



Antelope Horn

Newsletter of the Kern-Antelope Historical Society, Inc.
PO Box 1255 Rosamond, CA 93560
February, 2019

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. All are welcome.
- 5 pm - location to be announced

Looking Ahead:

February: Glen Settle Video - A Historical Tour of the Tropic Gold Camp Buildings

March: Ann Yost - the Yost Family History

April: Joe Pauley - A Family History

May: KAHS 60th Anniversary (more details to follow)

June: to be announced

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

February Meeting - Come join us Thursday, February 14th, at 5:00 pm to learn more about some of the old buildings at the Tropic Gold Camp. We have a video narrated by Glen Settle telling about where the buildings came from, including the one he grew up in in Palmdale - a section house on the Southern Pacific Railroad. Some came from gold camps in the area and others were homes or buildings on the property of early Antelope Valley pioneers.

If you've ever driven by and wondered about the Gold Camp, this is your chance to gain a little background and hear some interesting stories from someone who lived a part of the history. Some of the history can also be found in *Gold-Fever - 40 Years Digging Antelope Valley History*, a KAHS book.

A number of old buildings, slated for demolition, were eventually brought to Tropic and "...priority was given to an old building which came from Soledad Mountain. At one time, it had been used as a mine boarding house by the Mudd Mining Company in the 1890's. The Mudds were prominent mining people in the West and they eventually, in the 1930's, developed the Cactus Mine on the Middle Butte north of Willow Springs... In May 1959, the first official meeting of the Kern Antelope Historical Society was called to order by Glen Settle, acting as the first Chairman. The building also filled to capacity with many Valley old-timers. The Settles had planned that the officers would be chosen from the old-timers but the old-timers had different ideas and they elected Glen Settle to be the first President, which he carried on for the first three years."

Miners Hall with Settles and McNamees



Miners Hall back bar at Burtons Tropic Gold Camp, where many delicious refreshments were served from 1959 to 1981. Charter member pictured are left to right: George McNamee, Dorene B. Settle, Doreen McNamee and Glen Settle.

Happy Anniversary KAHS!

The Kern Antelope Historical Society will be celebrating its 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.



The late Bert Wegmann, who played an important part in the mining history of the Mojave Desert, does some prospecting from his horse on Soledad Mountain when he was a young man.

The following article is taken from *Antelope Valley PIONEERS*, published by the Kern Antelope Historical Society.

The Wegmann Family

Mojave, California

Englebort (Bert) Louis Wegmann came to the Mojave mining area November 11, 1903. That day he began a career in mining from which he never swerved the rest of his life of seventy-seven years. This career began at the Karma-Ajax Mining Company's property on Soledad Mountain. No cattle, agricultural, oil or real estate booms could divert his interest, and he witnessed many of these. He was a miner, millman [sic] and chemist in the years that followed.

Mr. Wegmann began life in Oedding, Germany, February 10, 1873, and came to the United States with his family, at the age of seven. Relatives had

preceded the family and they joined them in Cincinnati, Ohio. At the age of sixteen he felt the lure of the sea and went to the southern seacoast where he worked on sailing ships in the Florida Keys. For about four years he worked for a company, which dug (?) sponges and brought them to Florida. Turtles (huge ones) were also procured and towed ashore in order to obtain their shells, which were in great use then. Tiring of this he became interested in steam engines. He became quite proficient with them and was in great demand among the lumber mills near Pascagula, Miss. where steam power was used. Here he met and married Miss Margaret Irving, a school teacher, daughter of a shipping merchant, Charles T. Irving, and Mrs. Irving. After several years his health began to suffer from bouts of malaria fever, so in the fall of 1903 he decided to find a climate, which would suit his health better and came West. He must have also felt the lure of gold as he first went to Denver, Colorado. Perhaps it was too chilly but he continued on to Sacramento, California where he boarded a boat for San Pedro. After arriving in Los Angeles he began hearing of the mines in the Mojave area where several mills were already operating and another large one being built. He signed for work erecting the steam plant at the Karma-Ajax Mines. The Karma mill had twenty stamps and needed a large engine and boiler. Soledad Mountain was a very busy place at that time with large mule teams keeping clouds of dust along the winding road to the Southern Pacific railroad siding at Fleta, two miles to the east.

