



# Antelope Horn

Newsletter of the Kern-Antelope Historical Society, Inc.  
Member of the Conference of California Historical Societies  
April, 2024

## 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, April 11th (2nd Thursday)**
- ❖ **Time: 5:30 pm**
- ❖ **Where: Rosamond Public Library, Rosamond, CA**
- ❖ **Speaker: Gretchen Winfrey Presents: "The Historic Settlers Circle Map"**

**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/)

## HISTORIC SETTLERS CIRCLE MAP

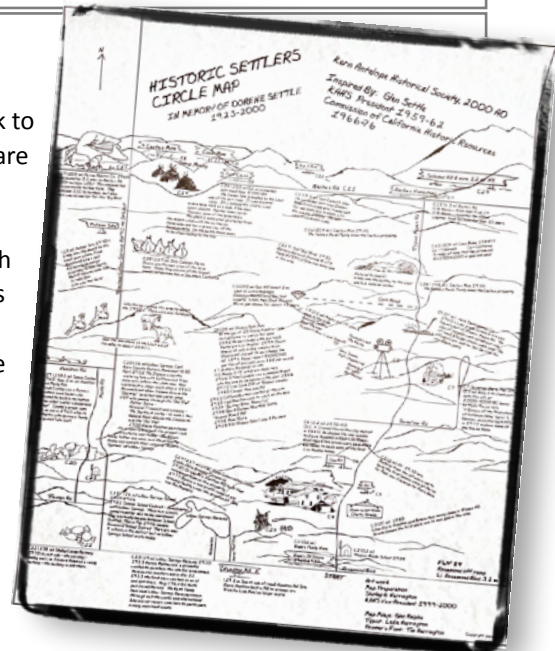
If you think of the economy in Rosamond and how most people make a living, you might think of the aerospace industry, maybe farming a few years back, and going back to much earlier times, mining brought many people to the area. Some of these pursuits are still going on today. Also, many people are employed by the school district, and many have worked for the government, had various other jobs in Rosamond, Lancaster and elsewhere. There are also a number of recreational activities popular in the area which includes exploring the hills and valleys, by foot, horse or, today, by off-highway vehicles (OHV).

Well one of the items which the Kern Antelope Historical Society has for sale is the *Historic Settlers Circle Map*. What an interesting document it is. The "Settler's Map", prepared in 2000 A.D., 'in memory of Dorene Settle' and 'inspired by Glen Settle', shows many sites of local interest. The actual area covered is roughly between Rosamond Boulevard on the south and Backus Road on the north, and by Tropic Mojave Road on the east and 90th St. on the west. Many of the sites have to do with mining, farming, even Edwards Air Force Base is referenced. Many are clearly remembered. Others are a mystery. In some cases, it brings up the need for more documentation to really know what the place was or what was done there.

Many people know of the Tropic Gold Mine and the big Glory Hole. Did you have any idea that around 40 movies and television programs were filmed there (as of 2000)? Many remember the Chili Cookoffs, how about the Time Tunnel - do you remember when it is to be opened? Well, most of us won't be around in 2866 when it happens!

Speaking of movies and TV shows many have been filmed in the area north of Tropic. Can you name any? How about *Gunsmoke*, *Bonanza*, *High Chaparral*, *Air Wolf* and *Blazing Saddles* to name a few. Rae and I were out for a drive in 1971 after a brief snowstorm and came across James Garner and the crew of *Nichols*, filming north of Tropic Mine. (Nichols used a motorcycle in the TV program but here he's back on his horse.)

How about waterskiing in the desert? Spade Cooley's "Water Wonderland" in the 60's was a planned recreational spot which would have included a ski lake, the remains of which, may still be seen today, north of Hamilton Road and west of 90th St. From the "Settlers Map" you



James Garner signing an autograph for Rae & me.





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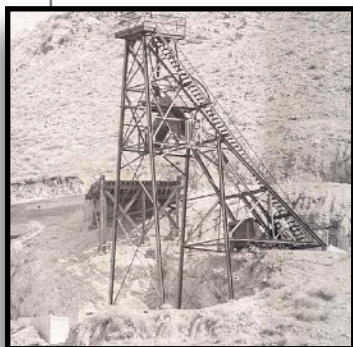
can learn what brought Cooley's dream to a tragic end.

