



Antelope Horn

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

Meetings:

Regular Meetings: **POSTPONED** **UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

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

Board Meetings: **POSTPONED** **UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

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

Here is a word from our president, Gretchen Winfrey:

Greetings all KAHS Members,

I hope you are well and staying safe. Even though our meetings are temporarily cancelled, per our by-laws, we need to elect officers and board members in April. Therefore, we will ask you to vote either via email or by posted mail to P.O. Box 1255, Rosamond, CA 93560 prior to April 15. Janet will continue to prepare the newsletter, and we will continue to pursue our efforts to keep interest in local history "alive and well". We will notify you when our meetings resume.

Please stay in touch and think about taking this time to go through old photos and other documents of local interest. We would really appreciate copies of anything that you are willing to share.

Have you ever cooked "Rosamond"? "What do you mean?" you might be thinking. Well this article of unknown origin tells of a George B. Smith who cooked up a 'mulligan', or soup (from staples he had with him or found in a cabin) which he named "Rosamond". Mr. Smith may have been a surveyor, or maybe an artist, but in the article he says he was seeking for gold in the Mojave Desert. Later he made a breakfast with whatever he had and named it for another nearby community. Thanks to Chavonne who found this article. I have transcribed it to make it easier to read and hope you can enjoy this tiny bit of Rosamond history - and maybe how to cook?

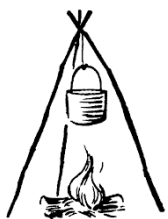
RECIPES

Aprpos [sic] of recipes, we give the following original ones by Mr. George B. Smith.

Many years ago, while seeking for gold, I made camp at a deserted round-up cabin, called Indian Springs [see notes on Indian Springs at end of article], on the Mojave Desert, in California. How a tribe of Indians lived on the Mojave Desert is now a wonder, altho a fine spring bubbles forth from the rocky floor of the valley, and in wet seasons, we find many cattle feeding on the scanty grass of alfilaria [most commonly called filaree, today].

I was fortunate enough to find a half side of good homespun (sp?) bacon hanging on the wall and three kinds of beans on the rough shelves. Having brought onions, spuds, salt and pepper, I easily invented a splendid Mulligan in the following manner:

I broke up the lima beans in an iron kettle with a miner's hammer, so they would cook faster, sliced in the pared spuds and onions and six strips of bacon, boiled all in a gallon



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of spring water two hours over a steady fire of Buffalo chips, then added salt and red-peppers, and by the time I made the coffee and flapjacks I had a feast fit for a king. As we camped near a town called Rosamond, I named the soup "Rosamond." Try it.

While camping near Toluca, I was forced on account of owning but one cooking pot and a piece of bacon, to buy what I could of a farmer, who was nearly as poor as I, securing only a wheat loaf, an egg and a pint of milk.

Building a small fire in the sand, I cubed the bacon fine, frying slightly, adding crumbled bread from the center of the loaf; and when brown I added the egg and milk, scrambled quickly and served hot. Best breakfast for a hungry artist ever! I named this "Toluca," and it is now famous in many lands.



GEORGE B. SMITH,

Surveyor. Newhall, Calif.

Mr. Smith also gives another recipe which was the method of a man who applied for a position as cook where Mr. Smith was once in camp. When asked if he could cook, the man said: "O, yes! I can cook. I have one rule to go by. When things are smoking they are cooking, and when they are black they are done." How many have tried it?

