



Antelope Horn

Newsletter of the Kern-Antelope Historical Society, Inc.
Member of the Conference of California Historical Societies
January, 2023

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: **January Regular Meeting**
- ✈ When: **Thursday, January 12** (2nd Thursday)
- ✈ Time: **5:30 pm**
- ✈ Where: **Wayside Chapel**, Felsite Ave.
- ✈ Guest Speaker: **Barbara H. Schultz**, Aviation Historian

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



January Guest Speaker—Barbara Schultz has been an aviation historian for over 30 years. She has seven aviation history books in print as well as several articles published in the American Aviation Historical Society Journal. An excellent speaker, she has given presentations across the United States. She and her husband live on their own airport and enjoy flying to as many destinations as possible – even Alaska! You won't want to miss this chance to hear from her, especially if you are interested in aviation.

Barbara Schultz has a passion for aviation and preserving it's history. Her "career as an aviation historian began following a trip to South America. Looking for a new challenge, she signed up for flying lessons. Nearby Fox Field in Lancaster, California served her well." Her final check ride for her pilot's license was with Bill Barnes, son



Our guest speaker for January when she attended our Christmas dinner in December.

of Pancho Barnes. Later, when Bill was killed in a plane crash, she got his and Pancho's memorabilia, quite a resource.

She has consulted on many projects, including movies and documentaries. Schultz is a member of the Ninety-Nines, which is an organization of women pilots. (Established in 1929 by 99 women pilots, the members of The Ninety-Nines, Inc.®, International Organization of Women

Pilots®, are represented in all areas of aviation today. And, to quote Amelia, fly "for the fun of it!") She is also a Director at Large for the Antelope Valley Rural Museum. Barbara and her husband live on their own airport near Lancaster. "Aviation is more than a hobby for the two pilots. It is a life style," as she states in her Bio for *Pioneering Aviation in Kern County 1910-1945*, one of her books, copyrighted in 2019.

For more information, check out her website at: littlebuttesbooks.com.

Photo and information from the website.



Author & Speaker Barbara Schultz



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Keeping with the topic of aviation history this month, here is a brief article about Arthur Pickus, long-time valley resident, and his part in the construction of the **United States Marine Corps Auxiliary Air Station, Mojave, California** which was one of four Air Stations originally commissioned in southern California during World War II, to accommodate carrier groups being moved from Naval Air Station, San Diego. Mojave turned out to be a good place for a training base. Due to the clear skies and desert visibility, they could accomplish much more flying time than other bases like El Toro or Santa Barbara, even considering the wind conditions around Mojave. The article is from the KAHS book - **MOJAVE - A Rich History of RAILS, MINES and FLIGHT**, compiled by Glen A. Settle & Cathy Hansen, published in 1996 to help commemorate Mojave's 120th birthday (1876-1996).

Arthurs Pickus and the "War Effort"

The Japanese air strike on Pearl Harbor, with out doubt, changed the lives of all Americans in some way. The greatest change may have been with military personnel, but factory workers and farmers, salespeople and housewives, children and old folks all found a way to contribute to the total "war effort."

Arthur Pickus, a citizen of Antelope Valley from 1914, and a rancher, found his first war work in Inglewood with the Olmsted and Stiles Company, using a 16-inch Sidney engine lathe to turn out machined parts for Douglas, Vultee and other aircraft manufacturing companies. When he learned that Lloyd Newell Inc. in Lancaster needed a man to repair farm equipment, he came back home. Keeping the farmers in business was also considered necessary to the war effort. Pickus repaired hay balers, pump engines and gasoline engines of all kinds, as well as magnetos and speedometers.

When construction started on the Mojave Marine Base, several local men got work there. Pickus knew some of them and when they came in to Newell's and told of the great money they were getting on that government job, Pickus decided to investigate. He drove up to the site and was hired as a heavy duty mechanic. He told Mr. Newell that he now had a real "war job," but Newell would not let him turn in his key to the shop; so it was arranged that he would continue to repair the magnetos and other "special stuff" as well as working the full-time job in Mojave.

That job soon turned into twelve and fourteen hours a day. Often enough Pickus would work from seven in the morning to five or six in the evening. He would go home to milk the cow and eat dinner, then drive back the thirty miles to Mojave to work, probably welding until ten or eleven at night. He did make good money; his boss was not real happy those times when he handed Pickus a bigger check than his own pay for the same period.

One special job Pickus liked to tell about, with perhaps excusable pride, was given to him one evening at quitting time. The boss told him to come back after dinner to do a welding job on the Pioneer rock crusher which was used to prepare rock for the runways being put in.

He told Pickus, "You will be running the two 250 amp Lincoln welders."

Pickus asked, "Oh have you hired another man?"

