



Antelope Horn

Newsletter of the Kern-Antelope Historical Society, Inc.
Member of the Conference of California Historical Societies
September, 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: **Regular Meeting**
- ❖ When: **Thursday, September 14th** (2nd Thursday)
- ❖ Time: **5:30 pm**
- ❖ Where: **Rosamond Library, Rosamond, CA**
- ❖ Guest Speakers: **Linda Willis, AV Wall & Barbara Gaines, Supt., SKUSD - AV Wall Comes to Rosamond**

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of KAHS.
WEBSITE: www.kahs1959.org **EMAIL:** info@kahs1959.org
FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/KAHS1959/

Happy
Birthday
California



California Admission Day
31st State in the Union
Admitted September 9, 1850

The Mobile Vietnam Memorial Wall Comes to Rosamond

The Kern Antelope Historical Society is pleased to announce that we will have two guest speakers at the September meeting. **Linda Willis, of the AV Wall, and Barbara Gaines, Superintendent of Southern Kern**

Unified School District, will be joining us Thursday, September 14th, to fill us in on the AV Wall coming to Rosamond for Veteran's Day this year. Southern Kern and the community of Rosamond are hosting the event. The Mobile Vietnam Memorial Wall (nicknamed the AV Wall) will be on display November 7 to November 12, 2023 at Westpark Elementary School, 3600 Imperial Avenue, Rosamond, CA. A Veterans Day Ceremony will be held in front of the wall on Saturday, November 11th. This is the first time the display has been to Kern County and will provide a wonderful opportunity to visit a half-scale replica of the original Wall in Washington, D.C. Plan to come out on Sept. 14th to learn more about the AV Wall.



The Vietnam Memorial Wall

The idea of a national Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. began in 1979. Vietnam veterans began a fundraising campaign and help came with the support of several U.S. senators. President Jimmy Carter signed the legislation which provided a site in Constitution Gardens near the Lincoln Memorial. The design submitted by Maya King Lin was chosen, and in 1982 the Memorial Wall was dedicated on November 13th.

Since that time there have been mobile Walls that toured the country, making it possible for more people to see and experience something of the original wall. But how did the AV Wall come to be? In 2005, the Palmdale Playhouse technical director made a comment at a meeting where they were discussing displays for coming performances of *A Piece My Heart** at the Playhouse. They wanted to have a traveling Wall on display and none were available. The question was asked, "why can't we build our own wall?" And so it began.

The formal name was the The Mobile Vietnam Memorial Wall, but it is affectionately known as the AV Wall since it is located in the Antelope Valley. Originally there was no thought of it leaving the valley but it developed into traveling to a many other places in California as it is the only traveling wall on the west coast. Besides places around the Antelope Valley, it has been to Bishop, Simi Valley, Chino, Montebello, Miramar and El Centro.

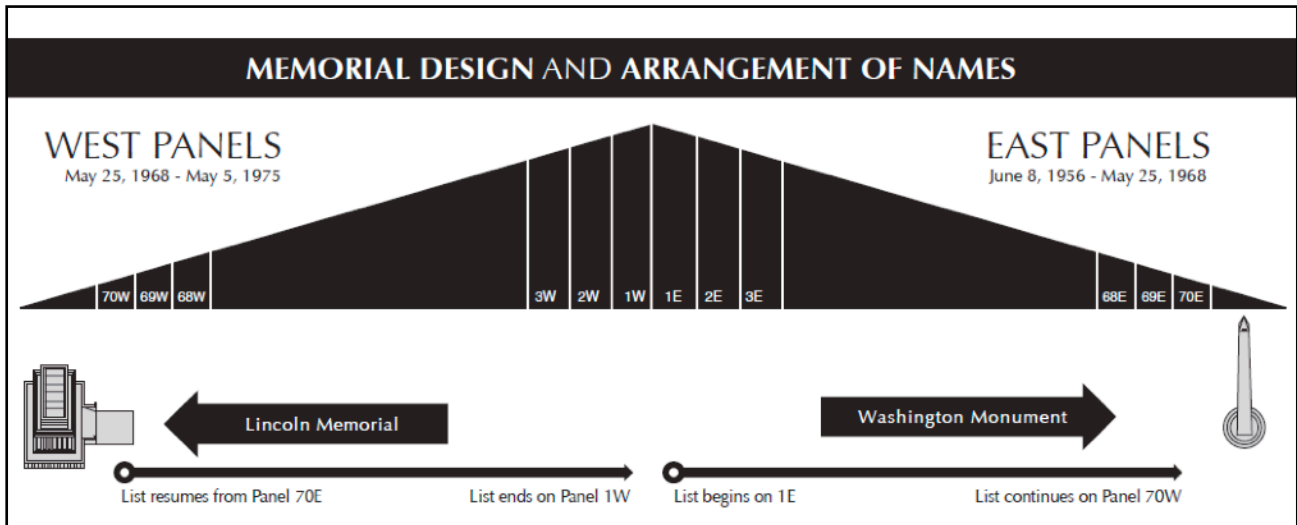
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Please notice: if you are receiving a hardcopy (black and white copy) of this newsletter and would like to enjoy it in color, it is available at our website: www.kahs1959.org.