Regarding Indian Springs:

- *What reminded me of the Covington-Dearborn connection to Indian Springs was this post (just today as I was working on this article) on Facebook about Ann Elizabeth Covington Dearborn. It states that Ann Elizabeth and "Elias began cattle-raising at Indian Springs, just east of the Rosamond area. While staying here, they had many friendly encounters with local Native Americans. The family eventually moved further out toward Mojave". Norma Gurba-Kleit to Growing up in Antelope Valley 60' 70's 80's, Facebook.*
- *So I looked back to this KAHS article which says: When Ann Elizabeth Covington married Elias Dearborn they moved to Antelope Valley in 1869. "They first stopped near the town of Rosamond and spent some time on the edge of the Rosamond Dry Lake, developing a spring, later called Indian Springs." Settle, Glen A., and Dorene B. Settle. Antelope Valley Pioneers. Kern-Antelope Historical Society, 1991.*
- *"Indian Springs is a former settlement in Kern County, California. It was located 2.5 miles (4 km) east of Rosamond in the Antelope Valley region of the Mojave Desert." [wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Springs,_Kern_County,_California](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Springs,_Kern_County,_California).*

Hand Washing and Other Tidbits About Hygiene From The Past

It would be impossible not to know that there is a coronavirus epidemic going on right now. You've probably all heard about the hoarding of toilet paper and other products. Everyone knows how to wash his or her hands while singing "Happy Birthday". But do you know who actually discovered that hand washing could save lives, especially when doctors washed their hands while performing surgeries? When did they develop the toothbrush and what did they do before that?

In 1847 a Hungarian doctor, Ignaz Semmelweis observed that more babies were dying when the mothers went to medical clinics (where they were assisted by medical students) than when the mothers were helped by midwives. As Semmelweis continued to carefully observe, many of the medical students who helped with the childbirths, had just come from performing autopsies on patients who had



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sepsis (of bacterial origin). Once they started a strict hand-washing policy, infant mortality rates dropped by 10- to 20-fold within three months. What an improvement from such a simple hygienic practice.

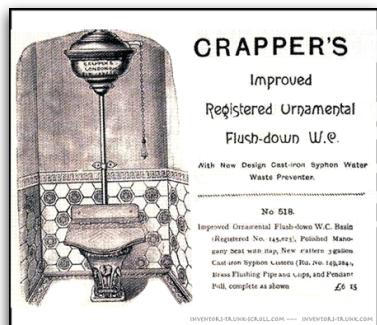


We can all be thankful to a Dr. John Snow, of England, for the clean water we drink. Although there have been many people scrambling to buy water in recent days, for the most part here in America we have good clean water available at the tap. But that wasn't always the case. When there was a particularly horrible cholera outbreak in the middle 1800's, in the Soho district of London, Dr. Snow carefully researched and "noticed that most of the cholera-related deaths occurred near a pump on Broad Street, where residents of the area frequently stopped to drink water. Dr. Snow removed the pump handle, and almost instantaneously, the spread of the disease was contained." Even with such a breakthrough, it took a long time to convince city leaders that it was the contaminated water causing the cholera and not escaping sewer gases as had been previously believed. And how did the pump water become contaminated, it was only three feet from a leaky cesspool!

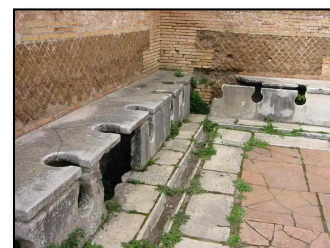
Speaking of hygiene, an item we all take for granted (and you probably have several at home) is the toothbrush, which first appeared in 1857. So what did people do before that? Well, sometimes they used a cloth to wipe food particles off their teeth. Sometimes they chewed herbs such as mint, cloves, cinnamon and sage to freshen their breath. They may have used burnt rosemary for tougher stains. Sometimes they used vinegar or wine as a disinfectant. And if you had a sore tooth, there was no dentist to go to but you might get the local barber to pull it out for you.



Today, in America, we also take indoor plumbing and toilets for granted, but of course that wasn't always



the case. But who invented the toilet? Well, as with most inventions, there wasn't just one person. Many people have given the credit to Sir Thomas Crapper, but he was just one of many who made improvements to the flushing toilet and was one of the leading manufacturers of "water closets" in England where they originated in the late 1800's. And to be clear, his name is not the source of a shorter word commonly referring to bodily waste. It was first used that way, according to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, in 1846, only 10 years after Crapper was born.



