



Antelope Horn

Newsletter of the Kern-Antelope Historical Society, Inc.

PO Box 1255 Rosamond, CA 93560

October, 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.

60th

Anniversary of the
Kern Antelope Historical Society
1959-2019

October Meeting - The Kern Antelope Historical Society is pleased to announce that **Clifford Greenleaf Burton** will be our guest speaker on **Thursday, October 11th, at 5 pm** at the Rosamond (Wanda Kirk) Library. Cliff G. is the son of H. Clifford Burton of Burton Bros. Tropico Gold Mine and Mill and became the president of the corporation upon the death of his father in 1949. Even though Cliff now lives in the San Diego area, he continues to be involved with the mill at Tropico and still makes trips to oversee activities there.

Make plans to attend this singular occasion to hear Cliff Burton recalling events about mining, Tropico, and early Antelope Valley history.

Coming Up:

- November - to be announced, working on getting various speakers of local interest
- December - Christmas Dinner and Meeting / Greenhouse Cafe

The following article is taken from Antelope Valley PIONEERS, available from KAHS.

Burton Family in Antelope Valley

In January 1900, William Morris Burton, his wife Millicent (Milly) Botwright Burton, and their children Sidney, H. Clifford, Cecil F. and Alec G. came to the Esperanza area (west of Lancaster) from South-End-On-Sea, England. Milly died the following December and is buried in the Lancaster Cemetery. William had purchased the Antelope Valley land from an ad he had seen in the English magazine, Field & Stream. The ad told of a land of paradise on the great California desert with its abundance of flowing artesian wells. There were many flowing wells, but the ad neglected to mention that the land was in the hard-pan-alkali belt and not too well suited for farming. William and the young men made a gallant effort to farm their new land, but without much success. William is credited as one of the first to use a gasoline engine to pump water from the underground valley water basin, and is said to have introduced Lucerne Grass (alfalfa) to Antelope Valley.

After Mrs. Burton passed away, William was kept busy with caring for the four young boys, seeing to it that they did their

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.



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.

chores and getting them off for their schooling at the nearby Del Sur School. After a visit to England, William brought to Antelope Valley, a second wife, Maggie Grant, and a second family was started. They eventually had 8 children.

In time, William decided to move his growing family to Mission, B.C. Canada, but H. Clifford decided to stay and follow up on his new interest in life – gold mining. He had become interested in this new venture when he made a prospecting trip to Ballarat with an old desert prospector.

While in Ballarat, Cliff met another young man, Mel Sanford, and together they prospected and made their first “Strike. (The Gold Bug.) They were able to sell it to January Jones, a prominent mining man from Goldfield, Nevada. With his new capital, Cliff went to Los Angeles and studied assaying and facets of the mining profession.

Clifford returned to Antelope Valley about 1910 and started work at the Tropic Gold Mine, near Rosamond. The owners were impressed with Cliff’s knowledge and judgement and soon made him superintendent. The mine needed more ambitious young men and Cliff wrote for his brother, Cecil F. in Canada to come back to Antelope Valley and join him in his ventures. Besides their regular mining jobs, the brothers leased one of the back veins and soon struck a good lode of ore. They began to buy stock in Tropic.

World War I interrupted their plans for awhile and both brothers joined the U.S. Army Engineering Corp. and were sent to France. They returned to Antelope Valley as U.S. citizens. Eventually, after many years of hard work and good judgement, they became sole owners of what is now called Burton’s Tropic Gold Mines. They had started a “Custom” gold processing mill and eventually sent to Canada for their brother, Alec who later became mill foreman.

In June 1922, Alice E. Greenleaf (also see Covington-Dearborn Family) graduated from Antelope Union High School and in August H. Clifford took her for his bride. In December 1923, a daughter Dorene M. was born and in January 1925 a son, Clifford G. arrived.

In 1920 Cecil F married a young woman, Leona, that he met at San Jose while he was taking his Army training there. They had a daughter, Vivian in 1926.

Leona and Alice were of great help to their busy mining husbands. They worked at running the hoist, keeping books, selling dynamite and caps and many other chores on the surface, so that the men could do the underground and heavy work at the mine and mill. Times were tough for gold mining until the mid-thirty’s .

Cliff became very active in the community life of the Valley and the Burton Brothers were credited with being one of the main sources of keeping Antelope Valley going during the depression years. They trained farmers (who could not sell their crops) how to become miners, and they gave jobs to many others in need, as they just couldn’t see people going hungry when the mine was beginning to prosper. They also helped the local school keep going by furnishing gasoline, bus maintenance and other supplies to the school system at no cost.

In 1948, during the California Centennial year, Clifford was featured in several magazine and newspaper articles as being one of California’s most successful miners. While Cecil’s family moved from the Valley when the mine was forced to close by order L-208 during World War II, the H. Clifford Burton family remained, although by then they had a home on Lido Isle at Newport Beach, where they lived a short while with H. Clifford commuting. The two children continued their education in California higher institutions of learning and returned to Antelope Valley upon graduations.



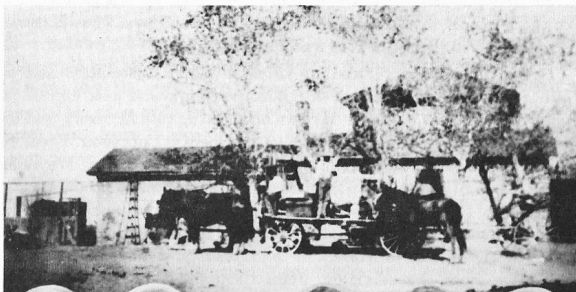
H. Clifford Burton passed away in 1949, two years after his brother Cecil F. H.C. B (H. Clifford) had been attending an Antelope Valley High School Board meeting in Lancaster, of which he was an active member. Young Cliff G. took over the presidency of Burton Brothers' Inc. Tropico Mines and their holdings and with the help of his sister Dorene and her husband, Glen A. Settle (who she married in 1948) kept the mine operating until 1956. Cliff G. and family left the Valley at that time, so he could follow his mining profession. He returns often and continues in the presidency of Burton Bros., Inc.

