



Antelope Horn

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

Meetings:

Regular Meetings:

- 2nd Thursday of the month (except July & August)
- 5:30 pm - at the Wanda Kirk Library, 3611 Rosamond Blvd., Rosamond, CA.

Board Meetings:

- 4th Thursday of the month as needed. All are welcome.
- 4 pm - location to be announced

Looking Ahead:

January: to be determined - watch for the next newsletter!

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

December Christmas Dinner - Don't forget (reservations required)

- Turkey Dinner with all the Trimmings.
- Thursday, December 12th at 5:30 pm. Doors open at 5:00 for a 'meet and greet' time.
- Greenhouse Cafe - 1169 Commerce Center Drive, Lancaster, CA.



We've just passed the Thanksgiving holiday but it's never too late to be thankful. The following excerpt is from the KAHS Antelope Valley News and Views during part of the Great Depression 1925-1935 by Grace Graham Pickus. While we can be thankful not to be living during the Depression era, there are lessons to be learned that can apply today. Some problems were very different then, but there are always some things the same - flooding or other weather problems, wars, financial problems, health issues, even the Stock Market Collapse. Maybe this introduction to Grace's book will remind us to look for the simple pleasures as we move into the Christmas season.

Antelope Valley News and Views during part of The Great Depression 1925-1935

By Grace Graham Pickus, printed in 2000.

Introduction

Talk about being slow to understand: I had been in California almost 70 years before the facts fell in place and I understood the underlying events, the reasons my father and mother left farm, family and a known way of life in Illinois, to load up the two touring cars with all they could carry and come caravanning and camping with their five children (and Harding, the dog) to Antelope Valley in the high desert of the Golden State. From our arrival Decoration Day, May 30th, 1927, I have always considered that move to be a great blessing.

The fascinating book Rising Tide by John M. Barry provided the information, the background, which brought that move of the Graham family in focus for me. I had told my children and grandchildren of the almost constant wearisome rain which started in the early fall of 1926, the rain and wet which caused my older sister to suffer pleurisy and my father to be enveloped in a foul depression the effects of which lasted in some ways until his death. But I had never really understood that loosing the red clover seed crop to the rain, which had made it



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impossible for my parents to pay the mortgage on the farm (payment due in the spring), was just a tiny part of that far greater catastrophe nearly national in scope, caused by the incessant rains.

The Great Mississippi River Flood of 1927 created a legacy of new problems some of which our country is dealing with even today. These changes came not only in the huge drainage basin of the river, but in local and national governments; there was social change and a shifting of population which now affects every citizen in the nation. The Red Cross estimated economic losses from that awful flood to approach "1,000,000,000 (ed.'s note: probably dollars), enough in 1927 to affect the national economy." It did affect the economy and with it, the economy of my family so that we became part of that shifting population.

The relief efforts were accomplished almost entirely without aid from the federal government, but the need was so great and the damage so extensive that the very nature of the national attitude about government aid was changed so greatly that shortly, Franklin Delano Roosevelt's national social engineering could be enacted, even demanded when the multiple problems of the Great Depression followed soon after; these were far reaching changes caused partly by the widespread devastation of the Great Flood. We had perhaps believed that the 1929 collapse of the stock market was the first evidence of that depression which continued until the country started gearing up for W.W.II, but the Black Friday stock market crash was just one more domino (a high counter) in the line set in motion after W.W.I – the war which our country fought, for as President Wilson said, "The world must be made safe for democracy."

The war ended, "the boys came home" and thinking in the nation changed for, as a popular song of those days went, "How are you going to keep 'em down on the farm after they've seen Pariee?" Big changes came for women too; in August 1920 women obtained the right to vote, skirts got shorter (by 1927, above the knee), hair got "bobbed" and bootlegging was soon to become a national problem. Prohibition, the law forbidding manufacture, transportation and sale of alcoholic beverages, was enacted in the United States in 1920. Mothers and wives had become fed up with the drinking, drunken menfolks squandering pay checks at the saloons while their children went hungry and shoeless; now with the right to vote they were able to do something about it. Prohibition was a hopeful experiment but human appetite and greed can not be controlled by decree alone. Enforcing such a law is not possible. In 1933, deep in depression times the law was repealed partly because of the crime and gangsterism it engendered.

