



Antelope Horn

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

June: at Willow Springs - visit the historic saloon and learn about Ezra Hamilton!

July & August: no general meetings, *Antelope Horn* not published.

September: KAHS fall kickoff at "The Ranch"; details to follow.

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

June Meeting - Willow Springs Event

We are so grateful to Richard Nelson for inviting us to Willow Springs again this year for our June get-together! It's always great to visit this historical community and enjoy the old **Willow Springs Saloon** where we will meet on **Thursday, June 13th at 5 pm.**

Be sure to make plans to come out and learn more about Ezra Hamilton, developer of the Willow Springs Resort, and discoverer of gold at what is now Tropicco, as presented by KAHS president, Gretchen Winfrey. The Rosamond Chamber of Commerce has been invited to enjoy the evening with us. Snacks will be provided. Also, for all members who have paid your dues for 2019-2020 by the end of the meeting, you will receive a free 60th Anniversary poster.



THANK YOU!

To all who participated in the 60th Anniversary Open House of the Kern Antelope Historical Society, thank you!

Whether you brought a display, helped set up, planned and organized, or came to visit and enjoy the many displays and reminisce about times long ago, we are so happy you joined with us!

And thanks to the SKUSD for bringing the 4th grade students to participate at the Open House, the kids seemed to have a great time, and I know the presenters had a lot of fun with the kids.

Thanks to the Wanda Kirk Library Staff for allowing us to set up and hold the Open House in the Library! Your cooperation was invaluable!

Dues for the 2019-2020 membership year are due!



June is the start of a new year for KAHS and dues for the 2019-20 year are now due and payable. You don't want to miss out on the advantages of being a KAHS member: discounts on our books, etc., receiving the newsletter, and getting the latest information about meetings, guests, etc. You can fill out the membership application on page 6 and bring it, with your payment, to our Willow Springs meeting. Terry, our new treasurer, will be happy to take you money.

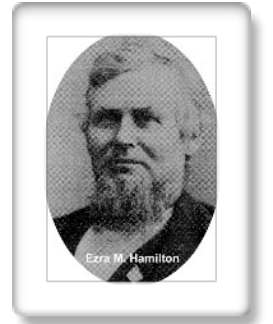


Please notice: if you are receiving a hardcopy (black and white copy) of this newsletter and would like to enjoy it in color, it is available at our website: www.kahs1959.org.

This article, taken from Antelope Valley PIONEERS, is a repeat from a year ago but since we will be at Willow Springs for our June meeting, it seemed worth repeating.

“STRUCK IT AT LAST”

Ezra M. Hamilton's Own Story of His Rich Gold Strike West Of Rosamond in the 1890's



“Being out of health, I concluded to go camping; so fixed up a one-horse rig, took one of my sons with me, and started out for the desert, or any place that we might happen to go. I fetched up on the north side of the Antelope Valley, about ninety miles north of Los Angeles. Being of an industrious disposition, I commenced to prospect. I prospected a little different from most prospectors. I saw a red looking hill on the north side of Antelope Valley. I liked the looks of it, so I took my horse and wagon and went in the gulches. They, being short and steep, were easy to prospect. I took a sack of dirt and called it #1. Leaving a mark so that I could find it if there was anything in the dirt. I kept this up until the wagon was loaded, then I drove about three miles to a place where there was water and panned the dirt out. I found free gold in all of the gulches. Then I went on the north side of the hill and done the same where I also found gold. I had learned to track Indians in the early times and read signs. I looked at that gold. It was rough and lay among broken stones, not gravel. I says to myself, it's a native of this place. Like the Irishmen, I had it surrounded, so I was not long in finding the “lead” in the barest place. There was a dike or large bunch of rock that assayed \$35.00 per ton. I thought there was enough gold, enough in the dike to pay for a two stamp mill, so I traded places and took money that belonged to the family and built the mill. When I came back to break up that dike, if the gold had been put on with a white wash brush, it could not have been much thinner, so I was in debt, mill on hand and no pay rock or ore.

I did not give up! I kept on? My money was gone and so was my friends. The family helped me for awhile. They were short of means of support. My boys left me, said there was nothing there. I worked all alone. The ore run about \$2.00 per ton. I would carry the ore up on my back out of the shaft. Sometimes I was so weak, I hardly could get a sack out of the shaft. I managed to get out about three quarters of a ton. This made a load for the horse. I got out one load per day. I kept this up until I got out about ten tons at the mill, then I would take the horse and wagon and gather sage brush to make fuel for the mill. Then I would mill it, get about \$20.00 out of the ten tons and buy some more pork and beans and do it again. I mixed sage brush with the hay to make it last. I kept this up for about two and one half years. I had hopes of finally “striking it.”

