



Antelope Horn

Newsletter of the Kern-Antelope Historical Society, Inc.

PO Box 1255 Rosamond, CA 93560

March, 2018

Meetings:

Regular Meetings: 2nd

Thursday, monthly (except July & August).

Business Session: 5 pm, at the

Wanda Kirk Library 3611 Rosamond Blvd., Rosamond, CA. All are welcome. Exceptions to this location will be announced in the newsletter and at our website.

Program: 5:30 pm, following the business session.

Coming Up:

- April - Walter Feller, photographer for the reprint of *Land of Little Rain*; Election of officers.
- May - Possible high school student presentation; Installation of officers.
- June - to be determined.

KAHS Scholarship Fund - see more on pg. 4 - available to Seniors at Rosamond High Schools.

March Meeting: What does Soap, Volunteers, a Judge and Civ-Mil have to do with each other? Well, come out to our meeting March 8th at 5 pm, at the Wanda Kirk Library to see how these things fit together. Want some hints, keep reading. Our guest will be Richard Spann and he has worn 'many different hats'.

Judge Spann has a number of education and work credits to his name. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Columbia College and his Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Columbia University in 1957. He earned his Juris Doctorate from Loyola University of Law in 1974.

He worked at Procter & Gamble in Soap Product Development, then served in the United States Air Force. That was followed by working at Edwards as a civilian in the field of Solid Rocket Propellant Development.

Richard Spann Served as an Attorney at Law from 1974 to 1989. He was a judge of the Antelope Municipal Court from 1989 to 2000, followed by serving on the Los Angeles Superior Court from 2000 to 2003.

He has also been involved in many community groups, including the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce, Lancaster West Rotary, AV Board of Trade, served as a Senior Warden at St. Paul's Episcopal Church many times, he was involved with Red Cross and Youth for Christ, etc.

He is also a Director and Historian of the EAFB Civilian-Military Support Group. "The purpose and general nature of the Edwards Air Force Base Civilian/Military Support Group is to establish a friendly benevolent association of civic leaders and military personnel at Edwards Air Force Base, to act as a host group whenever needed and additionally, to consider an annual service project to benefit EAFB." (<http://www.eafbcivmil.org/about-us/historical>)

OPERATION HIGHER GROUND INTERNET CAFE

An example of the volunteer and community efforts is found on the Civ-Mil web page where Richard Spann writes about one of the groups' big projects. First visualized by Lt. Col. Herrie Reed, a Chaplain at Edwards, was the need to have a place where Airmen could congregate in a relaxing, non-alcoholic environment, to hang out, watch TV, play video games, etc. Sadly, Reed suffered a massive heart attack in 2006 and died before his vision could be realized. Thankfully, though, Civ-Mil leaders went ahead and by July of 2007, an internet cafe was opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, providing airmen with a state-of-the-art internet cafe where they could go to unwind. In September, 2007, the Operation Higher Ground Internet Café was dedicated in memory of Lt. Col. Reed. The work of many community members helped make this a reality.



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.

Kern Antelope Historical Society Book - ANTELOPE VALLEY PIONEERS

“Notes on Munz Family History”

In Switzerland, the Munz family was long established in the flour mill business in the town of Bottighofen. After some 500 years, Conrad Munz was the first to leave the family operation for America, where he became a successful farmer at Odell, Illinois. That branch of the Munz family has grown and still farms in the area. On December 21, 1878, John Munz, a cousin to Conrad, left LeHavre for America. He too arrived in Illinois, married a girl that lived in Chicago who, by coincidence, was born only a few miles from his birthplace in Switzerland, and whose name was Amalia Tischauser. They became successful farmers, but John Munz was still the adventurer and he auctioned off all his belongings and made the long trek to the Swiss and German colony that was being established in California at Palmdale. In 1896 he opened the Munz General Store, which he operated until the drouth of 1898, when almost the entire population was forced to find a different location to eke out a living.

As one of the last families to leave the town which by then was known as Palmdale, John Munz traded off his entire holdings for 160 acres of undeveloped brush land at Elizabeth Lake, some twenty miles west, and reachable only by cattle trails. They arrived there by means of an old wagon and “four bony but good horses” and camped under a tree. As John’s wife had died in childbirth, there were just he and eight children, the youngest of them being Lottie. She was later taken by her sister Ingeborg to Switzerland where she was adopted and became a well-known actress, Lottie Stieffel. Thus there were left the children, Emil, Elias, Eric, Arnold, Ingeborg, Martha, and Astrid. Life was extremely difficult in those years and a house was dismantled near Palmdale, by friends, and moved to Elizabeth Lake and reassembled. That original home has since been moved to a museum site at Tropic Gold Mine as a historical dwelling. During a part of its life it was operated as the Elizabeth Lakes Post Office, the Postmaster being Gertrude W. Munz whom Elias Munz married in 1914. For a short time it was also known as the Roosevelt Post Office prior to construction of a new stone building that became the Lake Hughes Post Office, and which still served the entire area.

