



# Antelope Horn

Newsletter of the Kern-Antelope Historical Society, Inc.  
Member of the Conference of California Historical Societies  
March, 2025

## Meetings:

### Regular Meetings:

- 3rd Tuesday 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: **Regular Meeting**
  - ❖ When: **Tuesday, March 18th (3rd Tuesday)**
  - ❖ Time: **5:30 pm**
  - ❖ Where: **Wayside Chapel Community Church, Rosamond, CA**
  - ❖ Program: **Gretchen Winfrey on the History of the Rosamond Post Office** - see p. 2
- WEBSITE: [www.kahs1959.org](http://www.kahs1959.org) EMAIL: [info@kahs1959.org](mailto:info@kahs1959.org)  
FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/KAHS1959/](https://www.facebook.com/KAHS1959/)



## Are you Ready? Like it or not - it's coming!

Time "springs forward" on March 9th this year but the debate continues about Daylight Saving Time. People strongly dislike the change of time, especially when we have to 'spring ahead'. But should we stay on Standard Time or move to Daylight Saving Time permanently, that's a big question. And . . . there is something you can do if you don't like the change - Hawaii and most of Arizona observe standard time only.

But regardless of how you feel about the time change, the history of standardizing time zones and eventually implementing daylight saving time is interesting and has seen lots of changes too.

When many communities were far apart and travel was slow, using solar time (usually based on noon in a certain location) was not a problem but with the coming of the railroads and faster travel, solar time in each little town made a problem for scheduling routes. Here is just a little bit of the history of developing standard time as our lives and our communities have grown more complex.

## Railroad Time

"Railway time was the standardised time arrangement first applied by the Great Western Railway in England in November 1840." The goals were to cut down on the confusion of non-uniform local times and also "to reduce the incidence of accidents and near misses, which were becoming more frequent as the number of train journeys increased." ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Railway\\_time](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Railway_time)).

"Standard time in time zones was instituted in the U.S. and Canada by the railroads on 18 November 1883. Before then, time of day was a local matter, and most cities and towns used some form of local solar time, maintained by some well-known clock (for example, on a church steeple or in a jeweler's window). The new standard time system was not immediately embraced by all, however."

And it wasn't law yet. "Use of standard time gradually increased because of its obvious practical advantages for communication and travel. Standard time in time zones was not established in U.S. law until the Act of March 19, 1918, sometimes called the Standard Time Act. The act also established daylight saving time, itself a contentious idea." Then daylight saving time was repealed in 1919 and became a matter of local choice. During WWII, it was re-established, then after the war, its use varied among localities.

"The Uniform Time Act of 1966 provided standardization in the dates of beginning and end of daylight time in the U.S. but allowed for local exemptions from its observance." Through the years, Congress has changed the dates of the beginning and ending of Daylight Saving Time and given authority over the time zones to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

During the "energy crisis" in the early 1970s, Congress started Daylight Saving Time earlier in the year, with the purpose of saving energy but it turned out that people really disliked the darker, earlier mornings and the energy savings weren't that significant. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 changed both the starting and ending dates. Beginning in 2007, Daylight Saving Time starts on the second Sunday in March and ends on the first Sunday in November. (Except for the first paragraph all information comes from these sources: ([https://aa.usno.navy.mil/faq/us\\_tzones](https://aa.usno.navy.mil/faq/us_tzones), [https://aa.usno.navy.mil/faq/daylight\\_time](https://aa.usno.navy.mil/faq/daylight_time))



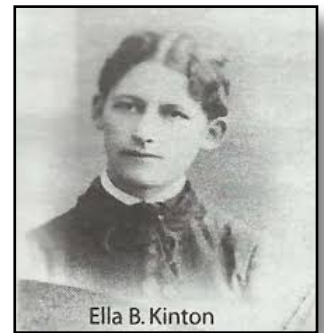
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**The History of the Rosamond US Post Office**

This month, at our **March meeting on the 18th, Gretchen Winfrey** will again be **sharing about the Rosamond Post Office**. Many of you will remember getting mail at the *old* location on Diamond and Center St. But before that there were a number of other locations used as post offices or built specifically for the delivery of the US mail. While it's always good to have a refresher, there's an even bigger reason we are reviewing Rosamond's postal history at this time. One of our board members was passing by on Sierra Highway and saw that someone was working on the old Wayside Cafe. So she decided to stop and talk to them and found that the cafe's old front counter was headed to the dump. Apparently, she explained the significance of it (more on that below) and found out that it hadn't actually been dumped yet and she could have it. Well that's a story I will leave for the telling at the March meeting but first, here are some bits and pieces about Rosamond's older post offices and some of the early postmasters. Items are not necessarily in chronological order, but are presented in the order of the website.