Public toilets in ancient Rome

Being able to take a bath every day almost seems like a natural right in this day and age. But of course that wasn't always so. In 'olden' days getting a bath wasn't easy. There might not be water readily available. Heating it was another problem. And there were times in history when bathing was considered sinful and at other times communal bathing was acceptable. Usually bathing was something that was more readily available to the upper classes. One practice that conserved water was that of getting the tub ready and the father would bath first, then the sons, next the wife, and finally the kids. And that led to the expression, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

And finally, if you run out of soap these days of repeated hand washings, you could cover yourself with olive oil and then scrape your body with a strigil (see photo) to remove dirt and dead skin cells. Good luck finding one.



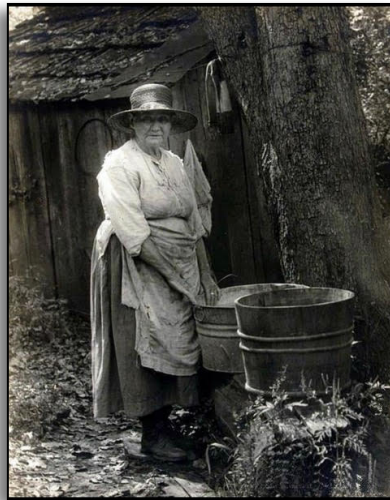


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So with all this cleaning and fussing going on, maybe it's time to sit back and enjoy this old article on how to 'warsh' clothes. But before you do, better brew a cup of tea . . .

**CAST
YOUR
VOTE!**

Check out the information below on voting!



New Business Member for 2019-2020

- So happy to have you join us.

Welcome to KAHS:

The Rosamond Chamber of Commerce

WARSHING CLOTHES

Build fire in backyard to heat kettle of rain water. Set tubs so smoke wont blow in eyes if wind is pert.

Shave one hole cake of lie soap in boilin water.

Sort things, make 3 piles

1 pile white,

1 pile colored,

1 pile work britches and rags.

To make starch, stir flour in cool water to smooth, then thin down with boiling water.

Take white things, rub dirty spots on board, scrub hard and boil, then rub colored don't boil just wrench and starch.

Take things out of kettle with broom stick handle, then wrench, and starch.

Hang old rags on fence.

Spread tea towels on grass.

Pore wrench water in flower bed. Scrub porch with hot soapy water.

Turn tubs upside down.

Go put on clean dress, smooth hair with hair combs. Brew cup of tea, sit and rock a spell and count your blessings.

Election News

As presented at the February meeting, the slate of executive board nominees are listed below. As there were no nominations from the floor in March, these are the names on which you will be voting. Normally we would do this at the April meeting but, of course, that has been cancelled. You will receive a separate email with instructions on how you can simply vote to accept this slate of board members, or not. **Please note that the email will be coming from the Historical Society's email address: info@kahs1959.org.** Be sure to watch for it. It may go to spam. It will be emailed on April 1st. Please respond before April 15th for your vote to be counted. (Email me if you don't see it.)

2020-21 Slate of Board Nominees

President - Gretchen Winfrey

Vice President - Delores Julian

Secretary - Janet Winters

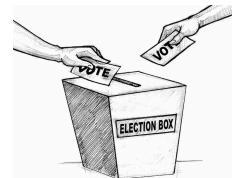
Treasurer - Terry Landsiedel

Directors-at-Large:

Joe Pauley

Chavonne Sladek

Fran Thompson



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".





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

melchers construction Lic. 955132

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Gene R. Melchers
General Contractor

2654 Diamond Street · PO Box 1468 · Rosamond, CA 93560
melchersconst@sbcglobal.net

661-810-0327 · melchersconstruction.net

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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Michele Slade

Rosamond News

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We go to everybody here

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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.
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

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

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 **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