



Antelope Horn

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

April: Joe Pauley - A Family
History; Election of Officers for
2019-2020

May: KAHS 60th Anniversary
Open House; Installation of
2019-2020 Officers.

June: at Willow Springs! Mark
your calendars to visit this
historic location!

Happy Anniversary KAHS!

The Kern Antelope Historical Society will be celebrating its Sixtieth Anniversary, Thursday, May 9, 2019, with an Open House at the Wanda Kirk Library with a number of exhibits about the historic Willow Springs community, Little Britches Rodeo, Rosamond Historical Buildings, Pancho Barnes, the Feline Compound, Willow Springs Raceway, etc. Watch for more details on specific times, etc.

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

April Meeting - Come join us **Thursday, April 11th, at 5:00 pm** at the **Library** when our guest will be **Joe Pauley**. Joe is another long-time valley resident - in fact his grandfather lived at Muroc, before the base was there. His father and uncle also operated Pauley Bros. Equipment Co., in Rosamond for many years. And there is a connection to valley mining. And many of you know of Joe's cowboying and may have been fortunate enough to get a ride on his horse-drawn wagon or gone on a horse ride with him.

Be sure to mark your calendar to hear another of our Kern Antelope Valley residents telling a part of his family story.

Joe's introduction to his talk:

My presentation will start in Muroc where my grandfather was Station Agent for the Santa Fe Railroad. My father was born there in 1912. I will discuss the relocation of the family when EAFB was coming in and everyone had to leave. That's when my father and uncle moved to Rosamond and started Pauley Bros. Equip. Co. I will discuss the move my immediate family made to the Whitmore Mine off Silver Queen Rd., and the mining venture and life there. *cont'd*

Joe Pauley standing near what was left of the gallus, or "gallows" mainframe for the Whitmore mine; since destroyed when many desert mines had to be sealed off.



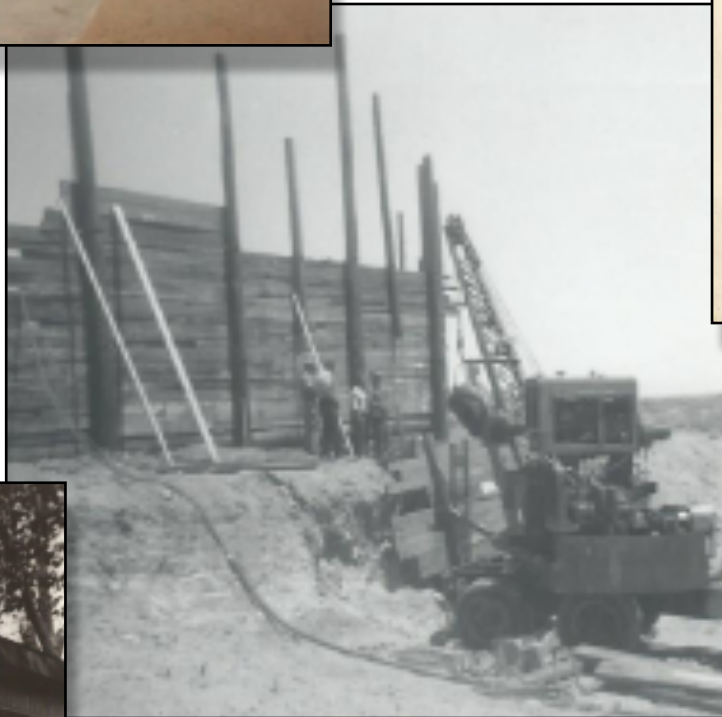


Please notice: if you are receiving a hardcopy (black and white copy) of this newsletter and would like to enjoy it in color, it is available at our website: www.kahs1959.org.



Joe's mom, Vicki, in front of the "shack" they lived in when their dad moved them out to the Whitmore Property. Joe and his brother slept in a separate bunkhouse.

Building a retaining wall for tailings at the Whitmore mine, off of Standard Road.



Joe's Aunt Agnes, his dad's sister.

Joe's Uncle Al, at the yard in Rosamond; the semi has a load of pipe from the oil fields he believes.



