



Antelope Horn

Newsletter of the Kern-Antelope Historical Society, Inc.
PO Box 1255 Rosamond, CA 93560
December, 2018

Meetings:

Regular Meetings:

- 2nd Thursday of the month (except July & August)
- 5 pm - at the Wanda Kirk Library, 3611 Rosamond Blvd., Rosamond, CA.

Business Meetings:

- 4th Thursday of the month as needed.
- 5 pm - location to be announced.

Just in: Two of the prizes for the raffle at the Christmas Dinner will be 1) a 2-night stay at the ranch house and 2) a 2-night stay at the 5-bedroom house from Desert Breeze Enterprises.



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.

60th Anniversary of the
Kern Antelope Historical Society
1959-2019

December Christmas Dinner - We will be meeting, again, at the Greenhouse Cafe in Lancaster, for our annual Christmas Dinner and time of fun and friendship.



- Thursday, December 13th at 5:00 pm.
- The cost is **\$20 for KAHS members** and **payments need to be received by December 1st to reserve a seat** for a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Contact Gretchen or Jo..
- Greenhouse Cafe -1169 Commerce Center Dr., Lancaster, CA
- We will be joined by another group which collects unwrapped presents for Toys for Tots - you may like to bring a gift also.
- There will be a raffle (\$1 a ticket, \$5 for 6 tickets) for various prizes.

At the November meeting we were treated to an interview of Garr Bradley by his daughter, Chavonne Bradley Sladek. As well as learning about Garr's interesting life story, Chavonne also encourages others to 'tell their story.' She had a number of interesting tips on how to do this and also suggested some reading materials that would be helpful. The following is an excerpt of the story of Arthur Pickus, (longtime valley resident) written in the late 1980's by his wife Grace. Both have since passed away, but I think you will find these words timely when Grace describes her husband's life story as "ordinary", yet "unique". Also included is an excerpt from the chapter in which Grace describes a little about Christmas in much simpler times. Hopefully this will be an encouragement for you to get out there and record your life story and it's a great time to do it when families are gathering for the holidays. One last thing, The Arthur Pickus Story is a KAHS book and available for sale from the Society.

A Page in the History of Antelope Valley The Arthur F. Pickus Story His Home for Seventy-five Years

Introduction/Prologue

Here is the life story of a man. The story is so ordinary that generations of men have lived it, yet it is so unique that no man has lived such a life in this age or any age.

Like hundreds of thousands of Americans, his father was foreign but his domestic life is not the same as any one of them. He



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.

can truly repeat the amazed and grateful words of his father, "Oh! The things I have seen," but his experiences do not repeat those which his father had. The story in this book is proof that each person lives a pattern of his own.

Not until after he was married (at 21) did he have a telephone in the house; yet through the marvel of television he watched as men left the earth and landed on the moon. As a child he never had a broken bone, but when he was near 70, his breast bone was sawed asunder for double bypass surgery. He was a father before he had ever been more than 100 miles from home; however, at the proverbial age of four score and ten he enjoyed Alaska, he glimpsed China, saw dancing girls in Bali and sailed over the storied sapphire sea to cross the Equator.

In his own well loved country, he has traveled by wheel from the redwoods to the White House; he has entered Vermont from Canada and at El Paso crossed the border into Mexico. In his travels he has gone from Mobile on the Gulf of Mexico to Chicago on the Great Lakes; admired Cape Hatteras lighthouse on North Carolina's outer banks and Point Arena lighthouse on California's spectacular coast.

This man is one of the very few hardy pioneers still living [at the time of Grace's writing] who has slept in Lancaster's Western Hotel (now a historical landmark) and who has taken part in a jackrabbit drive. He has remained in love and faithful to the same wife for more than 56 years. Those who read this book will understand that the author sees him as something better than a product of his time and something more than a good citizen. The mirror his life holds up to the past reflects some of the truly unique pictures of that life and of those time [sic] and places.

Excerpt from Chapter 6 - Home-Brew, Holidays and Hazards

Grandma Glosser had come to live with the family shortly after her husband, Nicholas, died. She was a slight woman but was more than willing to do her share. She had a special soft spot for Arthur and he loved her dearly. One morning she and Mother Pickus were carrying a tub of very hot wash water from the stove to the back porch where they were going to wash clothes. As they went through the door, Grandma slipped and the scalding water splashed on her lower body and thigh and she was badly burned. Arthur ran the half mile to the high school, where Papa was at work on the new science building that was being constructed. (The year was 1922). Papa had driven the Ford to work so he hurried home and then went back to town for the doctor. After the first two visits from Dr. Wright, Mother Pickus nursed her mother for the several months it took for the burn to heal. Unguentine was the salve used on Grandma's sores and they bought it in five-pound cans.

Once Arthur went over to play with JT Redman, Buddy's younger brother, and JT had a candle – really a little alcohol lamp which had been the light used in an old slide projector. Arthur remembers that, "He went in the house and got a little skillet. We took it and the little light, and got two eggs out of the henhouse. We went out in the alfalfa field where the green hay was high and cooked and ate the eggs."