John Munz, although a well educated and talented man, was not much of a farmer, and starvation was probably avoided only because of staples such as molasses and flour being shipped out to the family by relatives in Illinois. But soon the boys were able to work for a few dollars a month on the wheat and barley farms in the west valley, and gradually the Munz Ranch began to take shape. Elias, with his brother Eric, operated the Munz Brothers’ Ranch with extensive cattle and grain production for many years. John Munz went on to become a Justice of the Peace, and was later honored by the naming of John Munz Camp by the Lost Angeles Country Supervisors. Munz Ranch was the headquarters for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power during the construction years for the aqueduct, and also for the construction of the landmark Shea Castle. The original



Butterfield Trail, on its route from Fairmont to San Francisquito Canyon, passed through the ranch and is still visible.

Munz Brothers Ranch is still active in Antelope Valley, and is operated by the sons and grandsons of Eric Munz. The two daughters of Elias developed and operated Munz Lakes Resort, which, after forty successful years, still operates as a member park of a national recreational vehicle park organization. Ruth Etz, daughter of Elias, still lives on a part of the original ranch, and granddaughter Ruthann commutes occasionally from Glendale. None of the sons and daughters of John Munz are still alive except Lottie, in Switzerland. However, Eric's wife Rose, and Arnold's wife Martha Ann still are residents. One of the grandsons of Elias, John Damann is a fire suppression technician and lives at Lake Elizabeth Ranch Club, a subdivision development bordering the southeast portion of the lake.

An item I didn't know before yesterday was that John Munz's eldest daughter, Ingeborg, went on to marry Clifford Holland and started one of the pioneer turkey ranches in Antelope Valley and was a leader in developing the Holland strain of white turkey. It is amazing how much folklore we can dig up when we start looking. A good story I know is that when Wm. Mulholland (Chief Engineer of the L.A. Aqueduct) was making a telephone call from his headquarters at the old Munz Ranch, he was trying to describe how the new crawler tractors made by the Holt Mfg. Co. of San Leandro were successfully doing the work for which camels had been previously imported. Suddenly he exclaimed, "Why, they are running all over the desert - just like a bunch of caterpillars!" Thus was coined the name of Caterpillar (CAT) when C. L. Best and Holt Mfg. Co. combined operations. Or so Eli Munz told me and I guess he ought to know.

By Art Etz - 1983

It seems there are several theories on how the crawler got it's name but here are a couple pictures of the early crawlers being used in the construction of the LA aqueduct.

Two Holt 45 gas crawling-type ("caterpillar") tractors team up to pull a long wagon train in the Mojave Desert during construction of the Los Angeles Aqueduct.





(1907) - The first Caterpillar tractors ever built were used to help complete the 5.5 mile Elizabeth Lake Tunnel section of the Los Angeles-Owens River Aqueduct.



Photographs from website:

“Construction of the Lost Angeles Aqueduct.” Water and Power Associates. n.p., n.d., Web. 26 Feb.2018

2018-19 Slate of Officers

The Nominating Committee, head by Delores Julian, announced the slate of officers to be voted on at the April General Meeting. They are listed here for your consideration, per the KAHS Bylaws.

President - Gretchen Winfrey,

Directors-at-Large - Chavonne Sladek, Dena

Vice President - Delores Julian

DeCaprio & Richard Guethlein

Secretary - Janet Winters

Treasurer - Jo Kenngott

2018 KAHS SCHOLARSHIP

The Kern Antelope Historical Society is excited to announce that a \$500 scholarship is available for a senior graduating from Rosamond High School, Rare Earth School or Abraham Lincoln Alternative School.

Below are a few details about the project required:

- The topic must relate to the history of Rosamond, CA.
- Essay must be no fewer than 800 and no more than 1,600 words in length, double-spaced.
- The winner is required to do a presentation of the essay at the May 10, 2018 KAHS meeting.
- A few examples of presentation format could be a Power Point slide presentation, a video, a speech, or a pictorial view of the essay subject.
- Deadline for submissions is April 20, 2018.

Complete details available upon request from info@kahs1959.org or go to our website: www.KAHS1959.org. If you know of eligible seniors, let them know about the scholarship. Membership in KAHS is not required.

Newest Member for 2018 - Welcome to KAHS: Lucy Johnson



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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Website: www.kahs1959.org Email: info@kahs1959.org Please visit the website for more information about Antelope Valley history. Copies of recent newsletters are available, as well as other information. The first online KAHS book is now available. Glimpse of the Prehistory of Antelope Valley, by Stuart Glennan, is described as "Archaeological Investigations at the Sweetser site". We hope to be able to add other KAHS books in the future.



For Sale by KAHS

Books - \$10 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: Historic Settlers Circle Map
25% Discount to Members

2017-2018 Executive Board

Officers:

President: Gretchen Winfrey winfrey@qnet.com
Vice President: Delores Julian ddjulirosa@yahoo.com
Secretary: Janet Winters poppiesrme@gmail.com
Treasurer: Fran Thompson fthompson3828@sbcglobal.net
Directors At-Large:
George Fischer
Chavonne Sladek
Kathy Smith

WEBSITE: www.kahs1959.org EMAIL: info@kahs1959.org

General Meetings:

5:00 pm- Business Session, 5:30 pm - Program
Second Thursday of the Month, September through June
At Wanda Kirk County Library

3611 Rosamond Blvd. Rosamond, CA 93560

(Exceptions: June, September & December - 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**