The Wall is now maintained and managed by Point Man Antelope Valley (PMAV). PMAV is a non-profit, faith based 501(c)(3), affiliated with the ministry of Point Man International Ministries of Spring Brook, NY, and an outreach ministry of Journey Church of the Antelope Valley, CA. Part of their mission is to minister to hurting Vets and their families.

The names on the wall are arranged by date. A study of this diagram will show that the names of the first casualties begin at the center, starting on Panel 1E and moving to the right, then continue at the left or West end and the list ends on Panel 1W.



Some interesting Facts About the Wall and the veterans it honors:

- Vietnam Era: 1 Nov 1955 – 15 May 1975 (by Congress in 1999).
- Number of casualties on The Wall – 58,281.
- At least one US Service member died in Vietnam every day from December 31, 1965 to December 9, 1970. A total of 1,804 days and 52,448 lives lost!
- There are 8 Females on the Wall all Nurses (7,484 Military women served in Vietnam, 6,250 were nurses).
- There are 43 sets of Brothers on the Wall.
- There is one set of Step-Brothers.
- There are 3 Fathers/Sons on the Wall.
- There are 16 Chaplains on the Wall, 7 Catholic (2 Medal of Honor Recipients – MoH), 2 Jewish, 7 Protestant.
- There are 10 Nurses on the Wall; 8 Female, 2 Male.
- There are 1345 Army Medics on the Wall (unconfirmed).
- There are 691 Navy Corpsmen on the Wall (unconfirmed).
- There are 8 Coast Guard on the Wall.
- There are 21 different countries represented on the Wall.
- Native Americans – 232.
- There are 76 Names on the Wall with ties to the Antelope Valley.
- Approximately 997 were killed on their first day in Vietnam (unconfirmed).
- Oldest on Memorial – Frank Luther Huddleston (16E, 109), 12-Aug-02, 68 yrs old (added in 2003).
- Youngest to Die (Inco)– Dan Bullock (23W, 096), 7-Jun-69, 15.5 years old, Born: 21-Dec-53.
- 40,361 Soldiers on the Wall were under 22 years old.
- At least two (2) Soldiers and two (2) Marines were killed as the result of an attack by an Indochinese tiger.
- Unknown Soldier – Michael Joseph Blassie (W01, 023), 11-May-72, Interred as Unknown in 1984, reburied 11-Jul-98 in St. Louis, MO. Awarded the MoH while interred as the Unknown, but MoH was rescinded when identified, not part of the 261. There are no remains in the Vietnam Tomb for the Unknown Soldier.



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These are just some of the facts, there is much more to learn about the AV Wall and the original Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, DC. Whether you have already visited the actual Wall or a traveling replica, this should be a moving and enlightening experience to see it in our own community.

Some things to remember before you visit: The AV Wall was built for the sole purpose of sharing and paying respect and honor to the brave men and women who served and those who died in the war, as well as showing respect and honor to all Active and Reserve Military, Veterans and their families. We are asked to maintain a dignified and respectful mood at the AV Wall. The area around the AV Wall is considered hallowed ground. No loud talking, no running or touching the wall with anything (other than the approved paper and pencil provided for rubbings). Plan to come and honor our military.

