



Antelope Horn

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

Meetings:

Regular Meetings:

- 2nd Thursday of the month (except July, August); 5:30 pm.
- Rosamond Public Library -
3611 Rosamond Blvd, Rosamond, CA

Board Meetings:

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

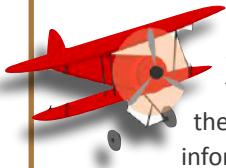
Hello to all our Kern Antelope Historical Society Members and Friends.

- ❖ What: **Regular Meeting**
- ❖ When: **Thursday, June 8th** (2nd Thursday)
- ❖ Time: **5:30 pm**
- ❖ Where: **Rosamond Library, Rosamond, CA**
- ❖ Guest Speaker: **Gail Lofdawl on "The Lost Airfields of the AV"**

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

"The Lost Airfields of the Antelope Valley"

If you were to name some of the airfields in the Antelope Valley, you might think of Rosamond Skypark or Fox Field which are nearby, but there are a number of others that are no longer in existence or in use. There was War Eagle Field, Cantil, Pancho Barnes's private airstrip - to name just a few. Our special guest June 8th will be Gail Lofdawl, who will be talking about some of the airports no longer in operation in the Antelope Valley. This is certain to be an interesting topic, especially to anyone who has possibly used one of these older air fields. Make plans to meet with us at the library next week to learn more about aviation history in the area. Watch for the KAHS Facebook page for more information about Lofdawl and "The Lost Airfields of the Antelope Valley as soon as it's available."



The following article is taken from the KAHS book, Antelope Valley PIONEERS, published in 1984. Schoeller gives a brief history of the Antelope Valley, especially the early explorations and travels through the valley. And although her home seems to have been in the Palmdale area, much of what she tells is related to the Antelope Valley as a whole. *Note:* Bracketed comments, in italics, with my initials (jlw) have been added by me. And remember, as you read, that this was presented in 1933, about ninety years ago!

EARLY HISTORY OF ANTELOPE VALLEY

Introduction: This story of the early history of Antelope Valley was given by Mrs. H.P. Schlepper (known to all her friends as Ruth Schoeller) on October 12, 1933, at a Palmdale Woman's Club meeting at the home of Mrs. F.B. Hitching.

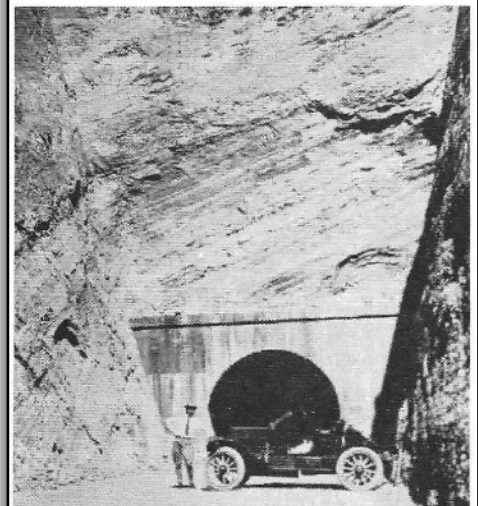
Antelope Valley is now conceded to be a part of the Mojave region bounded by the Tejon on the west, the Tehachapi Mountains on the north, Mojave River on the east and the Sierra Madre Mountains on the south.

The first white man to enter Antelope Valley of whom we have any record was a Spanish priest, Padre Frey Francisco Garces who in 1776 visited the Mojave Indians. (Editors Note: Other records show that Captain Pedro Fage followed along the southern part of Antelope Valley looking for deserters of the Spanish army as early as 1772.) These Indians lived close to where the town of Needles is now situated. There were also several "rancherios" of Indians along the Mojave River nearly to its head, he crossed the San Bernardino Mountains and arrived safely at the San Gabriel Mission. We also read of his return trip to the Mojave villages - up into the San Joaquin and through the Tehachapi Pass*. Garces' journey was remarkable, not only because he was the first white man to penetrate the unknown desert, but also because he made it with no equipment such as the later explorers had, for he depended entirely upon the hospitality of the Indians.

