



Antelope Horn

Newsletter of the Kern-Antelope Historical Society, Inc.

PO Box 1255 Rosamond, CA 93560

September, 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:

- September - guest speaker - Tom Leftwich - at The Sladek Ranch, directions on pg. 3.
- October - to be announced, working on getting various speakers of local interest
- December - Christmas Dinner and Meeting / tentative - Greenhouse Cafe

60th

Anniversary of the
Kern Antelope Historical Society
1959-2019

September Meeting - this will be the kick-off of our 60th Anniversary year. Our special guest on Thursday, September 13th, will be Tom Leftwich, long-time Rosamond resident, along with his wife Fran. Tom will be sharing from his many years of involvement in a wide variety of community activities, gold-mining pursuits and other adventures, plus working at Edwards for many years. Tom and Fran now live up north but he was happy to be asked to come back and share with the KAHS to help us celebrate.

Potluck Plans: Thursday, Sept. 13, starting at 5:00 pm at The Ranch

- barbecued **hot dogs and condiments will be provided**, as well as tea and lemonade.
- **KAHS members and guests are to bring a side dish** (salads, veggies, chips, etc.) **or a dessert** of your choice.

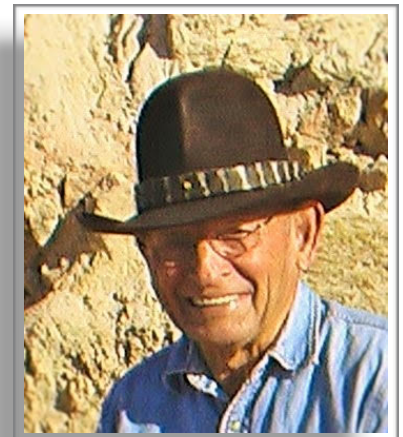
Happy Anniversary KAHS!

The Kern Antelope Historical Society will be celebrating it's Sixtieth Anniversary all 'year' long, ending in May of 2019, the month it was organized. Plans are being made for a 60th Anniversary event. Watch for news about special guests and happenings. We hope you get excited about the history of your community and your family.

Tom Leftwich Returns!

Tom Leftwich, our guest speaker for September, shared a little background information with us and included some photos. Many of you may remember Tom, his wife Fran, and their kids who grew up in Rosamond.

Tom tells us he was born in Roanoke, Virginia in 1933. He is a veteran of the Korean War having served with the United States Marine Corp. After that he had a thirty-three year career as an Aerospace Field Engineer at Edwards A.F.B. He has





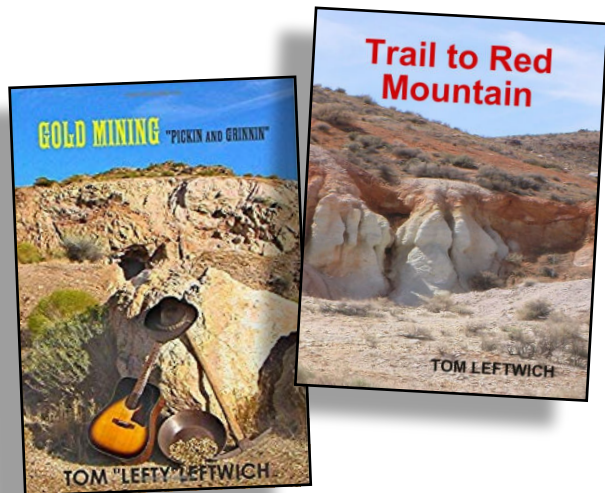
Please notice: if you are receiving a hardcopy (black and white copy) of this newsletter and would like to enjoy it in color, it is available at our website: www.kahs1959.org.

performed as a country western entertainer and gospel radio singer and is a songwriter. Currently, he is a writer for the *ICMJ Prospecting and Mining Journal*. He has also published numerous western short story collections, his own biography, two horse lover novels and two gold mining books. Tom says his experiences in entertaining, rodeo and gold mining are responsible for the direction his writing has taken.

Tom said he does not have “Gold Fever”, but he does have ‘a great fever for the enjoyment he gets out in God’s country and the many gold-miners he has met over the years’. “Thar’s gold in them thar hills”, he says, but he has more fun in bringing entertainment to folks. Part of his presentation will include some of the humor from time spent at the Roaring Camp Gold Mine and Resort in Pine Grove, California. He and Fran spent their summers for twenty-six years up at Roaring Camp, along with a number of friends from the Rosamond area who joined them on occasion. Tom even invented “a couple of gold diggin ‘machines to make a lazy man happy,” as he describes it.

Tom and Fran have been involved in many community activities here in Rosamond before moving to Los Molinos, California. Tom used his gospel singing and guitar playing at the Wayside Chapel and on a local radio program - the Cowboy Camp Meeting. Glen & Dorene Settle got him involved with the the World Championship Gold Panning Contest, as an MC and entertainer. Tom also was involved with the Exotic Feline Breeding Compound as a founding director. He worked with “Mama Myrte” (Mrs. Joe Davis) on the Chili Cookoff Contest as a publicity agent. He was also president of the SKUSD Board for awhile and served on the Rosamond Recreation Committee which worked to improve activities for Rosamond youth. He was also president of Equestrian Trails Inc., Corral 58 and the Roping and Riding Club. And in case he wasn’t busy enough he managed to squeeze in Little League coaching activities.

Whether you know Tom or not, you won’t want to miss this very interesting evening at The Ranch to hear some colorful history of our community and some of his gold mining adventures, get re-acquainted with Tom and Fran, and enjoy an great hot dog barbecue!



right: Tom and Fran Leftwich.

above: the covers from a couple of Tom’s books.