* - *A Piece My Heart* is a powerful, true drama of six women who went to Vietnam - five nurses and a country western singer - booked by an unscrupulous agent to entertain the troops.

The Mobile Vietnam Memorial Wall is coming to Rosamond November 7 to 12, 2023 at Westpark Elementary! Here are some sources for more information.

- General information - <https://avwall.org/upcoming-displays/>
- Interested in volunteering? - https://www.facebook.com/groups/743894269072127/?multi_permaLinks=6227754460686053&ref=share
- **For those who wish to donate: All checks payable to: Southern Kern Unified School District**
- Mailing address is: Southern Kern Unified
c/o Business Dept.
2601 Rosamond Blvd.
Rosamond, CA 93560



California Admission Day - September 9, 1850

In February of 1848, Mexico and the United States signed a treaty which ended the Mexican War and yielded a vast portion of the Southwest, including present day California, to the United States. Several days earlier, January 24, 1848, gold had been discovered on the American River near Sacramento, and the ensuing gold rush hastened California's admittance to the Union. With the Gold Rush came a huge increase in population and a pressing need for civil government.

In 1849, Californians sought statehood and, after heated debate in the U.S. Congress arising out of the slavery issue, California entered the Union as a free, non-slavery state by the Compromise of 1850.

California became the 31st state on September 9, 1850. The Golden State's rich history has since been shaped by people of every ethnic background who traveled here seeking economic, social and educational opportunity, and a life of quality and breathtaking beauty.

California situated its first capital in San Jose. The city did not have facilities ready for a proper capital, and the winter of 1850 - 1851 was unusually wet, causing the dirt roads to become muddy streams. The legislature was unsatisfied with the location, so former General and State Senator Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo donated land in the future city of Vallejo for a new capital; the legislature convened there for one week in 1852 and again for a month in 1853.

Again, the facilities available were unsuitable to house a state government, and the capital was soon moved three miles away to the little town of Benicia, inland from the San Francisco Bay. The strait links San Pablo Bay to Grizzly and Suisun Bays deep in the interior. A lovely brick statehouse was built in old American style complete with white cupola. Although strategically sited between the Gold Rush territory of the Sierra Foothills and the financial port of San Francisco, the site was too small for expansion, and so the capital was moved further inland past the Sacramento River Delta to the riverside port of Sacramento in 1854.

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*Admission Day Festival 1910
San Francisco, CA Daniel A. Ryan Postcard
California's 60th Anniversary.*



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Sacramento was the site of John Sutter's large farm and his fort. In 1846, during the midst of the Bear Flag Revolt, the fort was an oasis. A war was being fought between American and Californio soldiers in the southern part of the province for control of California. But at Sutter's Fort, life on the frontier continued with rhythm of the seasons and arrival of new soldiers.

The town was founded by John Sutter, Jr. while the elder Sutter was away, at the river's edge and downhill from the fort. Sutter Sr. was indignant since this place, shaded by water-needy Cottonwood trees, was often under water.

Indeed, every hundred years or so, the whole Great Valley from Chico to Bakersfield, was one great freshwater sea. However, lots were already sold, so there the town of Sacramento stayed. At the end of the century, the streets were raised a full story, so buildings in Old Town Sacramento are now entered through what were once doors to the balconies shading the sidewalks below.

- 🔪 The Greek word "Eureka" has appeared on the state seal since 1849, when California sought statehood, and means "I Have Found It."
- 🔪 The words were probably intended to refer to the discovery of gold in California.
- 🔪 Archimedes, the famed Greek mathematician, is said to have exclaimed "Eureka" when, after long study, he discovered a method of determining the purity of gold.
- 🔪 In 1957, attempts were made to establish "In God We Trust" as the state motto, but "Eureka" was made the official state motto in 1963.

https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=23856



"First tropical storm to hit Southern California in 84 years"

The above article about California statehood told how Sacramento eventually became the capital, even though it was prone to serious flooding and mentioned that "the streets were raised". Since southern California was recently under threat of a hurricane - "the worst storm in 84 years" (although it was reduced to a tropical storm by the time it hit), it seemed timely to give just a bit of history about Sacramento and the raising of the streets - see below.

