



Antelope Horn

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

Hello to all our Kern Antelope Historical Society Members,

As we are still under restrictions for gathering in California, there will be no October meeting. Please watch your email (or posted mail if you don't have email) for news on when our next meeting will be held. Also, we are looking into alternative ways to bring interesting speakers to you until we can meet together. Thank you for your continued interest in and support of KAHS.

WEBSITE: www.kahs1959.org **EMAIL:** info@kahs1959.org
FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/KAHS1959/

The following article is another from Antelope Valley PIONEERS, published by the KAHS. All comments and "editor's" notes are those of Glen and Doreen Settle, except for photos and captions which have been added by jlw.



The following "Nuggets" of California and Antelope Valley history were compiled, edited and written by Dorene Settle for the Lancaster Woman's Club Bulletin while she was "History and Landmarks Chairman" for that group in 1968-69. Also used in Kern Antelope History Society Bulletin Volume 13, Number 2

HISTORIC ORIGIN OF WELL-KNOWN NAME PLACES

AMERICA: Though Columbus was the first of his time who set foot on the New World, it has taken its name not from him, but from Amerigo Vespucci. Vespucci, an Italian navigator, was born in Florence in 1451. He made two voyages to America, in 1499, and the following year, exploring on the first voyage part of the mainland of South America. The maps detailing his explorations gave him great fame, and it is understood that, without any initiative on his part, his name was applied by mapmakers to the new continent. He died in 1512.

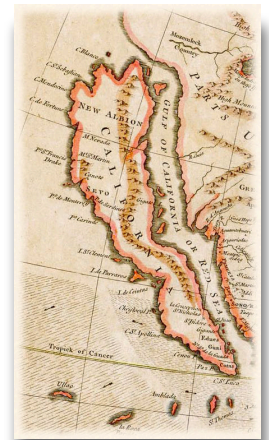
CALIFORNIA: There are many theories advanced, but the most generally accepted is that it was named in a Spanish novel about Don Quixote written in 1510 and widely circulated. In the novel is described an island called "California, very close to that part of the Terrestrial Paradise, which was inhabited by black women without a single man among them, and they lived in the manner of Amazons." Whether it inspired Cortez to apply the name in 1533 is debatable.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY: One of California's original 27, was established February 18, 1850 and named after the Pueblo of Los Angeles, which takes its name from the Los Angeles River. Named by explorer Gaspar de Portola "Nuestra Senora la Reina de los Angeles de Porciuncula" or "Our Lady, Queen of the Angeles of Porciuncula" on August 2, 1769. The previous day had been the jubilee day of the Lady.



KERN COUNTY: The name is derived from the Kern River. The county was created from portions of Tulare, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino Counties on April 2, 1866. The river so named by Captain John C. Fremont for Edward M. Kern an artist attached to Fremont's second western exploring expedition. Kern, Joseph Reddeford Walker, and others, who crossed into the San Joaquin from the Owens Valley via Walker Pass, camped on the bank of the river December 28, 1845 and remained there about three weeks.

Edward Kern, namesake of the Kern River and Kern Co.; artist and topographer. (j/w)



This 1745 map by British cartographer R.W. Seale misrepresented California as an island. (j/w)



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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY: Created by legislative enactment on April 26, 1853 from the eastern portion of Los Angeles County. Father Francisco Dumets, seeking suitable mission sites, halted at the Indian Rancheria of Guachama on May 20 1810, a day devoted to St. Bernardine of Siena. Bernardine was of noble family, who refused several bishoprics but became vicar-general of the Franciscan order, where he is credited with having achieved laudable reforms.

LANCASTER: Named by the Southern Pacific Railroad, presumably after Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1876, but not recorded until 1884. M. L. Wicks, a native of Aberdeen, Mississippi, founded the townsite.
Editor's Note. Additional information on Lancaster from "Pacific Tourist" by H. T. William, editor and publisher, New York City 1879. "Between Sand Creek (now Rosamond) and Lancaster the road begins to ascend."
Editor's Note. This is the first place I have found Lancaster mentioned, which probably affirms the view of many old timers who say it was named by the Officials of the Southern Pacific Railroad.