Dorene and Glen, along with George and Doreen Burton McNamee obtained a lease on the Tropico and opened the mine for tours so visitors could see a genuine historic gold mine and mill. Doreen McNamee was the daughter of William and Maggie Burton and though born in Canada, returned to Antelope Valley when quite young, married and lived at Tropico Mine until her death in 1982. Encouraged by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, the mine gained international notice and for 20 years the Settle's staged the World Championship Gold Panning Contest. From 1975 to 1979 the World Championship Chili Cook-off was held at Tropico with the Settle's taking an active part.

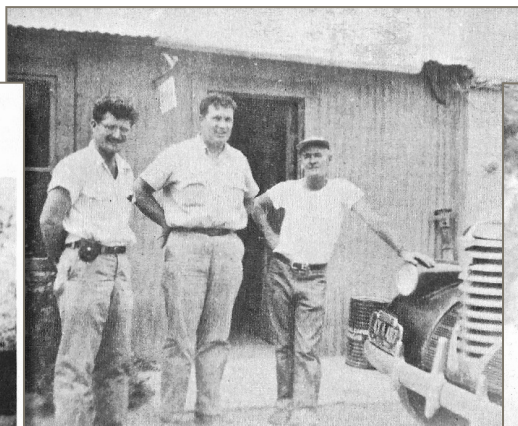
Both the Settles have been very active in community life for many years. In 1959 they founded the Kern Antelope Historical Society, with Glen as its charter president. Now (1983) Dorene is president. Dorene was not only one of the presidents of the Lancaster Woman's Club, but was charter president of the Rosamond Woman's Club. Both have been awarded with many honors by County and State officials. In 1973 Dorene was listed in World Who's Who of Women, a London, England publication.

Alec's son, A. Cecil and his wife Dorothy live in the Rosamond area. His career centered at Edwards Air Force Base. In retirement he is busy working various mining claims, assaying and raising some stock.

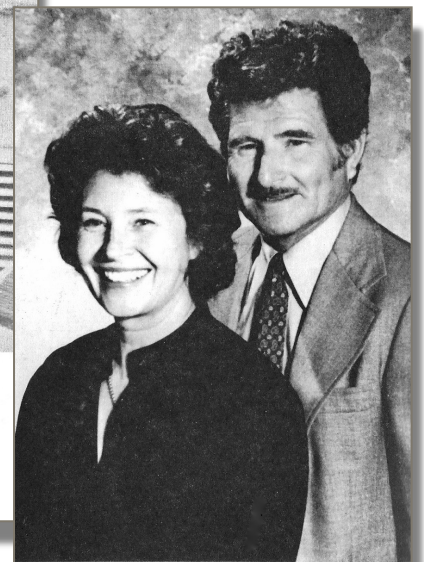
**THE BURTON FAMILY
IN ANTELOPE VALLEY**



The William M. Burton ranch house at Esperanza (west of Lancaster near Del Sur). Left to right, William, his wife Milly and three of their sons H. Clifford, Cecil F. and Alec G. Burton.



CLIFFORD G. BURTON
GLEN A. SETTLE AND
GEORGE MC NAMEE
POST WAR STAFF



ALICE H. AND CLIFFORD G.
BURTON

above left: Cliff G. Burton's father (H. Clifford) & family from England.

center: Cliff G. with his brother-in-law Glen Settle and his uncle George McNamee (by marriage).

riah: Cliff G. Burton and his wife Alice H.



60th Anniversary Fun Facts - October

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.

(Answers from September newsletter: Covington Mountain, Placerita Canyon, 85 charter members)

See if you know the answers to these questions:

Question: Eventually, after the Tropic Mine ceased operations in 1956, Glen and Dorene Settle began a museum and operated tours through the mine. In 1976 they were asked to provide mining relics for the _____, a part of the Bi-Centennial Celebration.

Question: Who was the first president of the Kern Antelope Historical Society?

Question: What family, from Prairie City, Iowa was one of the early pioneer families to the valley (about 1888)? Their freighting business didn’t take off, so they moved to Los Angeles and were much more successful, but their son left their LA home as a young teenager, returned to the Antelope Valley and worked on cattle ranches, eventually saving enough to purchase 9000 acres in Oak Creek Canyon.

(Answers in next month’s newsletter)

New Members for 2019 - Welcome to KAHS:

Marilyn Basaker

Lisa Collins

Larry & Lory Cruz

David Davis

Barbara Hoffman & John Nase

Roger & Sue King

Jack Miller

Betty Price

John Tommy Rosas

Troy & Susan Taylor

Rosie Walker

John Wilson

Randy Windmer

Business: *Rosamond News*



Coming Local Events:

- We will have our books for sale and other information available at 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!
- **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 events at 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.

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.

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.

Just a reminder – if you haven't renewed for 2018-2019, this will be your last newsletter. We don't want you to miss out on interesting articles or news about our events, including great speakers. We hope you will send in your membership today.

**KERN ANTELOPE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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

	MEMBERSHIP TYPE	
Date	Type	Dues
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

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President: Gretchen Winfrey winfrey@qnet.com
Vice President: Delores Julian ddjulirosa@yahoo.com
Secretary: Janet Winters poppiesrme@gmail.com
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Directors At-Large:

Dena DeCaprio
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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