



# Antelope Horn

Newsletter of the Kern-Antelope Historical Society, Inc.  
Member of the Conference of California Historical Societies  
December, 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: Annual Christmas Dinner & Meeting**
- ❖ **When: Thursday, December 14th (2nd Thursday)**
- ❖ **Time: 5:30 pm**
- ❖ **Where: Mavericks Sports Bar and Grill, 2763 Sierra Hwy, Rosamond, CA**
- ❖ **Speaker: Gretchen Winfrey /History of the Hamilton Hotel**  
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/)



From President Gretchen Winfrey: "An unexpected scheduling glitch at Guidos and the removal of a "pot shop" in Rosamond will allow us to **utilize Rosamond's most historic building for our Christmas Dinner**. Due to the recent closure and removal of the illegal dispensary behind the building built by Ezra Hamilton in the early 1900's and with the support of the operators of Mavericks, we will be able to utilize the large back room of this historic building at the corner of Sierra Highway and Poplar for our Christmas dinner. **Mavericks will provide us with a traditional holiday meal at the same price of \$30 per person**. This building has such **incredible history** starting with Hamilton's vision of a health resort at Willow Springs through the activities surrounding the WW II activities and further development at Edwards Air Force Base. Join us for a peek at history with good food and friends."

## Historical Highlights of the Hamilton Hotel in Rosamond

The Hamilton Hotel, Rosamond Hotel, Goldstrike Hotel and even Juanita's Bowling Alley are some of the names this historic building has been called. It was built by Ezra Hamilton in the very early 1900's as a place

where visitors could spend the night after disembarking from the train, before heading out on the last leg of their journey to Hamilton's Willow Springs Resort.

So you've probably heard of Hamilton who also discovered gold at Tropic but who was Juanita? Well her family had come to California in 1923 the first time. After moving to Brownsville, Texas, they came back to California and her father bought a service station in Mojave, at the corner of Hwy 58 and what is now Hwy 14. But after the roof was blown off of their home, her mother wanted out of



Ezra Hamilton's "Dance photo" - "Smack it on Lunt!"



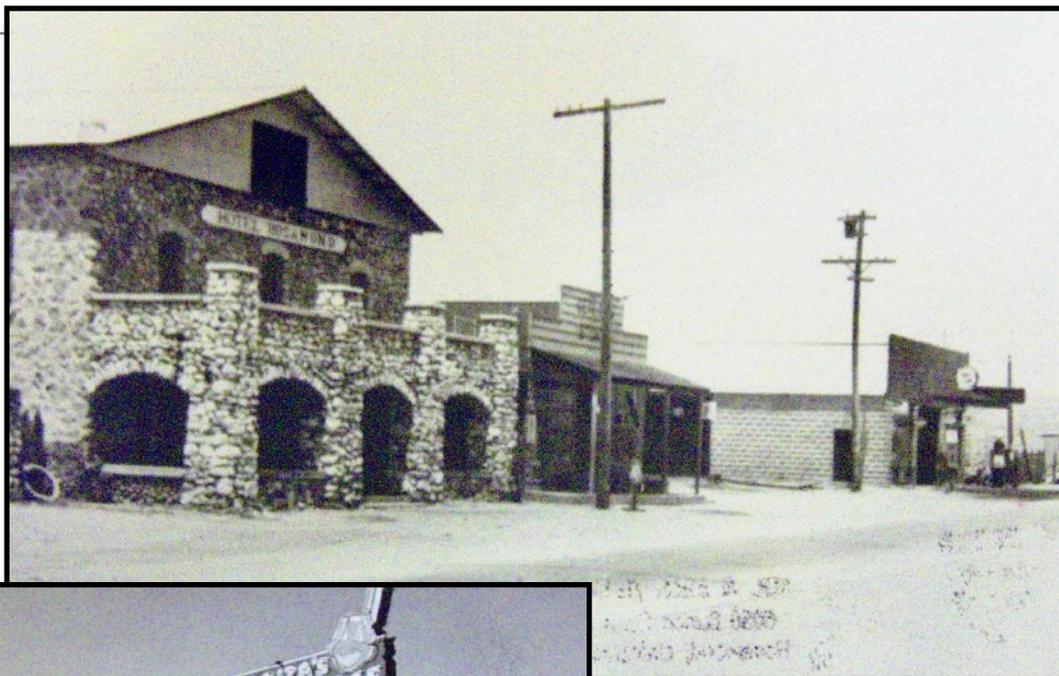
ROSAMOND. 400 FT 1910

H. ROSAMOND - E. HAMILTON



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Mojave! After a time in Long Beach, they were back in East Kern - settling in Rosamond where Dees bought a garage and 32 lots and the Hamilton Hotel. A house was bought from the railroad and the Dees family put it on one of the lots and settled in. Then Dees converted the two-story hotel into a restaurant and bar in 1933. The following year, Mr. Dees passed away, his wife moved to Walker Pass and a daughter, Juanita, took over the business and called it Juanita's Indian Lodge. In the 40's



