



# Antelope Horn

Newsletter of the Kern-Antelope Historical Society, Inc.  
Member of the Conference of California Historical Societies  
April, 2023

## Meetings:

### Regular Meetings:

- 2nd Thursday of the month (except July, August); 5:30 pm.
- Rosamond Public Library -  
3611 Rosamond Blvd, Rosamond, CA

### Board Meetings:

- 4th Thursday of the month as needed; 4 pm.; all are welcome, email for directions to location.

## Hello to all our Kern Antelope Historical Society Members and Friends.

- ❖ What: **April Regular Meeting**
- ❖ When: **Thursday, April 13** (2nd Thursday)
- ❖ Time: **5:30 pm**
- ❖ Where: **Rosamond Library, 3611 Rosamond Blvd, Rosamond, CA**
- ❖ Historical Interview: **Cecil Burton - "A Look Back--Rosamond and Water" - recorded by Jed Dyke in 2001**

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/)

We have an interesting piece of southern Kern history to present at our April meeting. **Cecil Burton** is part of the historic Burton Family who operated the Tropico Mine and Mill and had such an influence on the community of Rosamond. For those who knew Cecil, it was like visiting or walking around with a living history book. He could tell so many things from everyday life about the area years ago. The interview we have was done by Jed Dyke in 2001, before Cecil moved out of the area. Cecil passed away in 2011.



"Alec Cecil Burton was born March 2, 1926 in Vancouver, Canada the son of Alec and Margaret Burton. He passed away in Prescott, AZ on Feb. 10 2011.

Cecil graduated from AVJUHS on May 26, 1944 and on May 27 he was on a train bound for Ft. MacArthur where he was inducted into the U.S. Army. He was proud of his service during the war, assigned to the 71st Inf. Div., 66th Inf. Reg., 3rd Batt., Co. "M." Cecil's job assignment was in the 81 MM Mortar Platoon as a mortar man. While in Europe he would travel over 800 actual combat miles out of the over 2,000 miles he travelled with the 7th and 3rd Army. With eight river assaults, the 66th penetrated farther east than any other U.S. combat unit. The(y) accepted the surrender of the Germans on May 7, 1945, and liberated several concentration camps in Austria. Cecil was assigned to the Army of Occupation after the war ended, then to rest and rehabilitation camp. He was honorably discharged with the rank of private, first class after two years in the army. He received many medals including the Bronze Star – Rhineland Campaign and a letter of commendation from General Eisenhower.

After the war, Cecil worked at the Tropico Gold Mine in Rosamond. He was a reserve deputy sheriff in Kern Co. and worked at EAFB employed with the Civil Service in jet engine test and development for the Air Force. He earned a teaching credential from UCLA and taught mining and assaying classes at AVJC."  
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/65683696/alec-cecil-burton>





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*Cecil's son, Terry, shared this background information on his dad.*

"Alex Cecil Burton commonly called Cecil Burton arrived in the area as a child when his father was asked by his father's brothers to come help build housing at the Gold Camp at the base of Tropico mine. When Cecil was old enough, he worked in the mine until it closed and then worked at Edwards Air Force Base, first as a laborer and then, after being trained, as a jet engine mechanic. He retired from that job in the mid to late 1970's and started doing some prospecting at both old and new claims and worked a mine on Soledad Mountain. with his son. He also worked as an assayer and rebuilt and ran the mill at Tropico until it closed in 1992."

*From the KAHS book Gold-Fever, 40 Years Digging Antelope Valley History, comes this information on Cecil's grandfather, William and family.*

Cecil's father, Alec, was one of four brothers. Their father William moved the whole family from England to the Antelope Valley in 1900. William Burton, who had been a successful shop owner before leaving South-End-On-Sea, arrived, with his wife Millicent and sons, Sydney, Clifford, Cecil and Alec, by train in Lancaster, then went by horse and buggy to the ranch he had purchased (sight-unseen) north of Ave I, near 60th Street West in the Esperanza district. Sadly, his wife, who was not in good health, passed away within the first year of coming to America.

A fun story is told about the boys' first day of school at Del Sur. They wore their velvet and lace and were teased mercilessly, and refused to go back until they got clothes like the other kids, which was soon accomplished. Also, they could afford store-bought cookies which they would trade for good sandwiches of homemade bread, and cake and pie.

