



# Antelope Horn

Newsletter of the Kern-Antelope Historical Society, Inc.  
Member of the Conference of California Historical Societies  
December, 2022

## Meetings:

### Regular Meetings:

- 2nd Thursday of the month (except July, August); 5:30 pm.
- Wayside Chapel Community Church - 2584 Felsite Ave, Rosamond, CA

### Board Meetings:

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

## Hello to all our Kern Antelope Historical Society Members and Friends.

- ★ What: **Annual Christmas Dinner and Meeting**
- ★ When: **Thursday, December 8th** (2nd Thursday)
- ★ Time: **6:00 pm** (doors open at 5:30 pm.)
- ★ Where: **Guido's** at 4001 Knox Ave, **Rosamond**
- ★ **Raffle: Tickets** - \$1 each, or 6 tickets for \$5
- ★ **Year-in-Review Trivia Quiz** - Cash Prize

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)  
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I thought I would share something more seasonal, than local, in history this month. It is the season for it, after all. Hope you aren't too busy with holiday plans to enjoy a look back in history. jlw.



## Jell-O Desserts

Just for fun, what's your favorite Jell-O but at one time it was one of the most

popular desserts in the country. One source even says that "Jell-O is the largest-selling prepared dessert and is known worldwide." Whether or not it's number one, chances are that many of you have had Jell-o recently. At Thanksgiving, our family enjoyed a cranberry Jell-o salad and a plain orange Jell-o, along with the turkey, gravy and all the other fixings. Jell-O is often served at regular meals, holiday feasts, picnics, etc. How many ways can you think of serving it? An interesting bit of trivia is that the nutritional value of gelatin was recognized as early as the Napoleonic Wars when the French used it as a source of protein during the English blockade.

But do you know how Jello-O came to be so popular? Apparently, gelatin has been used in preparing foods, especially desserts, since the 15th century. But preparing gelatin took a lot of time and effort! Here is description of what was involved:

*"Prior to the development of commercially powdered or granulated gelatin, creating gelatin-based desserts was extraordinarily labor-intensive and time-consuming." It involved "boiling beef bones or hooves for hours, chilling the stock, skimming the fat, and then heating again to clarify the gelatin and remove any meat flavor before adding to custards and fruit juices and placing in fancy molds and chilling a second time."*



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No wonder it was once a sign of wealth to serve a 'gelatine' dessert, and only members of the elite classes could afford it. Serving a gelatin dish was considered a sign that the host or hostess had the means to support a kitchen staff with the skill and time to create such a dish.

Several inventions and developments helped to make a gelatin dessert more accessible to the masses. In 1845, Peter Cooper, inventor of the renowned locomotive "Tom Thumb," obtained the first patent for a gelatin dessert. In 1894, "Charles Knox developed the world's first pre-granulated gelatine. He had watched his wife go through the long and difficult process of making gelatine and resolved to find an easier method. He experimented until he found a process that resulted in a product that was superior to any on the market. Knox packaged dried sheets of gelatin and then hired salesmen to travel door-to-door to show women how to add liquid to the sheets and use it to make aspics, molds, and desserts."

In 1895, Pearl B. Wait, and his wife May, experimented with adding strawberry and other fruit syrups to gelatin and she renamed the dessert "Jell-O". In 1897, they got a trademark for the Jell-O name. Today you can visit the Jell-O Gallery Museum in LeRoy, New York, where they made the dessert for many years. But they weren't successful in marketing the product and eventually sold the formula to their neighbor, Orator Francis Woodward for \$450. At one point, Woodward, who was also unsuccessful for a time, tried to sell the business for \$35 but couldn't even do that. Finally his advertising efforts began to pay off when his salesmen went out to all kinds of community social functions (fairs, church socials, country gatherings, etc.), using beautiful



horse-drawn carriages, providing Jell-O samples.

In 1902, "Woodward launched the advertising campaign, "America's most favorite Dessert." Pictures, posters and billboards and magazine ads providing Jell-O recipes were distributed all over the American landscape. Over 15 million Jell-O recipe booklets were printed and distributed into American households.

Noted artists, such as Norman Rockwell even provided colored illustrations in these booklets to help make Jell-O a household word.

In 1904 the JELL-O girl was introduced and in 1934, Jack Benny could be heard over the radio airwaves advertising "J-E-L-L-O".

Eventually, in 1923, Woodward renamed his food company the JELL-O Company. Two years later he merged with Postum Cereal, Inc., and that eventually would become General Foods Corporation. Today, Jell-O is owned by Kraft/General Foods.

One more thing helped to popularize Jell-O. In 1913, refrigerators for home use were invented, before that, people had to rely on ice boxes. Refrigerators meant it was even easier to make this 'new' product. Because Jell-O was relatively inexpensive, and now so easy to make, it became very popular, with molded creations leading the way. It only took hot water and time in the "fridge" which was very appealing to many women.







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“For decades, Jell-O was served as a salad — and in many parts of the country, it still is, though it may not be as popular as it once was. Jell-O salads are part of the tradition dating back to medieval Europe when gelatin dishes were labor-intensive showpieces. The tradition continued in meat or seafood aspics, a style translated eventually to the American table when Jell-O became a way to incorporate leftovers, create a colorful side dish, or simply show off with a molded wonder.”