it was known as Juanita's Bowling Alley. Young men were hired as "pin boys". Automatic pin-setting machines weren't around until the mid 40's and many places wouldn't have had them yet. Also, Juanita was known to let servicemen use the phone at the Lodge to call home. (<http://www.rosamondca.us/history/HistoricBldgs.htm>, <https://www.theloopnewspaper.com/story/2017/01/21/community/noel-dees-mojave-resident-and-wwii-navy-veteran/3176.html>)

**Clyne Keeler Recalled Setting Pins in Rosamond.**

In an article written by Clyne Keeler, Rosamond, CA in 2013 for the webpage known as "ROSAMOND, CA. 93560 - The Unofficial Website" he recalls living in Rosamond with his family, during World War II. "The war was taking the able bodied men, so boys 12 and over were filling in the gap. I was 12 at the time and was setting pins at the Bowling Alley. My dad put food on the table, but if we wanted anything extra. We worked for it. I joined the Boy Scouts and I needed a uniform and camping equipment." He added, "One thing I forgot about setting pins. One of the boys learned how to get tips, we all started doing it. He would write 'Tip Me Don't Gip Me' on a small piece of paper and stuff it in the ball's thumb hole. Sure enough, a coin would come rolling down the lane." <http://www.rosamondca.us/history/Keener.htm>

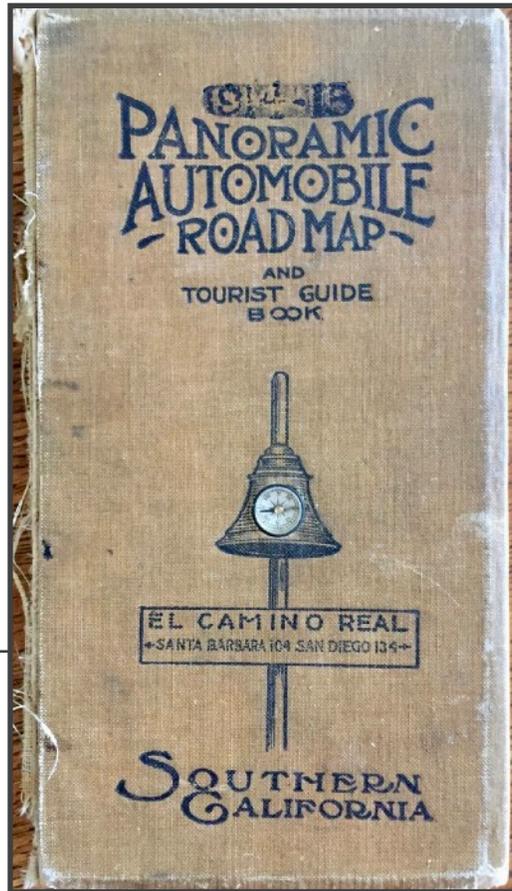




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Recently I was going through things at my folks' house and came across this old book, *The Panoramic Automobile Road Map*, which has been in our family for many years. It was published in 1914 for the '14-'15 season.

That's an actual compass embedded in the cover. It's easy to forget what the roads and travel were like back then. And I think you will get a kick out of a couple of the comments regarding travel in our area.



