles by Glen Settle and others and is available from KAHS. The picture at right might be a clue.



Pp. 40-43

## Mojave and Borax

Although no borax was mined in sight of Mojave, the association of borax with Mojave has played an important part in history. John Searles was the first to ship borax into Mojave by mule teams from "Borax Lake" (now Searles Lake at Trona.)

J. S. Perry, superintendent for a large borax company in Death Valley brought outside attention to Mojave when he started construction of the extra large borax wagons in his Mojave shop. The wagons were huge, as you can see by their dimensions.

The rear wheels were seven-feet high. Each wheel had steel tires eight-inches wide and one-inch thick. The hubs were eighteen-inches in diameter and twenty-two inches in length.

The spokes of split oak measured five and one-half inches wide at the hub and the axle trees were made of solid steel bars three and one-half-inches square.

The wagon beds were sixteen-feet long, four-feet wide, and six-feet deep. The 20-Mule-Team wagons cost about \$900.00 each.



Please notice: if you are receiving a hardcopy (black and white copy) of this newsletter and would like to enjoy it in color, it is available at our website: [www.kahs1959.org](http://www.kahs1959.org).

Empty, each wagon weighed 7,800-pounds. Loaded with borax, they weighed 31,800-pounds. Two such loaded wagons, plus the water tank (which held 1,200 gallons, with it's own additional weight of 9, 600-pounds), made a total weight of 73,200 pounds or thirty-six and one-half-tons!

From 1883 to 1889, the years the wagons were in constant use, the 20-Mule-Teams carried twenty million pounds of borax from Death Valley to Mojave. A trip of 165-miles one way.

As early as 1913, Dr. John Suckow had struck a low grade of colemanite on his homestead in Kern County, thirty miles east of Mojave near the present town of Boron.

Suckow never in his wildest dreams thought that years later one of the largest borax deposits in the world would be developed, mined and shipped to countries all over the globe from this area of Boron.

Ronald Reagan (while still an actor) helped gain the attention of the world to the "20-Mule-Teams" when he hosted a television series based on early Death Valley. The series was titled Death Valley Days.

During the 1904 St. Louis Exposition and Fair, a team of the famous 20-mules and wagons were shipped to Missouri for this World's Fair exhibit.

At the present time, there is a California State Historical Landmark Monument and plaque on Sierra Highway (in front of Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant) telling of Mojave's part in the early Borax mining activities. *[I believe it is a Wienerschnitzel now. jlw]*

*This photo gives a good idea of the size of a 20-Mule-Team wagon.*

<https://www.nps.gov/deva/learn/historyculture/twentv-mule-teams.htm>



*20 Mule Team Unloading In Mojave, CA*

*Twenty-mule team in Death Valley, CA*



*"Try and fail, but don't fail to try." — John Quincy Adams*



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There is a good Wikipedia article on the 20-Mule Team at: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twenty-mule\\_team](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twenty-mule_team) which includes the following information. The monument in Mojave reads:

“Just west of this point was the Southern Pacific terminus for the 20-mule-team borax wagons that operated between Death Valley and Mojave from 1884 to 1889. The route ran from the Harmony Borax Mining Company works, later acquired by the Pacific Coast Borax Company, to the railroad loading dock in Mojave over 165 miles of mountain and desert trail. A round trip required 20 days. The ore wagons, which hauled a payload of 24 tons, were designed by J. W. S. Perry, Borax Company superintendent in Death Valley, and built in Mojave at a cost of \$900 each. New borax discoveries near Barstow ended the Mojave shipments in 1889.”



“This historic marker was dedicated October 19, 1958 and placed by the California State Park Commission in cooperation with the Kern County Historical Society, El Tejon Parlor No. 239, Native Daughters of the Golden West, and Kern County Museum.” (<https://jacobarlow.com/2020/12/21/mojave-20-mule-team-borax-terminus/>)

“There is nothing more corrupting, nothing more destructive of the noblest and finest feelings of our nature, than the exercise of unlimited power.” — William Henry Harrison

**Looking Ahead:** We invite you to **join us in March**, hopefully, when we plan to share **the interview with the late Ruth Russell, wife of Jack Russell who worked for the Bell Aircraft Corporation.**

From an article in the *Los Angeles Times*, dated July 28, 1996: **50 Years Of Vital Flight Research**, Jack told one reason he was so happy being transferred to Edwards Air Force Base:

“The crew chief on the X-1, Jack Russell, who had come from Buffalo, N.Y., loved more than the area's good flying conditions. ‘I had had enough of that Buffalo snow,’ recalled Russell, who was working at the time for the Bell aircraft company, which manufactured the X-1. The fact that temperatures on the dry lake bed can hit 115 degrees in summer didn't faze him. And these were the days before air-conditioning. ‘The dry heat didn't bother me,’ said Russell, who retired 17 years ago and lives in nearby Lancaster, Calif. ‘I thought I had died and gone to heaven.’ Others believed they had gone in the other direction.”



<https://archive.seattletimes.com/archive/?date=19960728&slug=2341353>. Jul 28, 1996

Here is a question for you.

- What does Ruth's husband Jack have to do with the movie, *The Right Stuff*? (You might like to review the movie ahead of our meeting, just for fun.) You can find the answer in the March newsletter.

“It's amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.” — Harry S. Truman

“I am a slow walker, but I never walk backwards” — Abraham Lincoln

“The Chinese use two brush strokes to write the word ‘crisis.’ One brush stroke stands for danger; the other for opportunity. In a crisis, be aware of the danger—but recognize the opportunity.” — John F. Kennedy



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Website: [www.kahs1959.org](http://www.kahs1959.org)

Email: [info@kahs1959.org](mailto: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".



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>. Here is a list of our other videos also. We hope you will check them out.

- Interview with Bill Deaver - <https://youtu.be/72AMyLs6AlI>
- A Tribute to Jim Williford with Ella Williford Garcia - <https://youtu.be/cxq5rj2505I>
- 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



### Kern Antelope Historical Society - Membership Application

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, ST, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Type of Membership:	Dues:	Amount Paid:
Student/Military	\$5	_____
Individual	\$15	_____
Couple	\$20	_____
Family	\$30	_____
Business	\$35	_____

**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](mailto: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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## 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](http://www.kahs1959.org)    **EMAIL:** [info@kahs1959.org](mailto: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*