Can you guess the most popular flavor? For many years, there were just four flavors: strawberry, orange, lemon and raspberry.



(Apparently the raspberry replaced grass, one of the four *original* flavors.) Well in 1930, the newly introduced lime flavor became the most popular and was almost immediately successful, due to it's sweet and savory applications. One of the early unsuccessful flavors was chocolate introduced, and discontinued, in 1927. Today, the most popular flavors is strawberry with lime and blueberry, second and third, respectively.

Through the years, other well-known names, besides Rockwell & Benny, including Maxfield Parrish, the now-disgraced comic Bill Cosby, and Lucille Ball have been used to promote Jell-O. When sales lagged new products were developed such as Jell-O 1-2-3, which was a product that would “magically” set into three layers of different consistencies and colors. The Jell-O shot, is *claimed* to have been invented by Tom Lehrer, an American singer/songwriter, as a way to get around the alcohol restrictions at the Army based he was stationed at. Jell-O Jigglers could be molded into all kinds of shapes, aimed at enticing children. As recently as 2018, the brand launched Jell-O Play, a line of edible gelatin products designed to inspire families "to engage in free play and fun" where kids could actually mold and shaped it to anything they wanted.



So whether you are making a flavorful Jell-O salad for your Christmas dinner, or having a bowl of plain ol' Jell-O, molding a fancy shape or taking a Jell-O dish to your next potluck, you might want to remember the hours of work that once went into preparing the gelatin, then flavoring it and finally making a gelatin dessert, as you boil some water, stir and refrigerate your favorite Jell-O recipe.



Sources:

<https://whatscookingamerica.net/history/jell-0-history.htm>, <https://blog.cheapism.com/history-of-jello/#slide=6>, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jell-O>



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### Irving Berlin's White Christmas

Bing Crosby, explaining how he felt about singing "White Christmas" in 1944 when visiting the troops in France and England, after D-Day: "I hesitated about doing it because invariably it caused such a nostalgic yearning among the men, that it made them sad. Heaven knows, I didn't come that far to make them sad. For this reason, several times I tried to cut it out of the show, but these guys just hollered for it."

"White Christmas" was written by Irving Berlin. Many of you know that but do you know much about Berlin, himself? George Gershwin called Berlin "the greatest songwriter who has ever lived". He wrote more than 800 songs and the scores of many Broadway shows and Hollywood movies. But his life wasn't always happy or easy.

In 1893, he arrived in New York at five years old, one of eight children, with his family, who were Jewish immigrants from Russia. At eight years old, he was selling newspapers to help his family get by, in the Lower East Side. His father passed away when Berlin was thirteen years old and not long after, Berlin left home to "join the city's ragged army of other young immigrants", living in the Bowery. Without finishing school and no formal training, about the only thing he knew was singing, learned from his father who had been a cantor in Russia. Singing in saloons, he picked up on what



"White Christmas", the movie

appealed to the audiences and eventually began composing songs which became very popular.

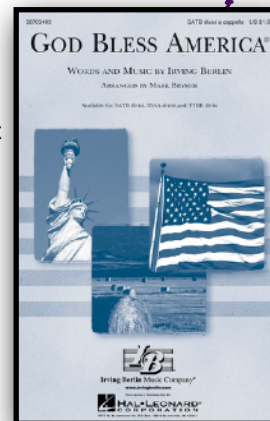
It seems that some of his songs may have come out the sadness he experienced in his own life. "When I Lost You" was written after his first wife died from typhoid fever contracted in Havana on their honeymoon, six months after their marriage. It has been suggested that "White Christmas", itself came out of a very sad time for Berlin. "Berlin's own feelings about the holiday were certainly ambivalent. He suffered a tragedy on Christmas Day in 1928 when his 3-week-old son, Irving Berlin Jr., died. Every Christmas thereafter, he and his wife visited his son's grave."

Berlin also was very patriotic and wrote "God Bless America", which he brought out in 1938, when Kate Smith needed a patriotic song to mark the 20th anniversary of Armistice Day. "To me," said Berlin, "'God Bless America' was not just a song but an expression of my feeling toward the country to which I owe what I have and what I am."

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/white-christmas-actually-saddest-christmas-song-180953675/>



Berlin at his first job with a music publisher, aged 18



Visit the website for more information about Antelope Valley history. Copies of recent newsletters are available, as well as other information. Follow us on Facebook for reminders about meetings and other items of historical interest. You can always contact us by email. And check out the KAHS videos which are available on YouTube.

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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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**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](mailto:info@kahs1959.org) You may now use the following cell number for Zelle payments, also: (661) 609-8757.

## 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*

## 2022-2023 Executive Board

### Officers:

President: Gretchen Winfrey      winfrey3314@yahoo.com  
Vice President: Delores Julian      ddjulirosa@yahoo.com  
Secretary: Janet Winters      poppiesrme@gmail.com  
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### Directors At-Large:

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**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  
5:30 pm - 2584 Felsite Ave, Rosamond, CA  
(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**