"No," the boss replied. "You'll run them both at once."

"I've never done that," Pickus protested.

"Oh, you'll catch on" said the boss. "I'll have a flunky there to hand you what you need."

Pickus welded to build up the rollers on the machine. Using those electric welders with a "stinger" in each hand, he laid on 140 lbs. of manganese hard-facing rod in the fourteen hours. The boss was pleased that they had lost so little time on the runway job. After Pickus was hired for this government work, he had to join the union - The Operating Engineers; the unions paid little attention to the long hours, as everyone was eager to help in winning the war.

Before the Mojave Marine Base job was finished, Pickus had also welded the reinforcing structure of the munitions storage dumps and kept the big Barber-Greene paving machine running as well as the other repair work.



The flight line of the Mojave Marine Auxiliary Base, now part of the Mojave Air and Space Port. (http://www.desertnews.com/news/article_4af73fd0-40cf-11ec-8f1a-9765b3028092.html)



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KAHS Christmas Dinner 2022— We had a great time at Guido’s at the Hangar for our December dinner and get-together. The food was plentiful and delicious! Thanks to Jim and Jaimie Bender for providing such a Christmasy environment and wonderful dinner! It was also a

great time to visit with friends! The raffle was a success, there were lots of items to choose from! Also, the trivia quiz created a lot of interest and discussion.

Congratulations to Kelly Gonzalez - the winner, who admitted to taking the time to brush up on past editions of the *Antelope Horn*, she won the cash prize!



Jim Bender, above, & grandson, Joseph, cutting the turkey and ham!





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Thanks to our generous gift donors for the Christmas Dinner raffle. Your support of the Kern Antelope Historical Society is greatly appreciated!

- Karls Hardware*
 - The Tire Store*
 - Ramon's*
 - Christy Williford*
 - Barbara Schultz*
 - Rae Winters*
 - Farmer's Wife Florist*
 - Delores Julian*
 - Terry Burton*
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 - Kelly Gonzalez*
 - Anonymous*
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- \$20 Gift Card*
 - Rotation, Balance, Front End Alignment & Brake Check*
 - Combo Dinner Plates for Two*
 - Quilted Throw*
 - Pioneering Aviation in Kern Country, 1910-1945*
 - Christmas Tree Horseshoe Art*
 - Christmas Centerpiece Certificate*
 - See's Candy Gift Cards*
 - a Painting by Terry*
 - Vegetable Slicer*
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 - Poppy Print Hot Pads*
 - Ranch & Oasis Stay Overnight*
 - Cookies & Tea & Mug Set*



Grass Jello

While the Year-End Trivia game created a lot of interest at our dinner, there seemed to be some skepticism about the fact that one of the first original flavors of Jell-o was *grass*. I, too, was surprised! Since then I did a little research and found this product



on the Asian market. This is just one of a number of brands.

Although the order form called it "Jello", the can actually says "Jelly", but that can be explained by the fact that the terms have been used interchangeably. "Jello is a term derived from the popular gelatin brand Jell-O. Currently, all flavored gelatins are typically called Jello due to their association with the Jell-O brand. Additionally, flavored gelatin is also called a jelly, which makes Jello and jelly almost the same thing. However,

while all Jello is considered a jelly, not all jelly can be called a Jello." (<https://clockworklemon.com/is-jello-the-same-as-jelly/>).



Pieces of grass jelly cut into 1 cm cubes.

Grass jelly, also known as leaf jelly or herb jelly, is a jelly-like dessert eaten in East and Southeast Asia. It is made from a plant of the mint family (so it is not made from gelatin) and has a mild, slightly bitter taste. It is served chilled, with other toppings such as fruit, or in bubble tea or other drinks. Outside Asia, it is sold in Asian supermarkets. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grass_jelly).

LA Weekly writer, Jim Thurman, explained, when asked about grass jelly, "so it's kind of like gelatin... so it's like Jell-O? Yes, it's very much like Jell-O." (<https://www.dinnerpartydownload.org/grass-jelly/>)

So whether or not this is what grass Jell-O was actually intended to be, it is interesting. And this grass jelly is evidently very refreshing and popular with different variations among the different southeast Asian countries.

Welcome!

Another New Member for 2022-2023 - We are very happy to have you join us.

- Margarite Lite

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.

- ★ Website: www.kahs1959.org
- ★ Facebook: www.facebook.com/KAHS1959/
- ★ Email: info@kahs1959.org
- ★ KAHS YouTube Videos: <http://kahs1959.org/Videos/videos.html>






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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 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
Treasurer: Kelly Gonzalez gonzakel@sbcglobal.net

Directors At-Large:

Terry Landsiedel
Judy O'Loughlin
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WEBSITE: www.kahs1959.org **EMAIL:** 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