[*This is not the Tehachapi Pass which you think of today, but rather the original trail, and

EARLY HISTORY OF ANTELOPE VALLEY

By Mrs. H.P. "Ruth" Schoeller



In 1917 Mr. H. Paul Schoeller stopped his Rambler auto to pose for photo at entrance of old Newhall Tunnel which was the main road to Los Angeles from Antelope Valley. Most Antelope Valley residents used this route for many years. It was later opened up into the Newhall Pass. The freeway now by-passes this route.



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.

later a wagon road, that went from Elizabeth Lake straight north, through Cottonwood Creek Canyon. If you went north on 170th West, you would come to Cottonwood Creek and from there it went over the Tehachapi Mountains and followed the Tejon Creek into the central valley. This route was given the name of 'tejon' for the dead badger found at the mouth of the creek that came out in the San Joaquin Valley. Later, this route was even scouted by the army as a possible rail-bed for the planned transcontinental railroad into California but was turned down. It was not a very good road (very steep, especially the north, downhill side) and eventually the preferred route for the Stockton – Los Angeles Road was established through Grapevine Canyon, farther west closer to where I-5 goes today, and they moved the Tejon Pass name to the newer road. And the railroad, of course, did not use either of those western roads, but was built eastward through Mojave and the Antelope Valley. *jlw*]

Next we hear of Jedediah Smith, the famous American trapper. With fifteen men he left Salt Lake August 22, 1826. He probably followed the same route as Garces had taken to the San Gabriel Mission. In 1829 Kit Carson came through this country going to meet Americans that had come around the Horn by boat. There is almost no record of other travelers passing through this region until Fremont [*John Charles Frémont or Fremont (January 21, 1813 – July 13, 1890) was an American explorer, military officer, and Senator from California.* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_C._Fremont - *jlw*] crossed in the spring of 1844. His party crossed the Valley hunting the Spanish trail.

In 1847 twenty-five members of the Mormon Battalion, who had enlisted to aid the United States against Mexico, went from southern California back to Salt Lake by way of the Antelope Valley. It is said that these men took with them the first wagon that ever went over the Salt Lake trail.

In 1849 the Manley party of the Jay Hawkens were caught in Death Valley and remained while Manley and a companion came ahead to locate watering places and obtain help at Los Angeles. They came by way of Red Rock Canyon through Palmdale down the Soledad Canyon to the Camulos Ranch between Saugus and Fillmore. There they obtained a supply of food, two horses and a mule, and returned to help the party that had been left in Death Valley. The horses had to be killed and only the one mule survived the return trip. Food was buried along the route. The one mule and the oxen, so poor they were barely able to travel, were all that was left to carry the necessities. The Arcane and Bennett children were placed on the oxen or the smaller ones at times, were carried in their father's arms. The women walked. Unaccustomed to such toil, with the added agony of thirst, they suffered untold hardships. As a matter of fact, the travelers seemed not to have suffered as much in Death Valley as they did crossing southward across Antelope Valley. When they arrived where Palmdale is now, the snow was so deep on the Vincent Pass they had to camp here until the snow froze so that the oxen could cross.

From 1851 on, travel became more frequent between southern California and Salt Lake. A Mr. Nadeau [*Remi Nadeau (1819 - 1887) ran a mule-team freighting business which hauled ore from the mining camps in eastern California to the coastal steamers at San Pedro and supplies back to the mines, and later, to the railroad connections.* <http://mojavedesert.net/people/nadeau.html> - *jlw*], who afterwards built the Nadeau Hotel in Los Angeles opened a wagon route from Los Angeles to Nevada. They came by way of Newhall and Soledad Canyon to Barrel Springs and the Cienega* in Littlerock Creek, where they generally stayed for a few days resting the horses before starting out across the desert. [A *ciénega* (also spelled *ciénega*) is a wetland system unique to the American Southwest. *Ciénegas* are alkaline, freshwater, spongy, wet meadows with shallow-gradient, permanently saturated soils in otherwise arid landscapes that often occupy nearly the entire widths of valley bottoms. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cienega> - *jlw*] A part of the old adobe walls of the Garcia house are still standing where they made their headquarters.

