



# Antelope Horn

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

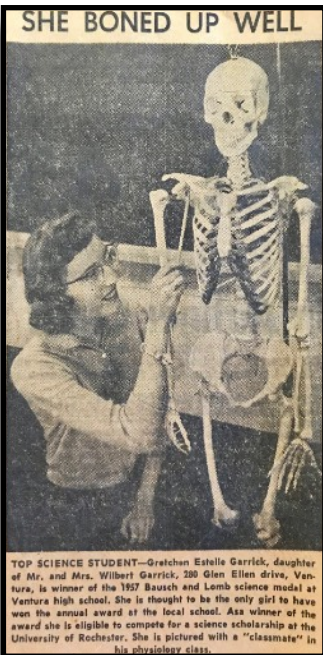
## Hello to all our Kern Antelope Historical Society Members and Friends.

- ✓ What: **February Regular Meeting**
- ✓ When: **Thursday, February 9th** (2nd Thursday)
- ✓ Time: **5:30 pm**
- ✓ Where: **Wayside Chapel, Felsite Ave.; Third Floor, Rm 301**
- ✓ Guest Speaker: **President Gretchen Winfrey - Rosamond Area Schools**

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/)



*Our special speaker for February will be our own Gretchen Winfrey who has served as President of the Kern Antelope Historical Society for a number years. She will be sharing "A Peek at the Schools of the Rosamond Area". She has accumulated a lot of materials from various sources. But more than that, she has had extensive experience with the Southern Kern Unified School District. She was hired by Superintendent Lawson in 1962 and served in various capacities in the district, including teaching at the high school, for many years. Following is an excerpt from the September, 2019 issue of the Antelope Horn, giving a little background on Gretchen.*



Gretchen Winfrey was born in Holtville, California, a small town near El Centro, in 1939. Eventually the family moved to the Ventura area when her dad started his own welding supply business. Education was important in her family and she attended San Jose State after high school. (An early example of this family value was when the young man, who would become her father, quit high school and went to work in the fields, his future mother-in-law marched herself out in the field and told him to 'get back in school!' and he did!). She signed up as a counselor but when a Group Leader had to be replaced, she moved up into that position. The girls were city kids from Oakland and she found that she "loved working with those kids" and changed her major from Chemistry to Education.



When her college days were done and it came time to look for a job, her first choice fell through and she had to scramble to get something else. Looking within a hundred mile radius of her home in Ventura, she found there was a job available in Rosamond! And 'the rest is history' as they say. And that would be Rosamond's gain.



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).

**A Peek at the Schools of the Rosamond Area**

Almost all of us have had some kind of involvement with schools in this area. You may have attended them, worked at them, sent your kids to them, and attended cultural and sports events and many other kinds of activities at the schools. For many of the 'oldtimers', you might remember the field trips such as the wonderful overnight Catalina trip for the Eighth Grade class, the Second Grade (I think?) riding the train to Bakersfield and going over the Loop, and the First Grade trip to the zoo, to name a few. You might remember many of the teachers you had, or the bus drivers and cafeteria workers who helped you get to school and make it through the day. Remember the school Halloween carnivals and parades, the back-to-school nights, Christmas programs, and so on. The buildings and school sites have grown and changed too. At one time, kids had to attend Southern Kern classes at local churches before the school got new campuses built in the mid to late 50's. There was also the Willow Springs school, of which barely anything remains. Did you attend any of the original Rosamond area schools which are no longer standing?



Come out and join us on February 9th for a "Peek" at the history of Rosamond area schools. **And we want your input. Bring your memories, photos, old yearbooks, or any other souvenirs of your involvement with this important part of our 'story'.** Did you know there was a basement at one time at Rosamond Elementary? Do you know what young teacher, who was later a principle, rode to school on the bus with the kids because she didn't yet have a car? And what teacher loaded up her class and took them to visit her little farm and served orange juice to the kids sitting on the lawn? Did you sell magazine subscriptions or Christmas trees to help pay for your 8th grade Catalina trip? Who worked on the booths or other parts of the arena, getting it ready for Little Britches rodeos, community fairs, etc.?

*Pictures, from top left, counterclockwise: Two pictures from Halloween parade & carnival; Mr Purcell & 8th graders aboard the The Great White Steamer to Catalina; older Rosamond Elementary - pre Tehachapi earthquake; adobe Willow Springs school; "first" Rosamond Elementary (?); 1956 softball team at RES; yes, Barbara Mandrell attended Rosamond in 1957 & signed this yearbook; Mrs. Lawson's typing class temporarily held in a converted bus before Hamilton was completely open; the check-out shed*

*for "Athletic Supplies" where we got the balls for four-square, dodge ball, and tetherball, etc.*



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RITA ROBERTSON  
BARBARA MANDRELL  
MILL REYNOLDS  
BILLY HORNBERG  
BARBARA TRIZZ  
LARRY PIERRO  
  