**Locations In Rosamond Associated With The Post Office** - selections quoted from "**ROSAMOND, CA. 93560 - The Unofficial Website**" (<http://www.rosamondca.us>)

Kinton (or Kenton) House - Originally at Sierra Hwy. and Center, now at Tropico Mine Gold Camp. Built by John Stuckey in 1903. Managed by George and Ella Kinton (brother and sister). Originally housed a general store, hotel, and served at [sic] point for mail picked up by Mr. Graves to be delivered. Rawley B. Duntley lived here later. (jlw - *For further reading on Miss Kinton, you might like to check out the following webpage on 'Miss Ella', by Norma Gurba. Kinton was quite an interesting woman.* <http://www.rosamondca.us/images/MissElla.pdf>)



Ella B. Kinton

Graves Houses - Located on Rosamond Blvd. a bit west of the high school. Charles Graves was the first "postmaster". (jlw - *apparently, Graves had the distinction of being the **first full-time postmaster.***)

Angel (or Angell) House - Located on Poplar east of Diamond. It was the site of the first stationary post office. Mr. Angel was postmaster after Mr. Graves. Mr. and Mrs. Angel were of opposite political parties, so no matter the party in office, one was always appointed as postmaster. There was a library in the basement.

Current Wayside Cafe - Located on Sierra Highway. This building was the site of the post office after the Angel House. Per Gladys Adams, this was the site of the post office when she came in 1952. Harriet Vials was postmaster at that time followed by Bill O'Neill, who was the last appointed postmaster. (jlw - *Adams was a long-time area resident who worked at the Diamond St. post office for many years. She and her husband were well known in the community.*)

Former O'Neill House - Located north side of Rosamond Blvd. west of 60th [sic] (white house set back from road). Home of last appointed postmaster. (jlw - *It probably refers to 60th St as the O'Neill place was just a little west of that street.*)



**Rosamond's Origins** - Rosamond reportedly started life as a settlement named "Sand Creek" (the Valley's water table was much higher then!) Initially, the settlement was off the beaten path, which in those days was a stage route running through Willow Springs a few miles west. When the Southern Pacific RR routed a new Los Angeles-to-San Francisco rail line by Sand Creek in the late 1870's, the settlement suddenly gained easy travel access. By 1885 it had grown enough so that a post office was established with David Bayles as postmaster, serving around 100 residents. Occasionally referred to in the early days as "Bayles Station" or "Baylesville", the emerging town was officially named Rosamond after the daughter of a Southern Pacific official.

**Charles Graves** - In 1896, he became Rosamond's sixth United States Postmaster, possibly due to his skill as a horseman, because the mail then was delivered on horseback. According to a 1995 article by Rich Breault, Graves received "the post office's whopping inventory of \$8.90." He held this position until 1903.

LEFT—Charles A Graves



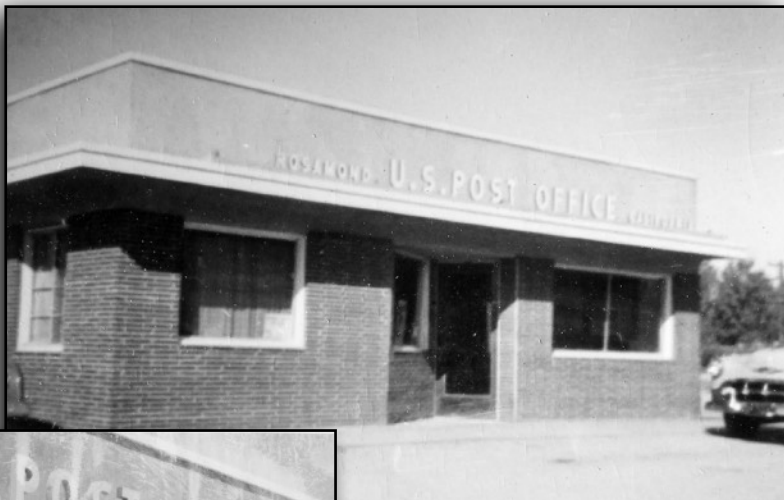
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### Wayside Cafe's Old Counter And Its Significance