**PANORAMIC AUTOMOBILE ROAD MAP**



1909

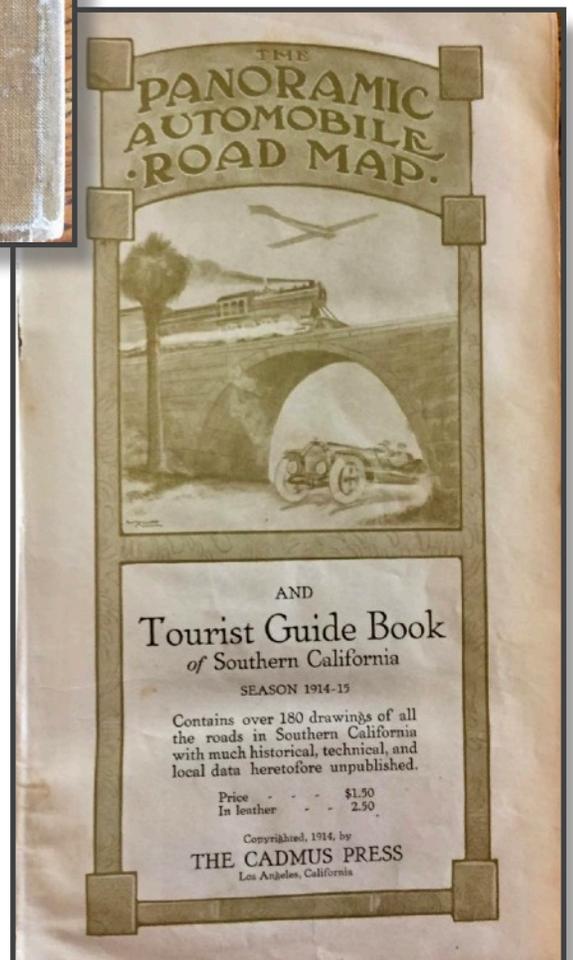
I did a little online research and found that they have also become quite collectible.

One in about the same condition was sold at auction for \$475.

“Estimate: \$200 - \$250  
Sold for: \$475  
Closed on 4/26/2017”

One in worse condition, without a compass, was sold at auction for \$1900 three years later.

“Estimate: \$300 - \$375  
Sold for: \$1,900  
Closed on 4/29/2020”