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Tom and Fran Leftwich; pictures show Tom and Fran at work diggin' for gold in 'them thar hills,' or, more accurately, in the Mokelumne & Feather Rivers.

Directions to Sladek Ranch, California - from Hwy. 14

- Exit the 14 Freeway at Rosamond Blvd.
- Go west on Rosamond Blvd. 3.3 miles.
- Stop at the four-way stop on 55th Street West (also Mojave Tropico Rd.).
- Go south (left) on 55th to just past the 4th house on the right (west side) which is a brown house.
- Take the diagonal dirt road to the right that goes southwest across a dirt field toward the Sladek Ranch enclosed by a long white fence. This diagonal road (which extends about 0.1 miles) leads to the gate to the very rustic Sladek ranch.



The Kern Antelope Historical Society would like to thank retiring board members George Fischer and Kathy Smith for their many years of service to the Society. George, with the support of his wife Janet, and Kathy have most recently been Board Directors and have decided to step down from the Board, but will still be involved in KAHS. Thank them for their faithful service when you see them.

Thank you

60th Anniversary Fun Facts

The Kern Antelope Historical Society has some great books which contain a lot of interesting history about our local area. In *Gold-Fever - 40-Years Digging Antelope-Valley History* we learn the story of the founding of the Historical Society through the first forty years of 'digging up the history' of the valley. This section will include nuggets of information each month that have been 'dug up' from the KAHS books we offer for sale.

See if you know the answers to these questions.

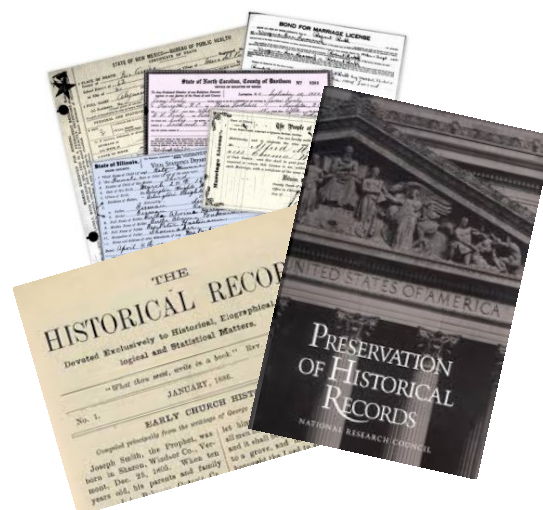
Question: What mountain in the Tehachapis was named after an early Antelope Valley pioneer; Alice and Clifford G Burton were descendants of this man who mined in the Tehachapi Mountains? (The KAHS worked with the Dept. of Interior on naming the mountain.)

Question: The first discovery of gold in California wasn't at Sutter's Mill but six years earlier, under an oak tree in what canyon?

Question: How many "charter" members did the KAHS have in the first year of operation?

(Answers in next month's newsletter)

Business Members - As part of our efforts to preserve and share local history, the Kern Antelope Historical Society would like to encourage as many businesses as possible to write a history, or story, of your business. This could include information about the building you are in, what was it's original use, how long have you been there, previous owners of your business or the building, etc. If you have pictures related to the history of your business, that would be good too. Any famous visitors or guests? Special events or occurrences? Remember, *your current story will be history someday*. **Watch for more details on how to present, or share, this information in future newsletters. We would like to have displays at our 60th Anniversary Celebration in May.**





Coming Local Events:

We will have our books for sale and other information available at the following events - we could use help in our booth at each occasion:

- The Kern Antelope Historical Society will take part in **Septemberfest, Saturday, September 22nd, at Glendower Park**, following the Armed Forces Day Parade which starts at 10 am.
- Also, Watch for the KAHS table at the **Old Timers BBQ, Sunday, October 14th, starting at 11 am., in the Van Dam Bldg.** at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds. The Rural Museum will be open also. It's well worth a visit!

Many of you enjoyed hearing from our *April guest speaker, Jean Rhyne from State Parks, who told us about Tomo-Kahni State Historic Park in Tehachapi.* You might like to make note of these coming events:

- **Tomo-Kahni Twilight Hike:** September 22nd (contact Tehachapi Museum for tickets)
- **Fall Tours at Tomo-Kahni State Historic Park:** Saturdays September 22nd - November 10th, 8:30 am to approximately 1 pm; Adults: \$5, Children age 6-16 \$3, Children under 5 free. Reservations: \$10 per party

Two more events coming to a State Park near you - the Antelope Valley Indian Museum:

- Indian Museum Annual Celebration: October 20-21, 11 a.m. – 4 pm
- Holidays on the Homestead: December 1st, 5-8 pm

In order to make better use of funds, KAHS will be emailing the *Antelope Horn* to all members, unless a mailed copy is requested. Please be sure to clearly print your email address on the membership application.

Note: 2018-19 membership dues were payable in June. Your dues help with the preservation and sharing of the history of the Kern - Antelope Valley area. If you have not paid, please use the application below to keep from missing out on the monthly newsletter and the opportunity to be a part of this important mission.

**KERN ANTELOPE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

	Type	Dues
Date _____		
Name _____	Student & Military	\$5
Address _____	Individual	\$15
City, ST, Zip _____	Couple	\$20
Phone Number _____	Family	\$30
E-mail _____	Business	\$35

Club Year - June 1st through May 31st



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

Online Book: *Glimpse of the Prehistory of Antelope Valley*

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: Jo Kenngott jokenngott@yahoo.com

Directors At-Large:

Dena DeCaprio
Richard Guethlein
Chavonne Sladek

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



Since 1959