



# Antelope Horn

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

## Meetings:

### Regular Meetings: **TENTATIVELY**

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

### Board Meetings: **Temporarily - 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,

Things are starting to open back up but there will still be no meeting in June. Please watch your email (or posted mail if you don't have email) for details on our September meeting. We hope you have been enjoying the YouTube interviews being brought to you by KAHS. Thank you for your continued interest in and support of KAHS.

**WEBSITE:** [www.kahs1959.org](http://www.kahs1959.org) **EMAIL:** [info@kahs1959.org](mailto:info@kahs1959.org)

**FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/KAHS1959/](http://www.facebook.com/KAHS1959/)

MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!



The KAHS Board is excited to announce that plans are being made for our September Kick-Off for the new year. As in the past, we are looking at having this popular event at Don and Chavonne's Ranch south of Tropic. Plans are in the early stages, but we hope to have a supper, provided by KAHS, something like 'burgers and beans' and a great speaker. Please notice that this will NOT be a potluck, due to virus restrictions. Also, current guidelines at the time will be followed. A date has not been confirmed but our normal meeting date is the second Thursday of the month at 5:30 so mark Thursday, September 9th, at 5:30 on your calendars, but use a pencil - it's TENTATIVE. More information in the September 1st newsletter!

*The following article is from In Love With Life in LANCASTER, HARD TIMES 1927-1932, by Grace Graham Pickus, one of our KAHS books available for purchase. Grace and her husband Arthur Pickus were long-time valley residents. How did you get your drivers training? They didn't have Drivers' Ed. yet, or driving schools here in the Antelope Valley, in those days. But they did have adventures as they learned to drive. Grace tells the story from her perspective as a young teen girl, I think the boys might have described these learning adventures differently. The following is quoted directly from her book.*

### CHAPTER 3 DRIVER'S EDUCATION AS IT WAS IN 1929

On looking back, I would conclude that the best possible way for a girl to learn to drive when I was sixteen was to have a boyfriend as teacher. At that time, there were no drivers' education classes offered in high school, and even though there may have been driving schools in the cities, we had never even suspected we needed such a service, for boyfriends were perfectly willing to try to teach a girl some of the things she didn't already know.

Also boyfriends were patient, casual about small errors (after all, it was the "old man's car"), and they seemed to have unlimited time and gasoline while parents always seemed to be short on those items. I do recall once though that Fred Pickus was distinctly aggravated because Winifred Huff cut a corner too close (as she turned off 10<sup>th</sup> Street – Lancaster Blvd. – onto Date



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Avenue) and ran the rear wheel of his brand new 1930 Ford coupe up over the curb with a terrific bump. Fred wasn't one to consider a bump that might "break the fabric" of a new Goodyear tire a small error. He knew it would be just about impossible to explain to his father. (His father became my father-in-law when I married Arthur Pickus in 1932.) Arthur was the other one of the four young people in the new coupe that night. Winifred's excuse was that she didn't have room enough to move her arm to turn the steering wheel! Honestly!

The boys who were most willing to allow a girl a turn at the wheel were not usually the most popular fellows, but it was certainly enticing bait he had to offer if the girl didn't already drive. It was understood that he had (for safety reasons) to sit very close to the girl during those training sessions. Often it seemed most convenient to drape the left arm lightly around her shoulders so as to be ready, if necessary, to grab the steering wheel with the right hand.

I had the pleasure of learning to drive in a Studebaker touring, a Buick sedan and Chevrolet roadster. The back roads around the edge of town were usually chosen for these learning ventures. Often there would be no street lights, but it was encouraging for a girl to feel she was learning to avoid the bumps and to handle difficult situations in her newfound mobility.

There were many unpaved but well-traveled roads in Antelope Valley in the 1920's and '30's. Sometimes an especially venturesome girl would decide to take a little-used road and would get stuck in blow sand, which often covered the unpaved roads and trails after we had had one of our typical wind storms. If our couple had chosen one of these trails for the driving lesson, everything might be going just fine until suddenly they came upon an unexpected washout or a patch of blow sand. The fellow, being more experienced with this latter hazard, would urge the novice driver to keep going! keep going!, [sic] but lacking confidence and skill, she would let the wheels leave the track made by an earlier traveler and the car would stall as the wheels plowed into a drift of soft sand. Aghast at what she had done, the luckless girl would willingly surrender the wheel to the boyfriend, and he would try to back the car to more secure ground. If this could be done, all well and good; if the car couldn't be dislodged by pushing and "rocking" from reverse to low, and simply dug itself in, they were in for a bad time.

If the girl ever hoped to drive this fellow's car again, no matter what she was wearing (and in 1929 females wore dresses - best, second best, and that old thing!) she got out and pulled sagebrush and helped pack it under the tires as each mired wheel was partially freed by digging with any instrument that came to hand. Some of the ranch boys carried shovels in their irrigation vehicles, but those "strip-downs" were seldom suitable for an evening of this kind. Sometimes the car could be freed fairly easily; but other times an hour or two would be spent and great geysers of sand would be thrown up by the tortured tires to envelope the vehicle and the sweating victims of this distressing episode.

After the car was finally back on safe ground, problems remained. The boy would still be "hot under the collar" and now usually somewhat cooler toward his companion. That little lady, considerably chastened by the trouble her ineptness had caused, would sit on the far side of the seat to show that she felt any rejection was properly deserved. It was then up to the boy to salvage or ruin the evening (and even the relationship) by controlling or venting his considerable annoyance.