Many of you may recall the days of growing onions in the area and Calandri's 'onion shed' on 90th St, which was recently demolished. Does your memory take you back as far as the many turkey farms in the area? Ralston Purina had an experimental farm near 90th. Could you cook a 100 pound turkey in your oven?

Have you explored the native American winter camp site just north of Backus and east of 90th? From the "Settlers Map" you can learn how the children may have entertained themselves. And have you heard of Koehn Lake? (Not me!) But apparently somewhere along Backus Rd. there is a location called the "Salt Caves" where native Americans from Koehn Lake traded salt to coastal tribes in exchange for seashells and trinkets. And where was Koehn Lake (actually a dry, salty lakebed)? About twenty miles north of California City. In more recent history, the salt of Koehn Lake was mined and the town of Saltdale sprang up. "During its heyday in the 1910s, Saltdale produced tens of thousands of tons of salt a year. For decades after, the mine supported a community with a post office, school and company store. All that's left today are remnants of an expired town slowly fading away." (<https://www.sfgate.com/travel/article/saltdale-ghost-town-vanishing-18591851.php>)

Most everyone has heard of mines being "salted". Evidently it happened west of Tropico Rd. when the Verdi Development Co. salted a low-grade uranium deposit in the sixties. Company officials, guilty of selling bogus stocks and such, were given a "free vacation - to San Quentin, apparently. Many legitimate mines have been worked in this area - producing much gold, silver, and other minerals. Some of the big investors included Bernard Baruch, Gianinia (of B of A fame) and Cid Grauman (of Grauman's Chinese Theater) mined ore in the area.

The Cactus Queen was mined by the Mudd family in the 1930's. I found this about Mudd. "Harvey Seeley Mudd was a mining engineer and founder, investor, and president of Cyprus Mines Corporation, a Los Angeles-based international enterprise that operated copper mines on the island of Cyprus. Mudd was vice president of the board of trustees for the California Institute of Technology. He helped found Claremont McKenna College. The science and engineering college, Harvey Mudd College, at Claremont was named in memory of him." ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harvey\\_Seeley\\_Mudd](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harvey_Seeley_Mudd)). Harvey Mudd was born in Leadville, CO, the son of a mining manager so he came by his mining interest naturally. This information mentions the Mudds and comes from *Gold-Fever - 40 Years Digging Antelope Valley History*, a KAHS book. It says, "A number of old buildings, slated for demolition, were eventually brought to Tropico and "...priority was given to an old building which came from Soledad Mountain. At one time, it had been used as a mine boarding house by the Mudd Mining Company in the 1890's. The Mudds were prominent mining people in the West and they eventually, in the 1930's, developed the Cactus Mine on the Middle Butte north of Willow Springs..." In May 1959, the first official meeting of the Kern Antelope Historical Society was called to order by Glen Settle, acting as the first Chairman. The building also filled to capacity with many Valley old-timers."

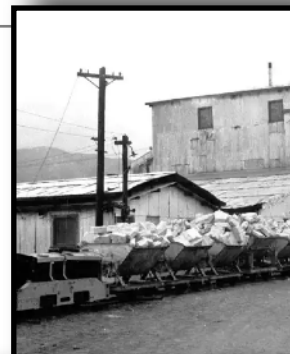


Cactus Queen Mine, Middle Butte, Mojave  
<https://mojavemuseum.org/project/mining/cactus-queen-mine-middle-butte-mojave-calif/>

And what about a candy factory at 90th St and Rosamond Blvd, in the seventies? I know of a few people who remember it. According to our Settlers Map it was financed by "Shelby and Lee Iacocca". I'm thinking it might be Carroll Shelby? Another location mentions Beyers Oil Stoves near the corner of Tropico and Rosamond Blvd. Does anyone remember anything about that - from the 1920's to the 1930's?

