



Antelope Horn

Newsletter of the Kern-Antelope Historical Society, Inc.
Member of the Conference of California Historical Societies
PO Box 1255 Rosamond, CA 93560
February, 2021

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: **Will be scheduled as needed.**

- 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 regular monthly 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/



Photo: Boston Children's Hospital
Archives - a patient in an iron lung.

If you were a kid in the mid 1950's, chances are you remember getting a shot, the polio vaccine, at school. I definitely remember the day I had to take a note home from school saying that these shots would be available and thinking, "My mom won't make me do this!" But I was wrong. If you were a parent of youngsters at that time you were probably very worried about the possibility of your child coming down with this disease, especially in the summer, and the possibility of permanent paralysis. At this time we are hearing all about the vaccine for COVID and my thought went back to the late Fifties. First we had one shot, then we needed three, then there were the sugar cubes, but eventually we were done. jw

The article below is from history.com, giving some highlights and interesting tidbits about the fight against polio.

8 Things You May Not Know About Jonas Salk and the Polio Vaccine

Explore eight surprising facts about the groundbreaking polio vaccine that Dr. Salk developed.

by CHRISTOPHER KLEIN

1. Although polio was the most feared disease of the 20th century, it was hardly the deadliest. "Polio was never the raging epidemic portrayed in the media, not even at its height in the 1940s and 1950s," writes David M. Oshinsky in his Pulitzer Prize winning book "Polio: An American Story." During those decades, 10 times as many children died in accidents and three times as many succumbed to cancer. Oshinsky notes that polio inspired such fear because it struck without warning and researchers were unsure of how it spread from person to person. In the years following World War II, polls found the only thing Americans feared more than polio was nuclear war.

2. Franklin D. Roosevelt proved instrumental in the vaccine's development. A year after his nomination as a Democratic vice presidential candidate, rising political star Franklin D. Roosevelt contracted polio while vacationing at his summer home on Campobello Island in 1921. The disease left the legs of the 39-year-old future president permanently paralyzed. In 1938, five years after entering the White House, Roosevelt helped to create the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, later renamed the March of Dimes Foundation, which became the primary funding source for Salk's vaccine trials. Employing "poster children" and enlisting the



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star power of celebrities from Mickey Rooney to Mickey Mouse, the grassroots organization run by Roosevelt's former Wall Street law partner Basil O'Connor was raising more than \$20 million per year by the late 1940s.

3. Salk challenged prevailing scientific orthodoxy in his vaccine development. While most scientists believed that effective vaccines could only be developed with live viruses, Salk developed a "killed-virus" vaccine by growing samples of the virus and then deactivating them by adding formaldehyde so that they could no longer reproduce. By injecting the benign strains into the bloodstream, the vaccine tricked the immune system into manufacturing protective antibodies without the need to introduce a weakened form of the virus into healthy patients. Many researchers such as Polish-born virologist Albert Sabin, who was developing an oral "live-virus" polio vaccine, called Salk's approach dangerous. Sabin even belittled Salk as "a mere kitchen chemist." The hard-charging O'Connor, however, had grown impatient at the time-consuming process of developing a live-virus vaccine and put the resources of the March of Dimes behind Salk.

4. Salk tested the vaccine on himself and his family. After successfully inoculating thousands of monkeys, Salk began the risky step of testing the vaccine on humans in 1952. In addition to administering the vaccine to children at two Pittsburgh-area institutions, Salk injected himself, his wife and his three sons in his kitchen after boiling the needles and syringes on his stovetop. Salk announced the success of the initial human tests to a national radio audience on March 26, 1953.

5. The clinical trial was the biggest public health experiment in American history. On April 26, 1954, six-year-old Randy Kerr was injected with the Salk vaccine at the Franklin Sherman Elementary School in McLean, Virginia. By the end of June, an unprecedented 1.8 million people, including hundreds of thousands of schoolchildren, joined him in becoming "polio pioneers." For the first time, researchers used the double-blind method, now standard, in which neither the patient nor person administering the inoculation knew if it was a vaccine or placebo. Although no one was certain that the vaccine was perfectly safe—in fact, Sabin argued it would cause more cases of polio than it would prevent—there was no shortage of volunteers.