Unidentified people but this may have been the MUROC RR station.





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The pioneer M.J. Reynolds family go on a Sunday afternoon ride in downtown Lancaster. Left to right, M.J., Maurice "Jumbo," Flora, Mrs. M.J. Reynolds (Jane) and Nellie.



Jane Porter Reynolds
Widow of Maurice J. Reynolds, Sr.
117 W 9th Street
Lancaster, California

The following is from *Antelope Valley PIONEERS*, a KAHS book. It is the story of the Reynolds family (ie. Jane Reynolds Park in Lancaster) and how they came to the Antelope Valley. The railroad to Mojave played a part in Mr Reynold's story. It also gives an idea of how hard life was in the pioneering days of the valley. Keep in mind that the *PIONEERS* book was published in 1984 when it talks about living members of the family and place names, etc.

Maurice James Reynolds
Jane Porter

Back in 1861, on September 1st, to be exact, when America was in the throes of a civil war, a boy was born in Somersetshire, England, who was to grow up to be a pioneer in the development of Antelope Valley and a man with great faith that the Valley would one day become a great agricultural center. He was Maurice James Reynolds.

M.J., as he was called, left England when he was about eighteen and set out for America to seek his fortune. He started life in America at Strawberry Point, Iowa.

The following letter was printed in the Antelope Valley Ledger-Gazette in 1915 as an entry in a contest to see what resident had lived in the Valley the longest time.

"I left my former home-place for over six years, November 13, 1887, in consequence of a dose of Horace Greeley's advice, 'Go west young man, and grow up with the country.'"

I procured a RR ticket at Manchester, Iowa, for Los Angeles, via Kansas City, Trinidad, and Mojave. At the latter town where a change was made for Los Angeles, I had to wait for the Los Angeles connections for two hours, and, to kill time, I proceeded to write letters to my friends in Iowa and Dakota.

On going to the U.S. Post Office to mail them, I had not enough stamps for all the letters and presented three 1-cent pieces to Uncle Sam's servant. He promptly refused to take them, informing me that nothing less than 10 cents was good for a stamp there, so I pungled up*. The news butcher on the train did business along the same line in selling papers.

In less than an hour Lancaster was sighted. At 10 o'clock, Sunday morning, November 20, 1887 I arrived and there was no crowd to greet me, as would be the case now. It was one of those bright, sunny days, of which we have so many in the fall and winter, that caused me to return with four others and select the SW ¼ of Section 18;



Township 7, north; Range 10 west; SBM, eight and one-half miles due east of Lancaster (about 75th Street East and Avenue J – Ed).

On our way back to Lancaster, two miles south of what is now known as the Reid Rancho, we saw 27 antelope.

I filed a timber culture claim** in December, 1887, and on February 12, 1888, I let a contract for clearing and breaking five acres. In February, 1889, I hired teams, cleared and plowed six acres more, sowed some wheat, barley, oats and rye, also some garden seeds, having built the necessary fence to keep out the range cattle, as there were many of them in those days.

I built a house, put down a well 43 feet, securing plenty of water at a depth of 31 feet, made and erected a windmill; installed a pump; made a board reservoir; built a V-flume, and was ready for business.

There being no housekeeper, I had to 'batch it.' Never have been away from the Valley more than five months at a time and, too, for this period, only on two occasions.

Yours truly,
M.J. Reynolds

Jane Porter was born on September 1, 1861, at Castle Cook, County Cork, Ireland. When she was twenty-two she came to America, suffering terrible seasickness during the crossing. After settling in Chicago, she made two voyages back to Ireland to bring, first, a brother, then a sister, to America.

About 1895 she came to Los Angeles with a Chicago physician as a nurse-companion for his wife, who was ill. Thinking the desert climate would be beneficial for his wife, the doctor moved to Lancaster. Unfortunately, she died and, when the doctor decided to move back to Los Angeles, Jane secured a job as cook at the Western Hotel.

M.J. Reynolds was, at that time, drilling a well for the railroad company and was staying at the Western Hotel. He and Jane met there and one year later, on January 22, 1897, they were married in Los Angeles.