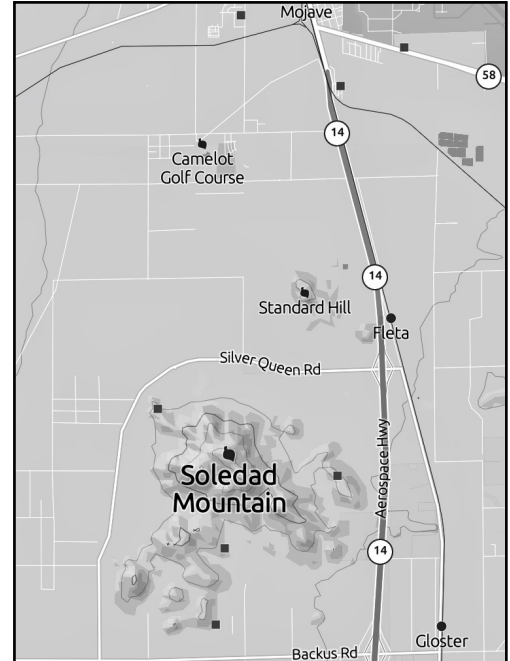
Soon there were large boarding houses for the single men, and a little later simple homes were built for the men who had families. When one of these was available Mr. W. sent for his wife and their two small sons, Percy 4, and Bert, 2. They arrived on the cool breezy evening of May 25, 1904. As they alighted from the train the conductor gave his usual admonition, to hand onto [sic] their hats or veils as they would sail over to the "Hat Ranch" if not held down. A horse and buggy brought the small family to their new home on the north face of Soledad Mountain. The usual spring "breeze" managed to scare Mrs. W. to pieces in a few days when it blew off part of the roof. Mr. W. had not intended remaining on the desert, in fact, he attempted to pull himself away several times, but each time something would hold him back and he began to acquire mining



property. When the large mills of the “Queen Esther”, “Exposed Treasure” and “Karma” closed he had mines of his own from which to ship ore to the far distant smelters. Later he purchased the Karma Mines and mill. He had a great disappointment in the mill as it would not effectively and efficiently treat the ores he mined. Ore was sledded down the hillsides to ore-bins from which bulk and sacked ore was shipped by gondola car-loads to smelters. There was a great deal of work, hard work, involved, but never did he falter nor swerve from his chosen “profession,” mining. He also managed mines in the Randsburg area for absent owners, as well as in the Mojave district.

Three daughters and another son were born and the six children attended Soledad’s small school, built for the early day mining people. This school was Mr. W.’s special interest. He was clerk of the school board for many years and tried very hard to keep the school available for the children of mining and homesteading people who lived far from the Mojave school. It closed for lack of pupils only a year or two before the great “Golden Queen” boom. Mrs. Wegmann was active in the District’s voting precinct and in her beautiful flower gardens. She had left a very verdant spot of the U.S. but managed to surround herself with beautiful roses, dahlias and flowers one would not expect to see on a desert. Of Scotch-Irish ancestry she had adapted to rugged mountain life over the years and spent the rest of her life on Soledad, passing away at the age of 77.

Mr. W. found the health he had sought in California and lived to enjoy his fourteen grandchildren. In 1948 Mr. & Mrs. W. celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, far from the little Catholic church in Moss Point, Miss. where they were married, but surrounded by a beautiful rose garden filled with their six children, grandchildren and many friends.



With Sympathy *The Kern Antelope Historical Society sends condolences to the family and friends of Daniel Landsgaard who passed away unexpectedly in December. Daniel has been a long-time supporter of the Society.*

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. The following questions are from the Glen Settle video on Tropic Gold Camp. **If you can’t figure out or guess the answers, come out on February 14th to find out.**

Question: Who met at the Miners Hall for over twenty years?

Question: Rawley Duntley was the last resident of what building?

Question: Glass made before what event would turn purple when left in the sun?

Question: Herb Wegmann gave what building to the gold camp?

Question: What kind of records or papers were found in the “Stuckey – Kenton – Duntley” Building?

Question: What did Louis Zeravica do?



More New Members for 2019 - Welcome to KAHS:

Clayton Dyas

David Kieffer

Barbara Schultz

Ruben & Tammy Gonzalez

Jerry & Sue Ogden

Steven Whitfield

Wayne Karr

**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
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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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Directors At-Large:

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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