6. Salk did not patent his vaccine. On April 12, 1955, the day the Salk vaccine was declared "safe, effective and potent," legendary CBS newsman Edward R. Morrow interviewed its creator and asked who owned the patent. "Well, the people, I would say," said Salk in light of the millions of charitable donations raised by the March of Dimes that funded the vaccine's research and field testing. "There is no patent. Could you patent the sun?" Lawyers for the foundation had investigated the possibility of patenting the vaccine but did not pursue it, in part because of Salk's reluctance.

7. Although a tainted batch of the Salk vaccine killed 11 people, Americans continued vaccinating their children. Just weeks after the Salk vaccine had been declared safe, more than 200 polio cases were traced to lots contaminated with virulent live polio strains manufactured by the Cutter Laboratories in Berkeley, California. Most taken ill became severely paralyzed. Eleven died. In the haste to rush the vaccine to the public, the federal government had not provided proper supervision of the major drug companies contracted by the March of Dimes to produce 9 million doses of vaccine for 1955. Although the United States surgeon general ordered all inoculations temporarily halted, Americans continued to vaccinate themselves and their children. Outside of the "Cutter Incident," not a single case of polio attributed to the Salk vaccine was ever contracted in the United States.

8. A rival vaccine supplanted Salk's in the 1960s. Once Sabin's oral vaccine finally became available in 1962, it quickly supplanted Salk's injected vaccine because it was cheaper to produce and easier to administer. Ultimately, both vaccines produced by the bitter rivals nearly eradicated the disease from the planet. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there were only 416 reported cases of polio worldwide in 2013, mostly confined to a handful of Asian and African countries. Since Sabin's live-virus vaccine, which is responsible for about a dozen cases of polio each year, is seen as the final obstacle to eliminating the disease in most of the world, the WHO has urged polio-free countries to return to Salk's killed-virus vaccine.

<https://www.history.com/news/8-things-you-may-not-know-about-jonas-salk-and-the-polio-vaccine>



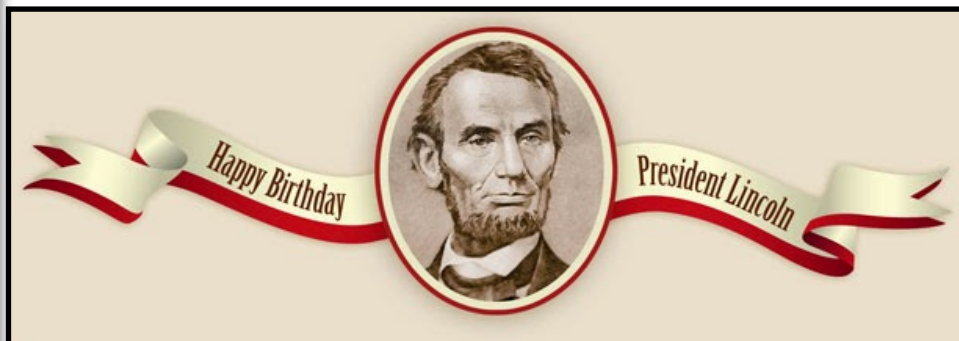
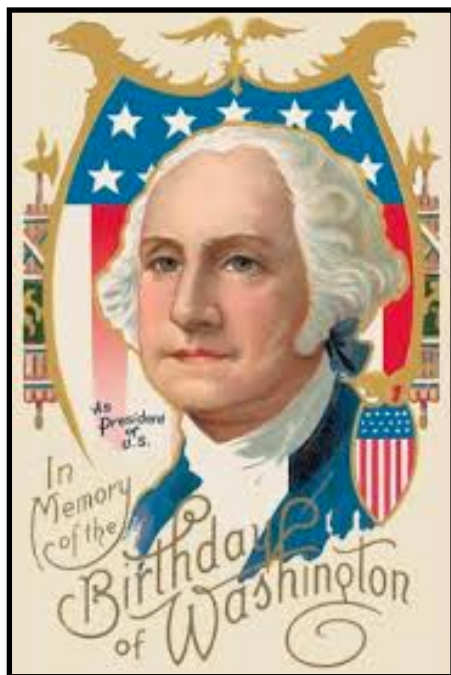
Dr. Jonas E. Salk, who discovered the polio vaccine, reads with his wife and three boys in Ann Arbor, Mich., on April 11, 1955. The boys were among the first vaccinated during testing. The family was photographed the night before an announcement the vaccine was effective. Pictured from left are Jonathan, 5; Donna Salk; Peter, 11; Salk; and Darrell, 8.