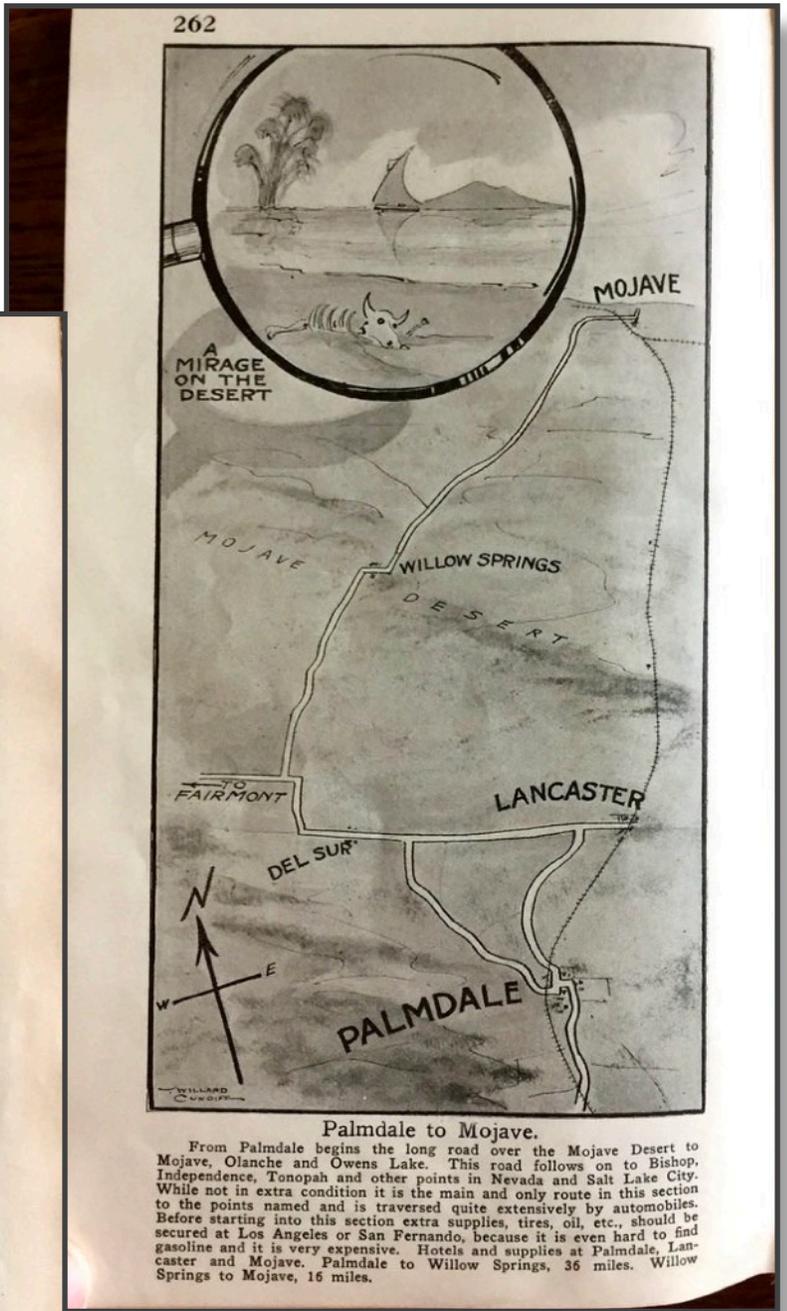
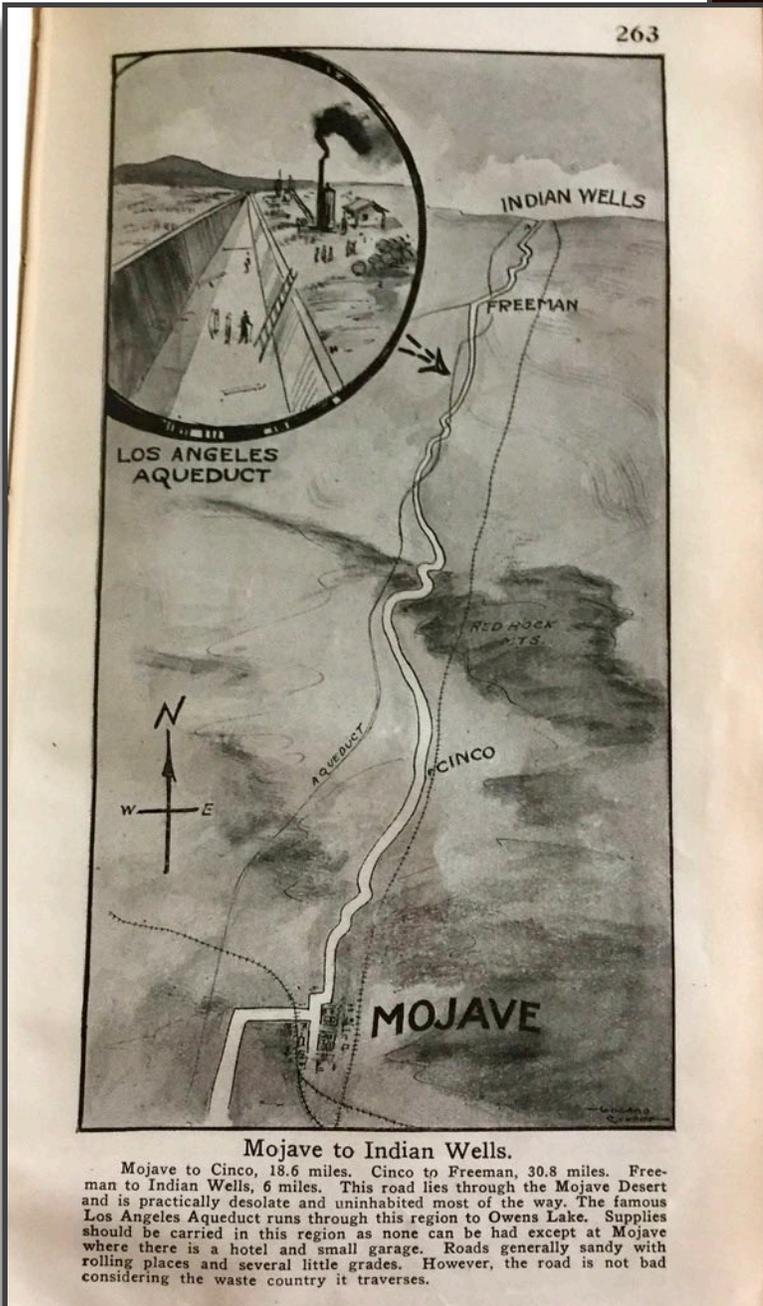
*The author explains how he came to write this tourist guide:*

This rare, early automobile guide by Willard Cundiff contains over 180 bird's-eye view drawings of "all the roads" in southern California. In the author's words from the preface: "A few months ago I recklessly enjoyed a ride in an aeroplane. This gave me an idea, and I learned some new truths about the rarified laws of perspective. This book, like my voyage in the nether, is a decided departure from old methods...I believe it far exceeds anything yet attempted along these lines." (<https://www.oldworldauctions.com/catalog/lot/177/178>)



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Check this out, it says, "Before starting into this section (Palmdale to Mojave - at right) extra supplies, tires, oil, etc., should be secured at Los Angeles or San Fernando, because it is even hard to find gasoline and it is very expensive." One of the earliest prices of gas found on the internet was: "In August 1915, the average price of a gallon of gas nationwide was 12.5 cents."