Eventually, after World War I, two of the brothers, H. Clifford and Cecil F. Burton, became partners in operating the Tropico Gold Mine and Mill and the Burton Bros. In 1928 the brothers incorporated. Alec Cecil Burton, the youngest brother had moved to Canada and, as mentioned above, moved his family back to Rosamond to work for his brothers.

*Personal Recollection of Cecil by Rae and Janet Winters.*

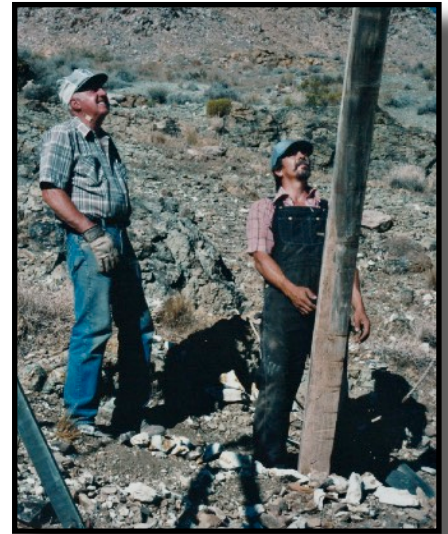
Rae Winters recalled that Cecil (son of Alec Cecil) said he worked on every engine the Air Force used in his many years at Edwards AFB. Cecil also introduced us to the old townsite of Domino in Kern County, at 170th W. Cecil said that when he and his friends were out riding horses they would stop for a soda in the small community on their way home. Cecil also recalled riding horseback, maybe out to help round up cattle or something and the grass was growing clear up to the stirrups - that's pretty tall. It's a little easier to picture in a year like we're having now with so much rain. Things were definitely different back then.

Cecil's dad also told him about getting water for the Burton Ranch at 60th St., years earlier. They just drove a six inch pipe in the ground about nine feet down, leaving a couple feet above the ground and water flowed out to help irrigate their crops.

Another time Cecil recalled when he and his dad, Alec, were working on fencing in the pasture on their ranch just south of Tropico and they both felt and heard an earthquake. It was very small but they felt the ground roll up and down beneath their feet as they stood there.

Cecil shared about working on the Chet Scott Ranch at 190th St West just north of Ave D. His job was to cut juniper branches to use for fence posts for the barbed wire to hold Chet's cattle on his land. (This was the subject of an article in the June, 2021, *Antelope Horn*.) Some of those fence posts are still out there!

One last story - Cecil shared this from his time in the war. He and another soldier were forward spotters for artillery. One day they asked the captain why they were sent out more than other spotters and the answer was "You guys always come back." Cecil said they were "Indian-like" in their scouting, unlike a lot of city boys.



*Cecil Burton and son, Terry working together, probably on Soledad.*



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**2023-24 Slate of Officers** - The Nominating Committee has announced the slate of officers to be voted on in April. They are listed here for your consideration, per the KAHS Bylaws.

President - Gretchen Winfrey  
Vice President - Delores Julian

Secretary - Janet Winters  
Treasurer - Kelly Gonzalez

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS of the Kern Antelope Historical Society PROPOSED REVISIONS**

A vote will be held in April whether to accept the changes to the Constitution and By-Laws or not. A copy of the current document, with the proposed changes is included with this newsletter. Please study it and be prepared for a vote on April 13th. If you have questions, feel free to contact a board member (see back page for contact information).



**For your information - an updated list of KAHS Youtube videos. If you haven't checked them out, this might be a good time to look.**