Dr. Albert Sabin and a poster promoting Sabin's oral polio vaccine



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A Challenge

We are still issuing a “Challenge” - we would like to see as many of you as possible write a paragraph or two about the topic - “How I Happened to come to Rosamond”. For many, it was probably for work. Some may have come for health. But dig a little deeper. Get the story behind the move. Here are some ideas:

- Why Rosamond, why not somewhere else?
- What was your experience when you first came.
- Was it easy to leave home?

If you were born here, then find out why your parents came or a spouse. Talk to other family members, look for written documents, photos, etc. Then write out your story of coming to Rosamond and send it to KAHS and it may be included in a future newsletter. Email to KAHS at info@kahs1959.org. As an example, you may want to look at Rae’s story of how he happened to come to Rosamond in our January issue. Your story may be shorter. Maybe longer. It doesn’t matter. You can include a picture if you have something that helps tell the story. Just do whatever you can to record the story. Future generations will be interested in what it was like “back in the day”.

Feel free to contact me if you have questions or would like a little help getting started. I know there are some great stories out there!

2021-22 Slate of Officers

The following people have been nominated for the 2021-22 term of office. If you are interested in running for one of these positions, please contact me (info@kahs1959.org) by February 20th so that your name may be added to the ballot and posted in the March newsletter.

<u>President</u> - Gretchen Winfrey	<u>Directors-at-Large:</u>
<u>Vice President</u> - Delores Julian	Terry Landsiedel
<u>Secretary</u> - Janet Winters	Joe Pauley
<u>Treasurer</u> - Kelly Gonzales	Chavonne Sladek

New KAHS YouTube Videos

If you haven’t had a chance to watch our new KAHS videos, here are the links. (Copy and paste it to your browser if you prefer.) Joe Pauley, whose family goes ‘way back’ in the Rosamond/Mojave area, and who serves on our board, has shared some of his family and business history with us. These links may also be found on our KAHS website: kahs1959.org.

- “A Conversation With Joe Pauley”
<https://youtu.be/ljwEhN7WbKM>
- “The Final Tour - Pauley Bros. Steel”
<https://youtu.be/ffDvmVZLEus>



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2020 was a hard year for many individuals and businesses. The Kern Antelope Historical Society will be paying tribute to many Rosamond businesses, whether they are members or not, in the next months. A KAHS member will be going around and talking to owners or managers and getting a little history of the business, and a photograph if possible, to help us promote Rosamond commerce and trade. We hope you will help support our local entrepreneurs and enjoy these bits of Rosamond history.

Well, it's not National Donut Day (that's celebrated on the first Friday of June each year), but anytime is a good time to have a donut. And for February we are featuring Mr. Donut, owned by Jose and Marisol Rebollo. Before moving to Lancaster Jose worked at a bakery in Los Angeles and then moved to Lancaster where he worked for Donut Inn. And then in 1993, they moved to Rosamond and opened Mr. Donut – their own business. Both his son and daughter work in the donut business, also. Son Salvador owns the Bagel Bakery in Lancaster and Jose supplies them with donuts, too. Jose says that he and Marisol like living in Rosamond because it's quiet. Their three children attended school from Head Start, all the way through graduation. Between work and family, they have gotten acquainted with many people in town. For fun, they like to go to the movies as a family. D.C. and Marvel are their favorites. Stop in and pick up some donuts soon and show support for our Rosamond business people and tell that that you heard about them in our newsletter.

"National Doughnut Day started in 1938 as a fund raiser for Chicago's The Salvation Army. Their goal was to help those in need during the Great Depression, and to honor The Salvation Army "Lassies" of World War I, who served doughnuts to soldiers."



Doughnut Dollies were women volunteers of the Salvation Army, who traveled to France in 1918 to support US soldiers. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Doughnut_Day



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".



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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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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 winfrey3314@yahoo.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 - ***temporarily postponed!***
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