



# Antelope Horn

Newsletter of the Kern-Antelope Historical Society, Inc.  
Member of the Conference of California Historical Societies  
PO Box 1255 Rosamond, CA 93560  
March, 2020

## 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

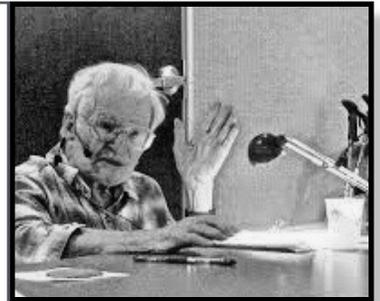
## Looking Ahead:

**March:** Terri Gutierrez - the  
Landsgaard Family - **TENTATIVE**

**April:** to be announced

**March Meeting** - Come join us **Thursday, March 12th, at 5:30 pm** at the Library, to hear Terry Gutierrez share about the Landsgaard family in Rosamond. The Landsgaards have been involved in the community for many years. Of course the kids attended Southern Kern Schools, participating in sports, band, etc.; the Landsgaards have had businesses such as Karl's Hardware, real estate sales and legal services. And they have involved themselves in the community in other organizations and such. You have probably come across the Landsgaards somewhere in town - come out to learn more about their story.

The Kern Antelope Historical Society was saddened to hear that Clifford Greenleaf Burton, owner of Tropico Mine & Mill, passed away in early February of this year. The photo at right is Cliff speaking at the October, 2018 KAHS meeting. We feel privileged to have had him visit and share his unique story with us.



The following article is a reprint from the October, 2018 Antelope Horn about the Burton family and their involvement in the Antelope Valley in mining and community life. Reminder: original article was written in 1984 for AV Pioneers.

### **The Burton Family in Antelope Valley**

In January 1900, William Morris Burton, his wife Millicent (Milly) Botwright Burton, and their children Sidney, H. Clifford, Cecil F. and Alec G. came to the Esperanza area (west of Lancaster) from South-End-On-Sea, England. Milly died the following December and is buried in the Lancaster Cemetery. William had purchased the Antelope Valley land from an ad he had seen in the English magazine, Field & Stream. The ad told of a land of paradise on the great California desert with its abundance of flowing artesian wells. There were many flowing wells, but the ad neglected to mention that the land was in the hard-pan-alkali belt and not too well suited for farming. William and the young men made a gallant effort to farm their new land, but without much success. William is credited as one of the first to use a gasoline engine to pump water from the underground valley water basin, and is said to have introduced Lucerne Grass (alfalfa) to Antelope Valley.

After Mrs. Burton passed away, William was kept busy with caring for the four young boys, seeing to it that they did their chores and getting them off for their schooling at the nearby Del Sur School. After a visit to England, William brought to Antelope Valley, a second wife, Maggie Grant, and a second family was started. They eventually had 8 children.

In time, William decided to move his growing family to Mission, B.C. Canada, but H. Clifford decided to stay and follow up on his new interest in life – gold mining. He had become interested in this new venture when he made a prospecting trip to Ballarat with an old desert prospector.

While in Ballarat, Cliff met another young man, Mel Sanford, and together they prospected and made their first "Strike. (The Gold Bug.) They were able to sell it to January Jones, a prominent mining man from Goldfield, Nevada. With his new capital, Cliff went to Los Angeles and studied assaying and facets of the mining profession.

Clifford returned to Antelope Valley about 1910 and started work at the Tropico Gold Mine, near Rosamond. The owners were impressed with Cliff's knowledge and judgement and soon made him superintendent. The mine needed



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more ambitious young men and Cliff wrote for his brother, Cecil F. in Canada to come back to Antelope Valley and join him in his ventures. Besides their regular mining jobs, the brothers leased one of the back veins and soon struck a good lode of ore. They began to buy stock in Tropicco.

World War I interrupted their plans for awhile and both brothers joined the U.S. Army Engineering Corp. and were sent to France. They returned to Antelope Valley as U.S. citizens. Eventually, after many years of hard work and good judgement, they became sole owners of what is now called Burton's Tropicco Gold Mines. They had started a "Custom" gold processing mill and eventually sent to Canada for their brother, Alec who later became mill foreman.