A doorway that was bricked-in, showing that the street had been filled in and the original floor level was much lower.



Sacramento - "Levee City"

Rivers have always been an important means of transportation for people and goods. The town of Sacramento was located at the confluence of two important rivers - the American and the Sacramento. The city was incorporated in February of 1850, it is the oldest incorporated city in California. But being located by the rivers, important for people heading to and from the gold mines, all the needed supplies, and the gold which made the area so desirable, also brought the problem of flooding. Just over a month before incorporation, Sacramento was devastated by the flood of January, 1850. A levee was completed by 1862, giving the city the nickname "Levee City", but the levee was breached by the next big storm. Since then, protecting the city has been an ongoing project of building and improving the levees and continues to be of major importance.

So what else could Sacramento do? Many of the main streets in old Sacramento were raised up to the level of the second floor of businesses and homes. (Walls would be built on both sides of the street, next to the sidewalks and then dirt filled in to bring the street level up ten feet or so.) The owners of those buildings could do one of two things. Some made the second floor (at street level) into the first floor and used the old lower floor as a basement. Other buildings were actually jacked up, slowly and raised up so that the bottom floor would now be at the new street level. The side streets and alleys angle down to the lower, original level of the town in many cases. Raising the city was an "expensive, time-consuming, and physically demanding project that spanned two decades and required the support of the entire community."

Today, tours are available of these old underground areas from the [Sacramento History Museum](#).



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Coming Event: Rosamond Armed Forces Day Parade & September Festival - September 16th, 2023

The parade, held annually in Rosamond, is to honor the many military people in our area. This year's details:

- ★ Grand Marshall - Colonel Ahave E. Brown Jr., Commander, 412 MXG
- ★ Theme - "PUSHING THE LIMITS..."
- ★ Start Time - at 10 am
- ★ September Festival - following the parade at Glendower Park

And here are a few photos from the September 26, 2009 parade: the entry of the Rosamond Red Racers 4-H club.





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NEW MEMBERS - The Kern Antelope Historical Society welcomes our new members!

Thank you for joining us!

Jeff & Katy Hutchinson
Ron & Wijtske Applegate



For your information - a list of the most recent KAHS Youtube videos. If you haven't checked them out, this might be a good time to look. You may see all KAHS YouTube videos by going to our website: www.kahs1959.org

| Date | Speaker/Interviewed Person/Topic | Interviewer | Youtube Link |
|------------------|---|-------------|---|
| January 2023 | Barbara Schultz: Poncho Barnes | Speaker | https://youtu.be/j-Zhx7IGle0 |
| February 9, 2023 | Gretchen Winfrey: Rosamond Area Schools | Speaker | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPwNzwPCjRA |
| March 9, 2023 | Dr Bruce Love: 12000 Years of AV History | Speaker | https://youtu.be/ilKi-hw-Ruw |
| April 13, 2023 | Cecil Burton: "A Look Back--Rosamond and Water" | Jed Dyke | https://youtu.be/juUdCvkj7E |
| May 11, 2023 | Lisa DeJaynes from Saddle Up "Therapeutic Riding Stables" | Speaker | https://youtu.be/EjbtlFxH2a0 |
| June 8, 2023 | Gail Lofdahl: Airfields of the Antelope Valley | Speaker | https://youtu.be/rFdL9zYuiXQ |

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
- ★ Facebook: www.facebook.com/KAHS1959/
- ★ Email: info@kahs1959.org
- ★ KAHS YouTube Videos: <http://kahs1959.org/Videos/videos.html>



Kern Antelope Historical Society - Membership Application

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

Name _____

Mail Address _____

City, ST, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Date _____

| Membership Type | Dues | Amount Paid |
|-----------------------------|------|-------------|
| Student/ Active Military | \$5 | _____ |
| Individual | \$15 | _____ |
| Couple | \$20 | _____ |
| Family | \$30 | _____ |
| Business | \$35 | _____ |

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 You may now use the following cell number for Zelle payments, also: (661) 609-8757.



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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

Don and Chavonne Sladek
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For Sale by KAHS

Books - \$11 (*\$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
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Judy O'Loughlin
Chavonne Sladek

WEBSITE: www.kahs1959.org **EMAIL:** 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 & Active 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