GREGORY KERN  
ROXANNA PATTERSON  
SHARON KAYROUGH  
JIMMIE OWENS  
CHELSEA PARKS





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Valentine's Day - "Origin Vague at Best"

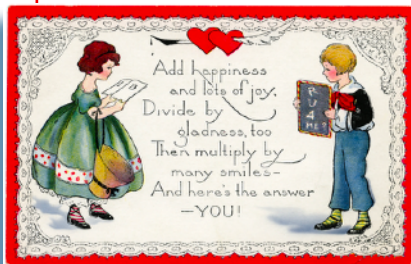
Valentine's Day, also called St. Valentine's Day, is a holiday (February 14) when lovers express their affection with greetings and gifts. Given their similarities, it has been suggested that the holiday has origins in the Roman festival of Lupercalia, held in mid-February. The festival, which celebrated the coming of spring, included fertility rites and the pairing off of women with men by lottery. At the end of the 5th century, Pope Gelasius I forbid the celebration of Lupercalia and is sometimes attributed with replacing it with St. Valentine's Day, but the true origin of the holiday is vague at best. Valentine's Day did not come to be celebrated as a day of romance until about the 14th century.

Although there were several Christian martyrs named Valentine, the day may have taken its name from a priest who was martyred about 270 AD by the emperor Claudius II Gothicus. According to legend, the priest signed a letter "from your Valentine" to his jailer's daughter, whom he had befriended and, by some accounts, healed from blindness. Other accounts hold that it was St. Valentine of Terni, a bishop, for whom the holiday was named, though it is possible the two saints were actually one person. Another common legend states that St. Valentine defied the emperor's orders and secretly married couples to spare the husbands from war. It is for this reason that his feast day is associated with love.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Valentines-Day>



The World's Oldest Valentine's Day Card



The earliest surviving romantic Valentine missive . . . has French origins. It was written by Charles, Duke of Orleans while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London, after being captured by the English during the Battle of Agincourt in 1415. Written to his wife Bonne of Armagnac, the love poem repeats phrases using "Valentine" as a term of endearment several times:

*Je suis desja d'amour tanné, Ma tres douce Valentinée*

This French prose translates to "I am already sick of love, My very gentle Valentine" in English. Sadly, the Duke's wife died before receiving the words of love of her imprisoned husband and today his words reside in the British Library.

Also found in the British Library is the earliest known English language example of a Valentine. Dating to February 1477, the love letter was written by Margery Brews to her fiancé John Paston. Margery refers to John as her "right well-beloved Valentine" and beseeches him to marry her despite the fact she hasn't been able to convince her father to increase her dowry. (Romance in the 15th century was as much about practical matters as it was about passion.) Good news, romantics - the couple did go on to marry.

<https://www.scrapbook.com/articles/valentine-history>

Welcome!

More New Members for 2022-2023 - We are very happy to have you join us.

- Patty Callier
- Randy Widmer

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](http://www.kahs1959.org)
- ★ Facebook: [www.facebook.com/KAHS1959/](http://www.facebook.com/KAHS1959/)
- ★ Email: [info@kahs1959.org](mailto:info@kahs1959.org)
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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.

**Desert Breeze Enterprises**  
  
**Don and Chavonne Sladek**  
 Owners/Hosts  
 tel. (661) 256-4409  
 Rosamond, CA 93560  
 dbe2016@icloud.com  
 Contact us for help with business travel!  
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 (661) 256-4436

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 Fax: (661) 256-3932  
**Eric Landsgaard**  
 President  
[karlsbest@sbcglobal.net](mailto:karlsbest@sbcglobal.net)

**melchers construction**  
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**Gene R. Melchers**  
 General Contractor  
 2654 Diamond Street · PO Box 1468 · Rosamond, CA 93560  
[melchersconst@sbcglobal.net](mailto:melchersconst@sbcglobal.net)  
**661-810-0327 · melchersconstruction.net**

**Rosamond Chamber of Commerce**  


**Rosamond News**  
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 93560  
 Since 1986  
 We go to everybody here  
 2696 Sierra Hwy · P.O. 848 · 93560

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 Kern UDA 35 & PS 341  
**EVICCTIONS & SERVING**  
 Get Rid of BAD Guys/Gals  
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 MOJAVE, CA 93501  
 661-342-0213 Michele  
[prpinut@aol.com](mailto:prpinut@aol.com)  
 661-824-2578 Chris

**THE TIRE STORE**  
 1816 Rosamond Blvd.  
 Rosamond, CA 93560  
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 Fax (661) 256-8476  
 PRICES ARE BORN HERE AND RAISED ELSEWHERE  
 DAVE BRAGG & NICK ROGHAIR  
 Owners  
 ESTEBAN MARAVILLAS  
 Manager  
[www.tirestoreav.com](http://www.tirestoreav.com)

**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  
Treasurer: Kelly Gonzalez      gonzakel@sbcglobal.net

### Directors At-Large:

Terry Landsiedel  
Judy O'Loughlin  
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  
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**