In June 1922, Alice E. Greenleaf (also see Covington-Dearborn Family) graduated from Antelope Union High School and in August H. Clifford took her for his bride. In December 1923, a daughter Dorene M. was born and in January 1925 a son, Clifford G. arrived.

In 1920 Cecil F married a young woman, Leona, that he met at San Jose while he was taking his Army training there. They had a daughter, Vivian in 1926.

Leona and Alice were of great help to their busy mining husbands. They worked at running the hoist, keeping books, selling dynamite and caps and many other chores on the surface, so that the men could do the underground and heavy work at the mine and mill. Times were tough for gold mining until the mid-thirty's .

Cliff became very active in the community life of the Valley and the Burton Brothers were credited with being one of the main sources of keeping Antelope Valley going during the depression years. They trained farmers (who could not sell their crops) how to become miners, and they gave jobs to many others in need, as they just couldn't see people going hungry when the mine was beginning to prosper. They also helped the local school keep going by furnishing gasoline, bus maintenance and other supplies to the school system at no cost.

In 1948, during the California Centennial year, Clifford was featured in several magazine and newspaper articles as being one of California's most successful miners. While Cecil's family moved from the Valley when the mine was forced to close by order L-208 during World War II, the H. Clifford Burton family remained, although by then they had a home on Lido Isle at Newport Beach, where they lived a short while with H. Clifford commuting. The two children continued their education in California higher institutions of learning and returned to Antelope Valley upon graduations.

H. Clifford Burton passed away in 1949, two years after his brother Cecil F (Burton). H.C.B (H. Clifford Burton) had been attending an Antelope Valley High School Board meeting in Lancaster, of which he was an active member. Young Cliff G. took over the presidency of Burton Brothers' Inc. Tropicco Mines and their holdings and with the help of his sister Dorene and her husband, Glen A. Settle (who she married in 1948) kept the mine operating until 1956. Cliff G. and family left the Valley at that time, so he could follow his mining profession. He returns often and continues in the presidency of Burton Bros., Inc.

Dorene and Glen, along with George and Doreen Burton McNamee obtained a lease on the Tropicco and opened the mine for tours so visitors could see a genuine historic gold mine and mill. Doreen McNamee was the daughter of William and Maggie Burton and though born in Canada, returned to Antelope Valley when quite young, married and lived at Tropicco Mine until her death in 1982. Encouraged by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, the mine gained international notice and for 20 years the Settle's staged the World Championship Gold Panning Contest. From 1975 to 1979 the World Championship Chili Cook-off was held at Tropicco with the Settle's taking an active part.

Both the Settles have been very active in community life for many years. In 1959 they founded the Kern Antelope Historical Society, with Glen as its charter president. Now (1983) Dorene is president. Dorene was not only one of the presidents of the Lancaster Woman's Club, but was charter president of the Rosamond Woman's Club. Both have been awarded with many honors by County and State officials. In 1973 Dorene was listed in World Who's Who of Women, a London, England publication.

Alec's son, A. Cecil and his wife Dorothy live in the Rosamond area. His career centered at Edwards Air Force Base. In retirement he is busy working various mining claims, assaying and raising some stock.

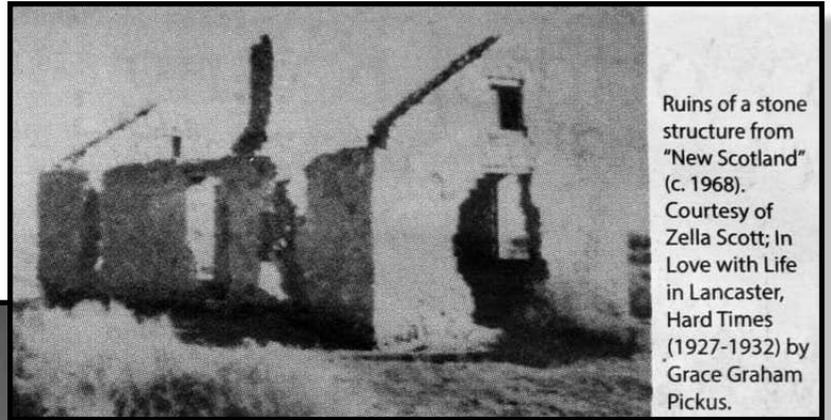


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### New Scotland

(The following information is from an article by Norma Gurba in the Valley Press.)