Did you know that there was a school at Domino around 1921, a community near 170th St West? Later that school district consolidated with Willow Springs, then in 1946 they became the Rosamond School District, which is now Southern Kern Unified School District.

There is much more on the map - early visitors to Willow Springs, wild horses, the Sweetser Early Man Site, a meteor site - wow. There is even a tiny link to the Ralph's Supermarkets and the Gorman area. (Learn more at the meeting.) Maybe you can share some information about historical locations at our next meeting. We would love to learn more.



Saltdale, Koehn Lake



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**The Cross on the Hill in Rosamond**

Easter came fairly early this year, in March. But thought you still might enjoy hearing a little history of the Cross on the Hill. Recently a question came up about who put it up there and fortunately one of our own KAHS members and life-long resident of Rosamond, Jo Loomis Kenngott, knew the answer. In fact, she was ‘closely related’ to the story.

She reports that her dad, Robert “Bob” Loomis who also lived his entire life here, except for his stint in the Army, was the Boy Scout troop leader and he wanted to make a cross to place on the hill and the Boy Scouts painted it. He towed it up there. They poured the cement and bolted it in. This was in 1968.



*Photo shared by Jo Kenngott of unidentified persons at the cross raising; courtesy of Jim Dudley (from another long-time Rosamond family) so probably Jim or a sibling in the picture with other scouts. Are you?*



In the 70’s. the cross was cut down. Since it was near Homecoming time, many suspected a school rivalry prank was the cause - but it was never proven apparently. And thankfully, Bob went up there and welded it back up!

*ABOVE—some of the Youth kids from Wayside Chapel at the Cross approximately 12 years ago, photo shared by Jo Kenngott.*

**Preserving History - Whether It’s Community or Family History:** Your story and the story of our community are often part of the same bigger story. We would love to help you preserve and share it.

Maybe some of you have knowledge of old places and things around town, like the stories above. Thankfully Jo shared her story about the cross. Recently we heard from a Dees family member about Juanita’s and some history of that location and Gretchen was given copies of photographs which she is looking forward to sharing. Maybe you have memories of events that may not take place any more. How about the rodeos, community fairs, or various organizations you may have been a part of? We would love to hear from you.



At our last meeting Chavonne offered to get together and talk about how to help preserve this history. If you have some ideas, but aren’t sure how to share, just let her know. The historical society would be glad to help with this.

And here are just a few tips about preserving photos and documents.

- Get them to a stable environment. Attics and basements aren’t the best places. Around here, it might be simply storage sheds where these items have been kept.
- Label everything with complete names and dates. And it is suggested you use a carbon pencil on photos, not pens or markers.
- And keep these irreplaceable photos and documents in acid-free or archival-quality albums and scrapbooks.

These are just a few hints to help preserve our treasured history.



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Annual Election of Board Members

The annual election of board members will take place at the regular April 11th meeting. Vice president Delores Julian announced the following nominees: President - Gretchen Winfrey; Directors At-Large: Terry Landsiedel, Judy O'Loughlin, Chavonne Bradley; Vice President - Delores Julian; Secretary - Janet Winters; Treasurer - Charlanne Taylor & Lori Cruz (sharing the position).

Reminder: Membership Fees Due

The KAHS will begin collecting dues in May for the 2024-2025 year. You can bring cash, checks, or use Zelle. See the membership form below, this page, for prices and how to 'zelle', if interested.



We had a great time at our March meeting, hearing about Jane Pinheiro, "The Poppy Lady", as shared by Margaret Rhyne. All who attended got a free ticket for a drawing of a packet of Jane Pinheiro notecards. The lucky attender was Gayle Joyce, congratulations! Margaret also had some samples of Jane's artwork on display, shared by Lynn DuPratt, who wasn't able to attend. If you missed the meeting, or would just like to see the presentation again, click on the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z0JXCfLL9FU>.

Click on the link below for ALL the KAHS videos!



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

- ★ 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

Table with 4 columns: Field (Name, Mail Address, City, ST, Zip, Phone, Email, Date), Membership Type (Student/Active Military, Individual, Couple, Family, Business), Dues (\$5, \$15, \$20, \$30, \$35), and Amount Paid.

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**