Sometime after this JT's sister's young son wandered alone up to the wier [sic] box in the same alfalfa field. A rattlesnake bit him there and he died.

Another time the Pickus boys were playing ball with some neighbor boys down by the corral where the frisky young bull was kept. At one side was a low shed with a heavy corrugated iron roof in which the rabbit hutches stood. The ball flew into the corral, and when Arthur went to retrieve it, the bull took after him. He quickly backed up on the roof of the shed, but the belligerent bull continued to charge, banging Arthur's legs against the sharp metal. In pain and fear, he swung furiously at the animal's head with the bat which was still in his hands. The bull fell to the ground senseless. Arthur had escaped that danger but now he had a new fear for he would have to face his father; he thought he had killed the animal. However, after a long few minutes the beast staggered to his feet and seemed none the worse for the clout on his head.

Once about this time, Mrs. Willie Redman JT's mother, sent some clothes which her sons had outgrown to the Pickus boys. Mother Pickus returned them with thanks, saying they were not really in need. While the Pickus sons did often times wear patched clothing, it was because their father firmly believed in the old adage: "Use it up; wear it out; make it do." He was (as his son Arthur has been) "a good provider."



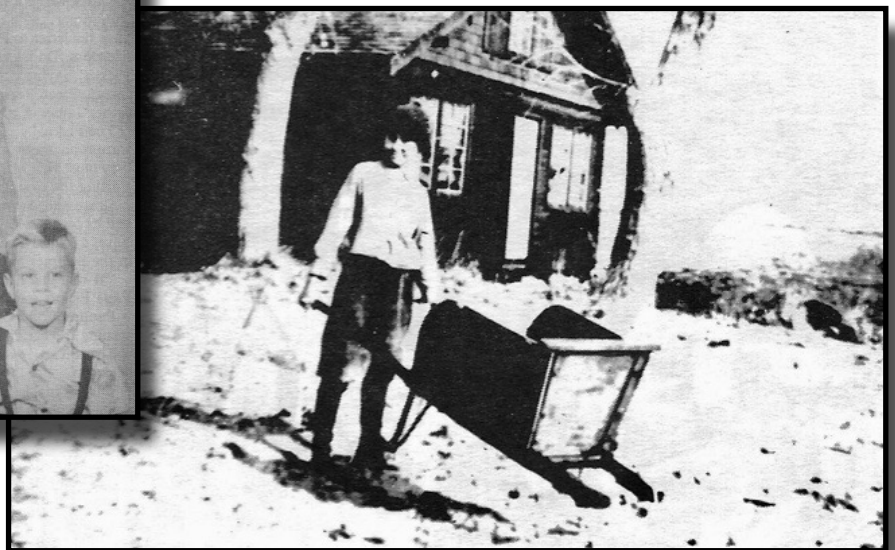
This saving attitude, however, did not keep the family from celebrating the holidays. Christmas was a happy time with lots of food, modest gifts, and special decorations on the tree. There were bright pictures of Saint Nicholas, angels and the Christ Child, all encircled with glittering tinsel. Balls and baubles made in Germany were saved to use from one Christmas to the next. Brother Carl still has some of these family treasures.

When he was nine years old, Arthur got a Christmas gift that he recalls with great pleasure. His father made him a fine medium sized red wheelbarrow with which to haul things – principally firewood. It was beautifully made with removable green sideboards and nice smooth handles made from the shafts of the old buggy, which was no longer used because they had the automobile. The oak wood used to make this treasure came from the crates in which the seats for the new high school auditorium had been shipped. Speaking of the wheelbarrow and “the boughten” wagon which he received a year later, “I loved them both,” Arthur told me.



Grace & Arthur Pickus and their four children

Arthur and the wonderful Christmas wheelbarrow about 1918.



60th Anniversary Fun Facts - November

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. This month I have concentrated on stories of the Pickus family as recorded in one of the KAHS books. Answers below.

See if you know the answers to these questions:

Question: 1935: On the first day of the month [May], all unincorporated territory in the County [of Los Angeles] is under the “_____” regulation until the end of the fire season, about Nov. 30th. This applied to “mountainous, brush or forest covered land which is covered with any inflammable material.”



Question: In WWII, Arthur Pickus worked at the Mojave Marine Base, during its construction. One night he was asked to come back after dinner to do some welding on the Pioneer rock crusher, used to prepare rock for the runways being made. He was told to use two 250 amp Lincoln welders, with a _____ in each hand. And he did it – he laid on 140 lbs. of manganese hard-facing rod in fourteen hours!

Question: At the 1998 KAHS meeting, seven former presidents of the association are pictured: Glen, Settle, Clint Cole, Dick Ballinger, Les Harrington, Dorene Settle, Mildred Brackett, and _____.

More New Members for 2019 - Welcome to KAHS:

Sandy Goodman

Jay Silman

Answers: *no smoking – It was unlawful to set a fire or even smoke tobacco in any form from May through November that year, must have been very dry; a stinger; Grace Pickus*

**KERN ANTELOPE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

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

Club Year - June 1st through May 31st

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.



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 - \$10 (*\$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*

2018-2019 Executive Board

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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