In the notes of Lieutenant Williamson [*This is the same army official who scouted out the Old Tejon Pass as a possible railroad route through the Tehachapi Mtns - jlw*], who was sent out by the War Department to locate a southern route for a railroad across the Antelope Valley in 1853, we find there was eleven feet of water in a lake where our Palmdale Reservoir is now located. [*This was before the artificial lake was completed in 1924, which is supplied by the California Aqueduct.* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Palmdale - *jlw*] The government started a survey of the Antelope Valley in 1855, and a Mr. Davidson, who formerly lived at Acton was a member of the surveying party. He tells of trying to make camp at what is now known as Lovejoy Springs where they were attacked by the Indians. Three of their party were shot and all of their horses stolen. Under cover of darkness they were forced to carry the three wounded to a little mining camp in the Soledad Canyon below where Ravenna is now located.

(continued next page)



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

Some time in 1861 stage lines were started through this way to San Francisco from San Bernardino which afterward became a part of the New Orleans - San Francisco stage route. Only in the last few years have the stage signs been destroyed which marked the way across the Valley. Skirting the foothills from the Cajon, above Llano, past Gale Henry's above Littlerock to the Cienega, then past Barrel Springs and Harold or Alpine as it was then called. Here the very old red buildings surrounded with eucalyptus trees stood until recently with the old lettering "Alpine Springs" discernible across the front. This was the post-office, hotel and regular stage stop. From here the road led across the floor of the reservoir to the Lansing place, or Johnson's Dairy, then down the hill to the Ana Verde Valley to about even with the City Rancho, where it dropped into the Leona Valley and on out to Elizabeth Lake, over the Tejon and north to San Francisco.

By the early sixties a number of stock ranchers had settled in this territory, particularly in the west end of the Valley.

The railroad was built through here in 1876. For a time the railroad ended at Ravenna waiting for the location of a route across the Tehachapi Mountains.

Quite a large German colony was started, before the railroad came through the Valley, three miles east of the present Palmdale, called the Palmdale Colony. When the railroad was completed and a station built at this point, it was known for years as West Palmdale. Lancaster also sprang up about this time. From 1884 to 1890 a wave of land-settlement brought a great number of settlers into various parts of the Valley. The most pretentious project was on Big Rock Creek called the Rio del Llano colony. Alpine Springs colony was located where Littlerock is now, while in the west end of the Valley, Neenach and Manzana [see page 4 for more information - jlw] were quite pretentious districts.

The first irrigation that we have any record of was water taken out of the Big Rock and used on lands known as the Valyermo Ranch. The drought of 1893 came on and most of the settlers were forced to give up their homes and leave the Valley, as deep wells and pumping plants were unknown.

On account of the very cheap land and the boom in California, many unscrupulous promoters took advantage and sold land in various colony schemes. Much of this property was sold "sight unseen" at the Chicago World's Fair. Pictures were taken of vast grain fields with grain as high as a man's shoulders, by having a man on horse-back stand in an irrigation ditch. A large amount of acreage was sold in the Alpine Colony (Littlerock) with a town lot thrown in, in the city of Tierra Bonita with each acreage purchased. This town was laid out north of the present Littlerock orchards. Pictures show broad streets with pine trees and buildings on either side that would compare with a present day moving picture lot as the buildings were old fronts and canvas, for the picture purposes only. The trees were brought down from the mountains then trimmed and set in the ground.

Some promoters did not so much as take the trouble to even file on the land, but subdivided and sold almond orchards planted on government land, for which they gave an engraved certificate of title in a fictitious title company. Many of the houses built on these city lots and small farms were later moved into Palmdale and Lancaster.

The years of 1911 and 1912 saw much activity in Lancaster. The Los Angeles aqueduct was being built and the streets were lined with wagons with as many as twenty mules hitched to each wagon, hauling supplies and materials out to the aqueduct.

Grain farming was at its height in the west end of the Valley, with seven hundred and fifty car loads of grain being shipped out in one year. With five saloons, three large hotels and a number of small ones, watering troughs for the horses and mules, two hundred feet in length, mud in winter, dust in summer - Lancaster was a typical western frontier town.