The coming of the Southern Pacific Railroad brought on a booming period of land speculation in the Antelope Valley. Speculators in the 1880s advertised in England and many of the early



Ruins of a stone structure from "New Scotland" (c. 1968). Courtesy of Zella Scott; In *Love with Life in Lancaster, Hard Times (1927-1932)* by Grace Graham Pickus.



settlers came from England and Scotland expecting an excellent climate for growing crops. (Remember the Burton family came in 1900 from an ad Mr. Burton saw in an English magazine.)

One early AV community was the settlement of New Scotland south of Willow Springs. The early settlers found artesian wells and began to farm potatoes, among other things. They even established a school for the children. A map of early pioneer colonies in the Antelope Valley shows this community as stretching along 90<sup>th</sup> St. West from, approximately, Rosamond Blvd. south to Ave. D. Eventually, many of the settlers in New Scotland were unsuccessful as they relied on farming techniques from their homeland, rather than learn how to get by in a totally different environment, and eventually the community was abandoned.



Gurba also shared a picture from *In Love with Life in Lancaster, Hard Times (1927-1932)* of the last standing structure at New Scotland, shown above, right. For years our family drove by this old stone building and now we know the story behind it. Ironically, my pictures were also taken in 1968 when my brothers and sister and I rode by and stopped to explore. The center picture shows the same end as seen in the photo (courtesy of Zella Scott). My brothers, Dwayne & Dale Webb, are looking out the window. The bottom picture is from the opposite end and my sister Judy Webb O'Loughlin, is looking out the doorway. Today, the pile of stone that remains barely shows above the brush surrounding the building.



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**Kern Antelope Historical Society Elections to Take Place**

Kern Antelope Historical Society elections will take place in April. The nominating committee has come up with a slate of electors, but nominations from the floor will also be taken at the March meeting. (Be sure to check with potential nominees to see if they are willing to serve, before nominating them.)



**New Business Member for 2019-2020 - Welcome and thank you for your support of the KAHS!**  
Rosamond Chamber of Commerce

**Website:** [www.kahs1959.org](http://www.kahs1959.org)      **Email:** [info@kahs1959.org](mailto: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".



**Popcorn Lover's Day**

**Date When Celebrated:** Second Thursday in March



Many of us love popcorn. So it only makes sense that there should be a special day just for popcorn lovers.

Popcorn is good for you when eaten plain. It is not as healthy when it's loaded with salt and butter. But all that butter and salt tastes so good.

This day is intended to enjoy popcorn and share it with others. Bring some to work or microwave some and put it in a basket on your desk.



You can have popcorn in the traditional way, with salt and butter. Or you can add any one of a number of flavors to it. Some popular flavors are cheddar cheese, parmesan garlic, and even hot pepper! There is no requirement as to what seasoning to use today, as long as you eat plenty of popcorn. Now that's not hard to do, is it!?

Popcorn Lover's Day is the perfect day to make a big bowl of popcorn and cozy up to your cutie on the sofa, as you watch television or a movie on this special day.



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](http://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  
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**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](mailto: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.



*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**

Mail to: Kern Antelope Historical Society  
 PO Box 125  
 Rosamond, CA 93560

	<b>MEMBERSHIP TYPE</b>	
Date	Type	Dues
Name	Student & Military	\$5
Address	Individual	\$15
City, ST, Zip	Couple	\$20
Phone Number	Family	\$30
E-mail	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](http://www.kahs1959.org)    **EMAIL:** [info@kahs1959.org](mailto: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*