It was the boy who later must face the worst hazards of the whole evening. He had to clean the car before his folks saw it or have a plausible explanation; one that didn't involve a girl and/or back-country roads. If his word juggling was faulty here, he might be deprived of the car for quite a while and the girl he had risked so much for would find comfort and driving experience with someone else. I did on occasion come up with some rather neatly embroidered reasons why I was so dirty and tired when I got home an hour and a half later than I was supposed to; luckily I didn't need a car to have a healthy social life as the boys in Lancaster did in those days.

*A 1930 Ford coupe - you can imagine why a young man might get upset if his date ran this car over a curb "with a terrific bump".*





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JUNIPER TREE FENCE POSTS

Years ago, Cecil Burton told my husband, Rae, about working for Chet Scott on his ranch just north of Ave D, around 190th St W. As many people did back then, they had to make do with what they had and Cecil's job was cutting juniper branches for fence posts. He pointed the fence out to us, one time as we were traveling west on Ave. D.

I've always wanted to stop and get a picture of these old posts and we managed to do just that the other day. It seems that Cecil worked out there before WWII. It may have been while he was in high school which would likely have been in the 1940's. That would make some of

these posts around eighty years old. Chet ran cattle out there and from the looks of it, this section was never cleared for farming, although most of the pieces around were farmed at one time or

another. Rae thinks that Cecil said he got paid \$.25 a fence post.

Also, it might seem that these junipers wouldn't have much good wood for fence posts, but I found a good example with a tree that was bare on the west side and you can see below that some of the branches are quite large and a branch would make produce several posts at a time. Also, some trees have quite long, straight, branches. A good tree could produce 10-15 posts.

Forrest Godde, a long-time resident, and my dad's boss, told about the plans he and a brother had, in their younger days - to cut juniper fence posts from an area around Quartz Hill, with the hopes of buying the land eventually. I asked if he ever got the land and the answer was no. I guess by that time, steel fence posts were becoming more readily available and their venture was not profitable.

So if you're traveling out HWY 138, look for these old wooden fence posts. They will be interspersed with the steel posts but you shouldn't have trouble finding them,

on the north side of the road. (When you come to the Wee Vill Market, you should see the old fence on the opposite side of the road.)





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**Another New Video:** Many of you may remember shopping at Carol's Department Store in Mojave. Two interesting photos are included here. I have no date for the old black and white shot. The bottom, right picture is an artist's rendition which is one of a number of pictures shared by Paul Carol, whose family owned and operated Carol's for many years. (I don't know the reason but the artist called it Carol's Desert Store.) I think you'll enjoy this latest in the series of historical interviews being done by our KAHS video team!

His family immigrated from Poland. How they ended up in

Mojave was a circuitous route, but they made it here in 1937.

Click on the link below (or copy it into your browser if you are reading a hard copy of this newsletter) to get the whole interesting story right from Paul.

<https://youtu.be/0x7haGbHR4c>



**Some quotes about freedom and the 4th of July:**

"Where freedom is, there is my nation."— Benjamin Franklin

"God Bless America, my home, sweet home."— Irving Berlin

"One flag, one land, one heart, one hand, one nation forevermore!"— Oliver Wendell Holmes

"Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves." — Abraham Lincoln

"All great change in America begins at the dinner table." — Ronald Reagan

"The United States is the only country with a known birthday." — James G. Blaine

"I'd like to be remembered as a person who wanted to be free and wanted other people to be also free." —Rosa Parks

"Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom, must, like men, undergo the fatigues of supporting it." — Thomas Paine



And as a side note, Ezra Hamilton, who discovered gold in Rosamond, CA, and the developer of Willow Springs, passed away in Willow Springs on July 4, 1914. Maybe that was especially fitting as his resort town had been a popular site for Independence Day Celebrations.



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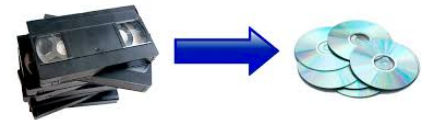
Website: [www.kahs1959.org](http://www.kahs1959.org)

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 also available. *Glimpse of the Prehistory of Antelope Valley*, by Stuart Glennan, is described as "Archaeological Investigations at the Sweetser site".



Jed Dyke, of Rosamond and a former member of the Kern Antelope Historical Society, has graciously donated a large amount of historical materials to the Society. This includes a large number of interviews he conducted with local residents a number of years ago. These are in VHS format, but thanks to Judge McArdle, they are now preserved in digital form, also. We are delighted have this valuable historical treasure and look forward to being able to share with our members in various ways. To show our appreciation, the Board has agreed to honor Mr. Dyke with a complimentary Lifetime KAHS membership.



Please note: a new year has started, as of June 1st. **Membership payments are due June 1st.** You can make a check, payable to Kern Antelope Historical Society and mail it, along with the coupon below to:

YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP  
MATTERS

**Kern Antelope Historical Society  
PO Box 1255  
Rosamond, CA 93560**

You may also pay using Zelle!

Thanks for those who have already paid!

**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.



**KERN ANTELOPE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Mail to: Kern Antelope Historical Society  
PO Box 1255  
Rosamond, CA 93560

**MEMBERSHIP TYPE**

Date	Name	Address	City, ST, Zip	Phone Number	E-mail	Type	Dues
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	Student & Military	\$5
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	Individual	\$15
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	Couple	\$20
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	Family	\$30
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	Business	\$35

Club Year - June 1st through May 31st



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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.

**Do it Best**  
**KARLS HARDWARE**  
 2700 Diamond St.  
 Rosamond CA, 93560  
 Phone: (661) 256-3985  
 Fax: (661) 256-3932  
**Eric Landsgaard**  
 President  
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**Wayside Cafe**  
 Where we're all Family  
**Jamie Price**  
 Owner  
 2835 Sierra Hwy  
 Rosamond, ca  
 661-256-3437

## 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](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 - ***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*