In my first local historical book (published in 1983) I wrote about my life in Lancaster during the early years of the Great Depression. I gave some details about the way we coped when money was scarce and times were hard. Most of the people my family and I knew were in the same boat and those staunch souls worked at whatever came to hand, we shared with each other, enjoyed simple activities (no Disneyland, Magic Mountain or big entertainment centers) which cost little or nothing; baseball, wiener roasts, swimming, going to the movies and visiting were good fun. Friends went visiting, just dropped in for a "nice visit" of an evening or a Sunday afternoon. We did not usually even phone ahead as then we were not so scheduled, not as restricted by the demands of time as people are now.

In writing this book it is not my intention to give a complete or comprehensive review of the period recorded, rather I plan to offer a sample, a taste of those years as we lived them. Most children then knew that eggs came out of the tail end of a hen, that meat was at one time, a live animal walking around, and that kerosene lamps gave





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enough light to read by if your ranch house did not have electricity. As the years move along, straightedge razors, washboards and kerosene stoves may become part of our story as they come and go. I trust that today some people, young or old, may learn here some important interesting facts about that different way of life.

We will deal mostly with the years between 1925 and 1935 – the years when the worst depression of this century settled over the nation and how we in Antelope Valley lived, worked, played and sometimes suffered. Let me warn you elite students of the written word that I intend to use well worn words, often used terms, perhaps even clichés because they were used and understood by we who lived in that period of time.

I hope to express the character and develop the color of the depression era; sometimes drab but mostly well pulled together with hope, (sometimes boosterism ran rampant) and great expectations; you will be experiencing it through my eyes and memories, and the words of the people who still live in the articles and stories printed in the Ledger Gazette which “came out” in Lancaster each Friday of the week. Those years pretty much shaped our lives; our character was formed by such maxims as Handsome is as handsome does; A stitch in time saves nine; Better be safe than sorry; You never miss the water ‘til the well runs dry; Willful waste makes woeful want, and from Aesop: Better beans and bacon in peace than cakes and ale in fear. Our parents, our grandparents and our teachers understood by experience, the lasting value in telling us those old truths. As my mother use to say, “children learn by repetition.” I plan to scatter many of these basic old truths throughout this book

(Grace Pickus passed away in February, 2008, at the age of 95.)

How to Pay your KAHS Membership Dues with Zelle®

1. **Get started** by enrolling your email or U.S. mobile number through **your mobile banking app or with the Zelle app**.
2. Enter the **KAHS email address - info@kahs1959.org**.
3. **Enter the amount** to send and be sure to designate the **reason for the payment** such as “Sally Smith Individual Membership”. KAHS will get a notification of your payment and the reason.



New Members for 2019 - So happy to have you join us. Welcome to KAHS:

Faye Hall

Wayne Babcock

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.





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

The Kern Antelope Historical Society greatly appreciates its business members. We hope you will support them and say thanks when you see them.

Desert Breeze Enterprises, Don and Chavonne Sladek Owners/Hosts, tel. (661) 256-4409, Rosamond, CA 93560, .dbe2016@icloud.com, Contact us for help with business travel, www.airbnb.com/rooms/5571552

Fosters FREEZE, Hensley/Taylor, Rosamond Fosters Freeze, 2080 Rosamond Blvd., P.O. Box 624, Rosamond, CA 93560, (661) 256-4436

Patty's Cafe, OPEN 7 Days A Week 6AM - 8PM 661-206-4395

661-342-0213 Kern UDA #35 Server #415 SLADE COURT SERVICES, Evictions, Small Claims, Process Serving, Michele Slade

Rosamond News, Newspaper • Direct Mail • Web • Email • YouTube, 27,000 people 93560, Since 1986, We go to everybody here, 2696 Sierra Hwy • P.O. 848 • 93560

If you are not a member of the historical society, we hope you will consider joining. You can make a check, payable to Kern Antelope Historical Society and mail it, along with this coupon to the address below. You may also now pay using Zelle!

KERN ANTELOPE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, Date, Name, Address, City, ST, Zip, Phone Number, E-mail, Mail to: Kern Antelope Historical Society PO Box 125 Rosamond, CA 93560, MEMBERSHIP TYPE, Type, Dues, Student & Military \$5, Individual \$15, Couple \$20, Family \$30, Business \$35, Club Year - June 1st through May 31st

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*

2019-2020 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:

5:30 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