There is a rule among miners. If you have a color, follow it. I finally became worn out financially, physically and almost mentally. If I had got hurt, I might have laid there and perished, for there was no one near me. I was about to give up when the idea occurred to me, why, go down on a lower level, the lead runs diagonally across the hill. I went up and looked around. I saw nothing that looked as though it had anything in it more. Then I saw a little clay sticking to the rock that looked as if it might be a foot wall. I scratched down with my hands and took a handful of dirt to where I had water. Found it must have had twenty-five cents in the horn.¹ Went back. . . found it scattered all around. Just then I would have not swapped places with Governor Gage.² I did not care so much for the money value, but I had triumphed over all difficulties.

I sacked 21 tons of dirt, had to pick the roots out of it while sacking it. I sent it to the Selby Smelting Works. It brought me \$4500.00 net in sixty days. I did not owe anyone a cent. Everything being so unusual, I placed myself in the exact position in which I was, when I found the gold in the horn and had a Kodak picture taken, which might be titled “From Poverty to Wealth” or “Struck It At Last” . . .

Editors Note: Ezra Hamilton's strike later became part of the historic Tropic Mine.

¹ “in the horn” – an expression referring to how much gold was found in the pan after crushing some rock, adding water and swooshing it around in the gold pan.

² Governor Gage - governor of California (1899–1903)



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Ezra Hamilton Quiz - what do you know about this Antelope Valley Pioneer? (Questions from various sources.)

1. Ezra previously worked on a.) a riverboat, b.) a railroad, c.) the Erie Canal, d.) an ocean liner.
2. He served two years in the a.) American Revolution, b.) Mexican War, c.) the Civil War, d.) WWI.
3. While still living in the Midwest, he invented a.) a button maker, b.) a gold dredger, c.) a car, d.) a peat pressing machine.
4. Ezra served on the _____ City Council several times. a.) Palmdale, b.) Rosamond, c.) Los Angeles, d.) Lancaster
5. With proceeds from his _____ Mine, he purchased 160 acres (three miles west of the mine) which he developed into a resort town — Willow Springs. a.) Lida, b.) Comstock, c.) Lost Gun, d.) Rover.
6. Ezra is buried in _____ Cemetery, the oldest one in Los Angeles. a.) Rose Hills, b.) Olvera, c.) Evergreen, d.) Joshua
7. Unlike many mining ventures, Ezra's strike in _____ made him wealthy. a.) 1776, b.) 1814, c.) 1896, d.) 1918
8. In Los Angeles, Hamilton began manufacturing pottery, clay pipe, tile and bricks and purchased a hill near _____ for the clay he needed. a.) L.A., b.) Bishop, c.) Palmdale, d.) Rosamond

(Public Domain)

The Bakersfield Californian
Bakersfield, Kern County, California

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 1914.

**PIONEER HAMILTON
LEFT VALUABLE
ESTATE**

**REAL ESTATE, STORE, HOTEL,
MINES, INVENTIONS AND
AUTOBIOGRAPHY.**

The petition for the admission of the will of the late Para M. Hamilton, who died July 4 at his home at Willow Springs, was filed this morning in the county clerk's office. The widow, Mrs. Elsie E. Hamilton, petitioned for appointment as executrix. In the will, which is an oleographic will, written, signed and dated by the deceased in person, she is named as executrix jointly with a son, F. M. Hamilton, who so far has not consented to act. The petition asks that should he subsequently consent to act, letters testamentary be issued to him jointly with the widow.

The petition, with the schedule of property accompanying, shows the deceased, a pioneer mining man of Kern county, to have engaged in a wide range of activity. The property includes 158 acres at Willow Springs, Kern county, valued at \$50,000; the Rosamond Hotel at Rosamond, this county, value \$3000; the "Old Homestead" property at 288 Avenue 23, Los Angeles, value \$8000; personal property valued at \$1700 approximately, and some set down as of unknown value. Among the personal property the principal items are three gold bricks, eight ounces each, deposited in a Los Angeles bank, total value \$336; goods in store owned by deceased, \$300 and livestock. Among the personal property set down as of unknown value is a private telephone line nine miles long from Rosamond to Willow Springs. In addition, the deceased held a half interest in three groups of copper mining claims in Owens district, Mojave county, Arizona. The other half interest is owned by the widow. These are all set down as being of unknown value. Cash in the bank left by Hamilton is set down as less than \$1000.