At left - Mojave to Indian Wells: "The famous Los Angeles Aqueduct runs through this region to Owens Lake." Again it warns to carry supplies. "However, the road is not bad considering the waste country it traverses."



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*A Christmas gift for you - the story of some special gifts from the air in the Antelope Valley, many years ago. Special thanks to the Antelope Valley Rural Museum and Dayle DeBry who interviewed Earl Specht about his experience as a six-year old boy.*



## A MERRY CHRISTMAS STORY



*Six-year old Earl Specht in 1947*

One of the most intriguing bits of Antelope Valley's holiday lore occurred in December 1947. This is an account from Earl Specht, AVRМ member. Earl helps to scan, catalog and restore photos for the Museum. Two days before Christmas, 6-year-old Earl Specht was playing with his older sister and three cousins in a field on his family's Westside ranch when a military cargo plane flew over them. "Santa went back into the plane and a large box was pushed out of the airplane on a parachute, which opened up and after Santa gave us another wave, the door closed." "It passed very low over the ranch, so low that we could see the pilots waving," Specht, now living in the Netherlands, wrote in an account printed by West Antelope Valley Historical Society newsletter editor Dayle DeBry in the society's December newsletter several years ago. Specht wrote that he remembers the happening "just like it was yesterday." He continued: "We were very surprised to see such a plane over the ranch flying so low, but we all waved back. The plane did not fly away but seemed to climb a bit into the sky and returned, flying again over the ranch. Then a side door opened up on the plane and a Santa Claus waved at us. "Santa went back into the plane and a large box was pushed out of the airplane on a parachute, which opened up and after Santa gave us another wave, the door closed." The children ran toward the descending box, trying to get there before it landed. Specht and his cousin Patti were the littlest, so while the older children climbed a barbed wire fence they had to run to a gate. "Of



course we were too late," Specht wrote. "The parachute had landed and by that time the rest of the family (who had heard the lowflying aircraft) had arrived too. It was a big box, but my eyes were glued to the parachute; I had never seen anything so neat." The adults carried the parachute and box back to the house. Inside the box were canned goods, toys, candy and fruit. Being 6 years old at the time, Specht remembered the box as coming from "the government," with a note asking for the return of the parachute. But an Antelope Valley Ledger-Gazette article indicates that the aerial delivery was by United Airlines and the U.S. Marine Corps, whose reservists that year in Los Angeles launched a campaign that is still going in 2010 as the Toys for Tots program. About the same time as Specht and his family were opening their Christmas box, Westside rancher Roy Barth watched another box parachute from a plane and later told the Ledger-Gazette about it. Like the plane Specht saw, this one circled around Barth and another farmer before an object attached to a parachute was pushed out the cargo door. "When the thing finally came to earth Roy went over to it and found a package," the Ledger-Gazette reported. "Opening it carefully, he found a letter inside addressed to whoever found the package: "Merry Christmas from the United States Marine Corps in cooperation with United Airlines. Please return the parachute." Inside the box Barth found oranges, apples, fruit cake, candy, a can of coffee and other edibles, the Ledger-Gazette said.



<https://www.avmuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/AVRM-Newsletter-2017-12-Vol1-No3.pdf>



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**What:** KAHS Annual Christmas Dinner and Meeting at Mavericks at 2763 Sierra Hwy, Rosamond, CA (Located on Sierra Hwy, park on the south side of the building.)

**When:** Thursday, December 14th at 5:30 pm.

**Who:** Members and friends of the KAHS. We still have room for more to sign up. Cost is \$30 per person. Mail a check to KAHS (at PO Box 1255 Rosamond, CA 93560), use Zelle, or hand your money to one of the board members.

**RSVP:** Thursday, December 7th - payment must be received in by then to reserve seat!

**Highlights:** the Annual Gift Raffle and the Trivia Quiz. Donations for the raffle will GLADLY be accepted.

# Merry Christmas

Rawley Davis from the YouTube video about his grandfather Rawley Duntley and deep pit barbecuing: "After that 24 hours, it's pretty good eatin'!"

Watching the video gave me a whole new appreciation for the work that goes into this delicious meat, along with the beans and salsa, and made me hungry all over again.

Hope you enjoy the video too. Thanks, Rawley! (jw)



Click on the link below for all the KAHS videos!

Check out the KAHS videos which are available on YouTube. Or viisit 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.

- ★ 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>



## Kern Antelope Historical Society - Membership Application

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

	Membership Type	Dues	Amount Paid
Name _____	Student/ Active 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.



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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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## 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  
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 - 3611 Rosamond Blvd, 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**