They had four children, John, who died in infancy; Helen, who died in 1973; Flora (Mrs. Peter Sterk) and Maurice (Jumbo Reynolds), both of whom live in Lancaster.

On July 2, 1916, M.J. was hunting jack rabbits and was accidentally killed when his gun fired as he crawled through a barbed wire fence.

Jane kept her family together in their house at the corner of Antelope Avenue (Sierra Highway) and 9th Street (Kettering Avenue).

In 1937 she donated to Los Angeles County the block which is now Jane Reynolds Park. She died on November 25, 1949.

Others of their descendants living in the Valley are their grandsons, Frank and Jerry Sterk; great grandsons, Raymond, Steven and David Sterk and great-great granddaughter, Heather Sterk.

**Pungle (according to Merriam-Webster) is from the Spanish word pongale, meaning "put it down," which itself is from poner, meaning "to put" or "to place," or more specifically "to contribute money." The earliest uses of "pungle" are from the 1850s and are in reference to anteing up in games of chance.*

***The **Timber Culture Act** was a follow-up act to the Homestead Act. The Timber Culture Act was passed by Congress in 1873. The act allowed homesteaders to get another 160 acres (65 ha) of land if they planted trees on one-fourth of the land, because the land was "almost one entire plain of grass, which is and ever must be useless to cultivating man." 160 acres (65 ha) of additional free land could be obtained if they set aside 40 acres (16 ha) to grow trees to solve the problem of lack of wood on the Great Plains. After planting the trees the land could only be completely obtained if it was occupied by the same family for at least 5 years. The act was passed to prevent abuse of the original Homestead Act in 1862. Later the amount of land that needed to be set aside for trees was reduced to 10 acres (4.0 ha). Any potential settler, including foreign immigrants, could claim this land under both this act and the Homestead Act provided the claimant had become a U.S. citizen by the time of proving up. Timber was needed to sell and use for building materials. This timber would provide them with wood for fires and building. It would also act as a wind break reducing the problem of the strong winds on the plains. From en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timber_Culture_Act*



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The news and social media have been full of the poppies and other wildflowers blooming around the state. Our own Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve has been visited by many people in recent weeks coming to see the wonderful bloom. And I was reminded that April 6th is an "Official California State Holiday".



Official State Holiday of California

California designated **April 6 as California Poppy Day** in 2010, and Governor Wilson proclaimed May 13-18 as Poppy Week in 1996 (the state flower is the California poppy). All State Holidays

Excerpt from Senate Bill 944 (37222.12)

(a) April 6 of each year is designated and set apart as California Poppy Day, a day having special significance pursuant to Section 37222.

(b) On California Poppy Day, all public schools and educational institutions are encouraged to conduct exercises honoring the California Poppy, including instruction about native plants, particularly the California Poppy, and the economic and aesthetic value of wildflowers; promoting responsible behavior toward our natural resources and a spirit of protection toward them; and emphasizing the value of natural resources and conservation of



*The beautiful flowers of the desert have been an attraction for many years. **At left**, visitors to the Hinkley area are checking out the sand verbena in 1953; note the old cars.*

***Below**, modern-day visitors to the Poppy Reserve are anxious to get close to the poppies, causing long lines to form entering the park.*



Reminder: Elections of 2019-2020 Officers at April Meeting

The Nominating Committee, headed 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
- Vice President - Delores Julian
- Secretary - Janet Winters
- Treasurer - Terry Landsiedel



- Directors-at-Large: Joe Pauley
- Chavonne Sladek
- Frances Thompson



More New Members for 2019 - Welcome to KAHS:

Jeremy & Brandie Dunn, Cece Fisher & Family, Ella Garcia & Family, Ruth Hidalgo,
Gregory Washington, Janet Zeok

**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

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
Terry Landsiedel
Chavonne Sladek

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

General Meetings:

5:00 pm-Second Thursday of the Month, September through June
At Wanda Kirk County Library
3611 Rosamond Blvd. Rosamond, CA 93560
(Exceptions: June, September & December -
Location 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