Deceased an inventor.

The schedule also shows the deceased to have been an inventor, for among the assets of the estate, set down as of unknown value, are two patents, one for an automobile or carriage tire and one for a wave motor, as well as an application pending for patent on a device to render wine non-intoxicating.

Another asset of unknown value is a manuscript for publication. This is a diary kept by him or an autobiography.

List of Heirs.

The heirs under the will are as follows: The widow, F. H. Hamilton, a son living at Willow Springs; W. L. Hamilton, a son, in Los Angeles; T. W. Hamilton, a son, Rosamond; Fay Hamilton Coleman, a granddaughter; Ib Hamilton, a grandson; Hattie Hamilton, a granddaughter; Walter H. and Ezra N. Hamilton, grandsons.

left - Grave marker for Ezra Hamilton and his wife;
below - Ezra and a granddaughter - first car in the AV
(notice the steering wheel; *right* - Bakersfield Californian article about Hamilton's estate.



Answers

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1. a riverboat. | 5. Lida |
| 2. Civil War. | 6. Evergreen |
| 3. peat pressing machine | 7. 1896 |
| 4. Los Angeles | 8. Rosamond |



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

Directions to Willow Springs, California - from Rosamond

- Head west on Rosamond Blvd - go 6.8 mi, measured from Hwy 14.
 - Turn right onto 90th St W - go 0.7 mi north
 - Turn left onto Truman Rd - go 0.4 mi west
 - Turn right onto Manly Rd - go 0.3 mi north
 - Look for the Saloon on the left-hand (northwest) side of the road
 - **parking is ahead on right.** It's about 13 miles from the intersection of Hwy. 14 and Rosamond Blvd.
- Notice - this is not the racetrack of the same name, the community of Willow Springs is farther west!**



Map starts about 35th St. west.

KAHS 60th Anniversary Open House - May 9, 2019
Outdoor Displays - Gold Panning, Old Cars and Willow Springs Race Car





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

KAHS 60th Anniversary Open House - May 9, 2019



Installation of KAHS Board by
Kern Co. Supervisor Zack Scrivner



Clip this out and bring cash, or a check, to our June 13th meeting to make sure you keep your membership up to date! Free 60th Anniversary poster for all paid members that night.

KERN ANTELOPE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

Table with 3 columns: Field (Date, Name, Address, City, ST, Zip, Phone Number, E-mail), Membership Type (Student & Military, Individual, Couple, Family, Business), and Dues (\$5, \$15, \$20, \$30, \$35).

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.

Do it Best KARLS HARDWARE. 2700 Diamond St. Rosamond CA, 93560. Phone: (661) 256-3985. Fax: (661) 256-3932. Eric Landsgaard President. karlsbest@sbcglobal.net

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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: Terry Landsiedel visitrosamond@gmail.com

Directors At-Large:

Joe Pauley
Chavonne Sladek
Frances Thompson

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



Answers to the Fun Facts Questions:

- Glen Ralphs • Fort Tejon • Al Krueger

Index on front page:
speaker & feature article

New Business Members for 2018 - Thanks for your support of KAHS:

Rosamond News (John Joyce

Rick Hoier member

Reminder: Elections of 2019-2020 Officers at the 60th Anniversary Open-House Meeting, May 9th, at 5 pm.

The Nominating Committee, headed by Delores Julian, announced the slate of officers They are listed here for your consideration.

President - Gretchen Winfrey

Vice President - Delores Julian

Secretary - Janet Winters

Treasurer - Terry Landsiedel

Directors-at-Large: Joe Pauley

Chavonne Sladek

Frances Thompson

More New Business Members for 2018 - Thanks for your support of KAHS:

ASAP Towing

Big Iron Landscaping Materials

Guido's Old Time Pizzeria

Mr Donuts

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

More New Members for 2019 - Welcome to KAHS:

Clayton Dyas

Ruben & Tammy Gonzalez

Wayne Karr

David Kieffer

Jerry & Sue Ogden

Barbara Schultz

Steven Whitfield

2018-19 Slate of Officers

The Nominating Committee, head 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 - Jo Kenngott

Directors-at-Large - Chavonne Sladek, Dena

DeCaprio & Richard Guethlein