PALMDALE: Founded by a colony of German Lutherans in 1886-88, and originally located about two miles east of its present site. After some time the community moved closer to the railroad. The name presumably stems from the profusion of Joshua trees, (*Yucca brevifolia*). Early settlers frequently referred to these, in error, as "palms."
Editor's Note. Colony was originally called Palmenthal.

ROSAMOND: First called Sand Creek was established about 1876 and named for the daughter of an official of the Southern Pacific Railroad. Some say the daughter of the Section Foreman. Her last name is unknown.

MOJAVE: Established as a division point by the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1876. So named because it is located on the Mojave Desert which, in turn, derives its name from the Mojave River.

MOJAVE DESERT: An arid geographical area covering portions of Kern, Inyo, Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties, California. Clark County, Nevada, and Mohave County Arizona. It is bounded roughly on the west by Tehachapi, Fairmont and Elizabeth Lake; on the north by Little Lake and Shoshone, California, and Goodsprings, Nevada; on the east by the 114th meridian; and on the south by Little Rock, Hesperia, Twentynine Palms, Rice and Parker. Name stems from Mojave River.



Map at left shows the approximate area of the Mojave Desert, the far western point is the Antelope Valley portion, Lancaster is marked; map - Encyclopedia Britannica. (jlw)



Photo of SP Railroad Depot in Rosamond, taken by Ralph Angell, from the Glen and Dorene Settle Collection, on loan from Richard Nelson. Date unknown (~1930's). Angell and his wife both served as postmasters of the Rosamond Post Office at various times in the 1930s. The Angell House still stands on Poplar St., behind the market on Sierra Hwy. (jlw)

MOJAVE RIVER: The name is an Hispanicized phoenetic [sic] rendering of the name of an Indian tribe of Yuman Lineage which the Franciscan missionary-explorer, Father Francisco Garces, in 1775 first called Jamajab, but more accurately rendered in English as Hamakhava, the Indians' name for themselves. The Mojaves of today do not know the meaning of their tribal name. Arizona still insists on spelling Mohave with an "h" although the U.S. Geographic Board has ruled in favor of "j". "j" is of course pronounced as "h" in Spanish. (Map of the Mojave River and more info on page 3 - jlw.)

SIERRA NEVADA: The highest mountain range in California and one of the highest in the United States. Extends near Lake Almanor to Southern Kern County. The name, in Spanish, literally means "snowy saw-teeth" or idiomatically, "snowy range of mountains." The Sierra Nevada is a single range of mountains, hence should be described not as High Sierra's [sic] but as High Sierra.



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CAJON PASS: A pass through the San Bernardino Mountains traversed by Don Pedro Fages, in 1772. Later it became part of the Old Spanish Trail as well as the Salt Lake Road. Caravans on the Old Spanish Trail between Santa Fe and Los Angeles caused the Spanish-Californians to call the pass “El Cajon de los Mexicanos,” (“The big-box of the Mexicans” and “El Cajon de Muscupiabe”) (an Indian word said to mean pine nut). Muscupiabe [*sic*] being the name of a Serrano Indian Rancheria located at present Camp Cajon. (My Spanish dictionary says Cajon means “small chest of drawers, locker.”)

BORON: Formerly “Amargo.” The word is synonymous with Amargosa, meaning “bitter” in Spanish. The name was applied when the Pacific Coast Borax Co. moved its operations to the vicinity from Death Valley. About 1938 the station was renamed Boron, that being one of the elements in the razorite ores produced by the Borax Co.

BOUQUET CANYON: A corruption of the Spanish word “buque,” meaning “ship” first applied to El Rancho del Buque, a ranch owned by a French sailor, Francisco Chari, early in the 19th century. One old timer says “The damn Gringos didn’t know what a Spanish Buque was and changed it to Bouquet.” Government surveyors wrote it down as Bouquet and thus it remains.

MUROC: The reversed name of a rancher and developer named C. C. Corum who lived in the area. The name was reversed so that they could obtain a post office after the P. O. Department declared another such post office by the name of Corum existed.