The road from Palmdale to Lancaster wandered in and out and around clumps of juniper and sage brush through the sand, only one track wide, but if one happened to meet a team they would draw to one side and give the noisy chugging automobile all the road there was. To go to Lancaster was quite an event, for there, one could purchase a few kinds of fresh vegetables, fresh meat, ice, and even an ice cream cone, which generally ended up the orgy of shopping.

Palmdale boasted one brick store building which housed the general store and post office. Here we could purchase ham, bacon, and anything that could be found in cans in those days. No lot was complete without its pile of empty tin cans.

The little red school house across the tracks was the center of all the town's social activities and the one school teacher was mistress of all she surveyed. Dances on Saturday night and in fact until nearly sunrise, Sunday School on Sunday morning, an occasional church service, funerals, political meetings or weddings were all held in the school house.

(continued next page)



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.

The main event of the day was the 10:20 train in the morning coming from Los Angeles, and the 4:00 train in the afternoon going to Los Angeles. Who came and who went was of great interest, for the trip by automobile was long and arduous. A dirt road led to Vincent, then down along the railroad tracks to Acton whence you could take your choice between the winding rough road through the Soledad, crossing and recrossing the stream, or through Mint Canyon, which was farther, and equally rough.

In 1914, Job Harriman started his socialist colony at Llano and for awhile there were a thousand people there with two hundred and fifty children in the school, but the ideals set for the colony did not work out, and family by family they departed, leaving many empty houses which one by one have disappeared until only a few foundations mark the place of the settlement.

As is the way of all new countries, people come and go . . .

[The remainder of this article may be read in Antelope Valley PIONEERS. - jlw]



Manzana

Have you heard of Manzana? Ruth Schoeller mentioned it, along with Neenach as being in the western part of the valley. It seems many AV residents have not. (Me included.) A Google search came up with a bit of information. It was evidently an almond growing community developed in the western edge of the Antelope Valley. I didn't find an exact location. This photo was apparently taken of the Manzana Ranch, maybe "Smeads" were the owners of this particular orchard and home?

"Photograph of an almond orchard and ranch house, Smeads at Manzana Ranch, west end of the Antelope Valley, California. Rows of trees can be seen in the foreground, while a ranch house is visible further back. Gentle hills rise in the distance."

https://digitallibrary.usc.edu/asset-management/2A3BF1LZLZL?FR_=1&W=1649&H=854

NEW MEMBERS - The Kern Antelope Historical Society welcomes our new members!

Thank you for joining us!

- Linda Andreatta
- Kathy Nelson
- Randy Retzke
- Geoffrey Williams



And for all those returning members who have already paid their dues for the 2023-2024 year, thank you for your continued support.

And if you haven't paid yet, the June meeting would be an excellent time to do so! See the membership form on pg. 7.



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.

Recently, some family members were visiting friends and family in Idaho where they attended a Memorial Day event at Century High School's soccer fields in Pocatello. Nearly 7,000 markers were placed in the field to represent every service member who died in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. (This is apparently the 19th year for this event.) And they were pleasantly surprised to find the flag for Rosamond's own Lance Corporal Joseph C Lopez-Pratti. There were buckets of carnations available and they laid one at his marker.



Photos courtesy of Judy O'Loughlin & Michelle Kirk.



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.

Dues are Due: It's that time of year again. June begins a new fiscal year for KAHS and dues are now payable. Remember you can pay with Zelle or an old-fashioned check or cash, even. See the membership form on the following page for more information.



For your information - a list of the KAHS Youtube videos. If you haven't checked them out, this might be a good time to look. You may see all KAHS YouTube videos by going to our website: www.kahs1959.org