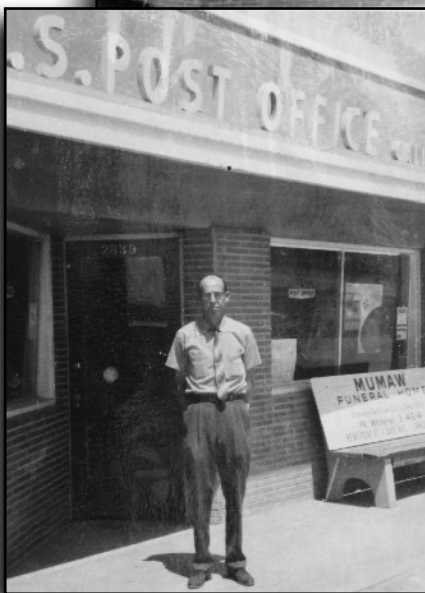
As stated on page 2, a board member was driving by the Cafe the other day and, being in the right place at the right time, she was able to take possession of the heavy, old front counter from the Wayside Cafe for the Kern Antelope Historical Society. This is the counter which has historical significance related to the first dedicated Post Office built in Rosamond.

After studying it better, it seems that the counter was apparently built when the post office on Sierra Highway became a restaurant and some of the actual old mail boxes were used in the new counter to hold meal tickets. So we now have a piece of history from the post office, built by the Vials, just for the purpose of handling the US mail. Mr. Vial had the market just to the south (now KS Market) and his wife, Harriet, became the postmaster from April 1, 1952 to September 30, 1955.

During Covid when we couldn't meet together, we ran articles about various businesses in Rosamond and the Wayside Cafe was featured in December. Jamie Price, the owner, was interviewed and information about her and the business was shared. Several pictures of the post office were included and a picture, at the time, showing the mail slots which they explained were now used to hold the customers' meal tickets.



ABOVE—The first post office in Rosamond built just for that purpose, thanks to the owner of Vial's Market on Sierra Hwy (now KS Market). His wife, Harriet Vial, became the postmaster in the 1950's. LEFT—Bill O'Neill, a subsequent postmaster.



RIGHT—and here's an old photo of one of the Rosamond Fair Parades showing the old Post Office, right side with flag above, at the Corner of Diamond and Center Streets; the drug store was to the left.



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Thanks to Char and Jo (Loomis sisters) who shared at our last meeting about their family and the history of a lot of Rosamond businesses and community activities. It was so interesting and sparked a lot of great conversations and memories with those in attendance.

There are probably more of you who have a story to tell. It may not be like Jo's & Char's but it is your story, maybe how you or your family came to be in Rosamond whether recently or a long time ago; how this community has impacted you or how you have seen the community change; people you have met, or any number of things, clubs or organizations you been involved with, etc. If you would be willing to share (in writing, in a video interview, or just come talk to us) please reach out to Chavonne our program director!



Check out the KAHS videos which are available on YouTube. Or 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.

- ★ Website: [www.kahs1959.org](http://www.kahs1959.org)
- ★ Facebook: [www.facebook.com/KAHS1959/](http://www.facebook.com/KAHS1959/)
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- ★ KAHS YouTube Videos: <http://kahs1959.org/Videos/videos.html>



### Kern Antelope Historical Society - Membership Application

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

	Membership Type	Dues	Amount Paid
Name _____	Student/ Active 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.



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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 - \$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*

## 2024-2025

### **Executive Board**

#### **Officers:**

President: Gretchen Winfrey      winfrey3314@yahoo.com

Vice President: Delores Julian      ddjulirosa@yahoo.com

Secretary: Janet Winters      poppiesrme@gmail.com

Co-Treasurers: Char Taylor      Charlannegailtaylor@gmail.com

Lori Cruz      lpartoncruz@gmail.com

#### **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:**

Third Tuesday 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 & Active 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. 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