EDWARDS (AIR FORCE BASE): Named by U. S. Defense Department, December 7, 1949, in honor of Captain Glenn W. Edwards, a U.S. Air Force pilot who was killed June 5, 1948 while testing a jet plane. Previously known as Muroc.

LAKE HUGHES: Origin of name unknown. It was originally known as West Elizabeth Lake, but was changed in 1924 to Lake Hughes.

SAN FRANCISQUITO CANYON OR DAM: Pronounced “Sahn Frahn-see-skee-‘toh”. Translated from the Spanish means “Little San Francisco Canyon.” Also known as St Francis.

TROPICO: Mines here derived their name from the community of Tropicco, absorbed by the nearby city of Glendale by annexation proceedings in 1918. Tropicco was applied to the Hamilton Mines in about 1909 by the Tropicco Mining and Milling Co. Old Tropicco was located approximately where Forest Lawn is now.

CANTIL: Pronounced “Kahn’-Teel.” In Spanish the word means “steep rock.” Origin of name is unknown, except the name is descriptive for R.R. siding bearing its name located near the mouth of Red Rock Canyon.

DEL SUR: Literal Spanish translation – Del--of the. Sur--South or South Wind. Sooo! “Of the South” or “Of the South Wind.” Help, is there a Spanish scholar around ????? Anyway, Del Sur is an old community of Antelope Valley, located near Esperanza, located near Mira Loma Prison.

ESPERANZA: Translates from Spanish as “hope.” (And I guess that’s about all there was in the early days.)

MIRA LOMA: Spanish meaning “Hill View.” Present Mira Loma Facility was originally built to train Royal Air Force pilots prior to World War II.



The Mojave River starts in the San Bernardino Mts. and flows northeast (much of it underground) into the Mojave Desert, through Victorville and Barstow to Soda Lake near Baker. Native Americans traveled along the river as well as European Americans later on. In 1826 Jedediah Smith was the first American to follow the river he called the “Inconstant River”. In 1829 the Old Spanish Trail, for trade and immigration, was established along the river. In 1844 John C. Fremont named the river the “Mohahve”, for Indians he had met that day from the Colorado River area. In 1847 the Mormon Road followed parts of the old Spanish Trail along the “Mohahve”. Forty-niners, who got a late start to the gold fields, followed the Mormon Road to reach California and this trail became known as the “Southern Route” of the California Trail. (jlw)



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New Members for 2020-2019 - We are so happy to have you join us.

Welcome to the Kern Antelope Historical Society:

Julian R Salas

Mary Wilson



Address Correction

Once again, sorry for any confusion on the mailing address for KAHS. It turns out that I had 'cut and pasted' a mistake and dropped a number from the PO box number on the membership form. It is now **correct on the form - Box 1255**. It appears that the memberships mailed to the wrong box eventually got to the correct mailbox. We have received several. If you mailed your membership to us and are unsure if it was received, just email me and I will check for you. THANK YOU to all of our members who have paid during this tough time of closures, working from home, etc. Your dues will help us continue to meet our society's mission statement which includes the following: "The Kern Antelope Historical Society is dedicated to keeping the rich and varied history of the area remembered and preserved to be passed on to future generations. The Society's monthly meetings offer guest speakers with vast knowledge of the Valley's history and its future." Currently, the KAHS Board is considering possible ways of bringing speakers to you online, while we aren't able to meet together in person. Stay tuned.

Have you remembered to send in your dues for 2020-2021? The new year for KAHS began June 1st and membership fees are due. Your support will help us through this time while we are not able to meet, but still have expenses (insurance and other fees) that must be covered.

Thank you to those who have already paid! If you haven't, please drop a check in the mail along with the form on page 5. Or you can use Zelle to make a payment, more information about that on page 5 as well.



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 also 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.



Rosamond Chamber of Commerce



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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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!

Friendly Reminder

KERN ANTELOPE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Mail to: Kern Antelope Historical Society
PO Box 1255
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*

2020-2021 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