Date	Speaker/Interviewed Person/Topic	Interviewer	Youtube Link
July 2021	Ramon Ramirez, Artist	Gretchen Winfrey	https://youtu.be/umaCnePR-Eg
July 2021	Jedd Strange, Our Historical Artist	Gretchen Winfrey	http://youtu.be/CKVo4yPx06Y
May 2022	Carol's Department Store in Mojave with Paul Carol	Gretchen Winfrey	https://youtu.be/0x7haGbHR4c
April 2021	Terry Burton - Gold Processing	Chavonne Sladek	https://youtu.be/JEUBY9A2kGw
February 2021	John Joyce	Gretchen Winfrey	https://youtu.be/n8gwqxN-9P0&t
January 2021	Joe Pauley - A Conversation With	Gretchen Winfrey	https://youtu.be/ljwEhN7WbKM
Autumn 2020	Joe Pauley - The Final Tour Pauley Bros. Steel	Chavonne Sladek	https://youtu.be/ffDvmVZLEus
October 2021	Bill Deaver	Gretchen Winfrey	https://youtu.be/72AMyLs6All
October 2021	Ella Williford Garcia - A Tribute to Jim Williford	Ella Williford Garcia & Gretchen Winfrey	https://youtu.be/cxq5rj2505I
June 2002	Ruth Russell - Part I	Jed Dyke	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ks3NjqT1fc
June 2002	Ruth Russell - Part 2	Jed Dyke	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ks3NjqT1fc
April 2022	Janet Winters - Webb Family, Hedge City to California	Speaker	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gYiuOY09bO8
October 13, 2022	Interview of Randy Retzke & Sandra Jimenez	Chavonne Sladek	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qyavvp-BuIA
November 2022	Remembering L/Cpl. Joseph Lopez-Pratti, USMC, by his father	Speaker	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vdfZ7T3E-l
January 2023	Barbara Schultz - Poncho Barnes	Speaker	https://youtu.be/j-Zhx7IGle0
February 9, 2023	Gretchen Winfrey, Rosamond Area Schools	Speaker	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPwNzwPCjRA
March 9, 2023	Dr Bruce Love, 12000 Years of AV History	Speaker	https://youtu.be/ilKi-hw-Ruw
April 13, 2023	Cecil Burton - "A Look Back--Rosamond and Water"	Jed Dyke	https://youtu.be/julUdCvki7E
May 11, 2023	Lisa DeJaynes from Saddle Up "Therapeutic Riding Stables"	Speaker	https://youtu.be/EjbtlFxH2a0

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>





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.

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!
 www.airbnb.com/rooms/5571552



JOHN STICKEL
Expert AUTOMOTIVE, INC.
 TAKE YOUR CAR TO THE EXPERTS
 (661) 256-0405
 FAX (661) 256-2060
 2951 DIAMOND ST. ROSAMOND, CA 93560



Fosters FREEZE
 Hensley/Taylor
 Rosamond Fosters Freeze
 2080 Rosamond Blvd.
 P.O. Box 624
 Rosamond, CA 93560
 (661) 256-4436



Do it Best
KARLS HARDWARE
 2700 Diamond St.
 Rosamond CA, 93560
 Phone: (661) 256-3985
 Fax: (661) 256-3932
 Eric Landsgaard
 President
 karlsbest@sbcglobal.net



Lic. 955132
melchers construction
 QUALITY CONSTRUCTION · REASONABLE RATES · SINCE 1984
Gene R. Melchers
 General Contractor
 2654 Diamond Street · PO Box 1468 · Rosamond, CA 93560
 melchersconst@sbcglobal.net
 661-810-0327 · melchersconstruction.net



Rosamond Chamber of Commerce




Rosamond News
 Newspaper · Direct Mail · Web · Email · YouTube
 27,000 people 93560
 Since 1986
 We go to everybody here
 2696 Sierra Hwy · P.O. 848 · 93560



SLADE COURT SERVICES
 Kern UDA 35 & PS 341
EVICCTIONS & SERVING
 Get Rid of BAD Guys/Gals
 15874 SIERRA HWY
 MOJAVE, CA 93501
 661-342-0213 Michele
 prpinut@aol.com
 661-824-2578 Chris



THE TIRE STORE
 1816 Rosamond Blvd.
 Rosamond, CA 93560
 (661) 256-TIRE (8473)
 Fax (661) 256-8476
 PRICES ARE BORN HERE AND RAISED ELSEWHERE
 DAVE BRAGG & NICK ROGHAIR
 Owners
 ESTEBAN MARAVILLAS
 Manager
 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 You may now use the following cell number for Zelle payments, also: (661) 609-8757.

For Sale by KAHS

Books - \$11 (*\$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 **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



Since 1959