Date If Available	Speaker/Interviewed Person/Topic	Interviewer	Youtube Link
July 2021	Ramon Ramirez, Artist	Gretchen Winfrey	<a href="https://youtu.be/umaCnePR-Eg">https://youtu.be/umaCnePR-Eg</a>
July 2021	Jedd Strange, Our Historical Artist	Gretchen Winfrey	<a href="http://youtu.be/CKVo4yPx06Y">http://youtu.be/CKVo4yPx06Y</a>
May 20221	Carol's Department Store in Mojave with Paul Carol	Gretchen Winfrey	<a href="https://youtu.be/0x7haGbHR4c">https://youtu.be/0x7haGbHR4c</a>
April 2021	Terry Burton - Gold Processing	Chavonne Sladek	<a href="https://youtu.be/JEUBy9A2kGw">https://youtu.be/JEUBy9A2kGw</a>
February 2021	John Joyce	Gretchen Winfrey	<a href="https://youtu.be/n8gwaqN-9P0&amp;t">https://youtu.be/n8gwaqN-9P0&amp;t</a>
January 2021	Joe Pauley - A Conversation With	Gretchen Winfrey	<a href="https://youtu.be/ljwEhN7WbKM">https://youtu.be/ljwEhN7WbKM</a>
Autumn 2020	Joe Pauley - The Final Tour Pauley Bros. Steel	Chavonne Sladek	<a href="https://youtu.be/ffDvmVZLEus">https://youtu.be/ffDvmVZLEus</a>
October 2021	Bill Deaver	Gretchen Winfrey	<a href="https://youtu.be/72AMyLs6All">https://youtu.be/72AMyLs6All</a>
October 2021	Ella Williford Garcia - A Tribute to Jim Williford	Ella Williford Garcia & Gretchen Winfrey	<a href="https://youtu.be/cxq5rj2505I">https://youtu.be/cxq5rj2505I</a>
June 2002	Ruth Russell - Part I	Jed Dyke	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ks3NjqT1fc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ks3NjqT1fc</a>
June 2002	Ruth Russell - Part 2	Jed Dyke	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ks3NjqT1fc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ks3NjqT1fc</a>
April 2022	Janet Winters - Webb Family, Hedge City to California	Speaker	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gYiuOY09bO8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gYiuOY09bO8</a>
October 13, 2022	Interview of Randy Retzke & Sandra Jimenez	Chavonne Sladek	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qyavvp-BulA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qyavvp-BulA</a>
November 2022	Remembering L/Cpl. Joseph Lopez-Pratti, USMC, by his brother	Speaker	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vdfZ7T3E-l">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vdfZ7T3E-l</a>
January 2023	Barbara Schultz - Poncho Barnes	Speaker	<a href="https://youtu.be/j-Zhx7IGle0">https://youtu.be/j-Zhx7IGle0</a>
February 9, 2023	Gretchen Winfrey, Rosamond Area Schools	Speaker	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPwNzwPCjRA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPwNzwPCjRA</a>
March 9, 2023	Dr Bruce Love, 12000 Years of AV History	Speaker	<a href="https://youtu.be/ilKi-hw-Ruw">https://youtu.be/ilKi-hw-Ruw</a>

Visit the website for more information about Antelope Valley history. Copies of recent newsletters are available, as well as other information. Follow us on Facebook for reminders about meetings and other items of historical interest. You can always contact us by email. And check out the KAHS videos which are available on YouTube.

- ★ Website: [www.kahs1959.org](http://www.kahs1959.org)
- ★ Facebook: [www.facebook.com/KAHS1959/](http://www.facebook.com/KAHS1959/)
- ★ Email: [info@kahs1959.org](mailto:info@kahs1959.org)
- ★ KAHS YouTube Videos: <http://kahs1959.org/Videos/videos.html>





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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.


**Desert Breeze Enterprises**  
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**Rosamond Chamber of Commerce**



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**Kern Antelope Historical Society - Membership Application**

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

	Type of Membership:	Dues:	Amount Paid:
Name _____	Student/Military	\$5	_____
Mail Address _____	Individual	\$15	_____
City, ST, Zip _____	Couple	\$20	_____
Phone _____	Family	\$30	_____
Email _____	Business	\$35	_____
Date _____			

**Note:** • Club Year is June 1st through May 31st of the following year; new members, paying after February 1st, pay only half.  
 • Zelle: [info@kahs1959.org](mailto:info@kahs1959.org) You may now use the following cell number for Zelle payments, also: (661) 609-8757.

## 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*

## 2022-2023 Executive Board

### Officers:

President: Gretchen Winfrey      winfrey3314@yahoo.com  
Vice President: Delores Julian      ddjulirosa@yahoo.com  
Secretary: Janet Winters      poppiesrme@gmail.com  
Treasurer: Kelly Gonzalez      gonzakel@sbcglobal.net

### Directors At-Large:

Terry Landsiedel  
Judy O'Loughlin  
Chavonne Sladek

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

### General Meetings:

Second Thursday of the Month, September through June  
5:30 pm - 2584 Felsite Ave, Rosamond, CA  
(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**