



Volume 3, No. 2

Antelope Valley Rural Museum

JUNE 2019

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Giovanni “G” Simi



We are starting preparation for the 2019 Antelope Valley Fair and Alfalfa Festival. Please be willing to help this year at the Fair when Luci calls you.

The theme is “Sweet Delights and Carnival Lights.” There should be plenty of sweet treats available this year!

We have the Bullfrog Poker Run coming on June 8, honoring Sgt. Steve Owen. If you are available and want to see some nice motorcycles, please come on by.

Over the past year we have acquired several pieces of equipment donated by John and Linda Stivers and the Krueger Family. Dave Pickus and Jeff Godde have done the arranging and hauling to get the equipment to the Museum. Thanks Dave and Jeff.

The Kids Ag Day event sponsored by the Farm Bureau was a huge success. 900 kids attended this event, and it was invigorating seeing that many kids and their adult chaperones go through the Museum along with all of the other things they could see or do at this event. Many thanks to Julie Kyle and the Farm Bureau for their hard work making sure future generations know where their food and clothing is coming from.

Lynn DuPratt, Kristi Word and Sheila Sola took the museum on the road with the Pancho Barnes exhibit to the Kern Antelope Historical Society open house at the Wanda Kirk Library in Rosamond. Thank you Sheila Sola and Dayle DeBry for organizing the display, and to Bill Rawlings for making the new traveling display case.

Please remember we are open on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Drop by and lend a hand or take a walk through the history of the Valley. If you are from an area of the Valley you feel hasn’t been represented we would love your help in setting up the exhibit.

See you at the Fair!



RAWLINGS' REVIEW



On June 8th we will again be the first poker card stop for the 3rd **Annual AV Frog Fest** poker run. Come to the museum to see our First Responders Exhibit & greet the riders – or, for entry and participation information go to: www.helpforheroes.us - Events – AV Frog Fest.

Clean Sweep Broom Contest is on again. Please come to the museum or email me at avmuseum@verizon.net to purchase your broom for \$20 and enter one of the 4 classes of competition; 6 to 12 yrs., 13 to 19 yrs., 20 + yrs., & Family or Group.



The May 5th **Flea Market** was a financial success as we raised over \$1200 for our New Building Fund. Thanks to those who have donated & delivered items to sell, and to those volunteers who set up, sold, and helped take down after a long day in the sun and wind. Thanks also are due to the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce for assigning us a prime location to sell.

To date we have received \$1387 in donations through the **Network for Good program on Facebook**. Thanks to those who have chosen the AV Rural Museum for donations to celebrate their birthdays, etc.

Please remember to log onto Smile.amazon.com and name the **Antelope Valley Rural Museum of History** as your chosen charity when you shop and purchase on Amazon. We receive a portion of the purchase price without costing you anything.

The AVRМ is seeking small to medium size **rustic & rusty** items to possibly be incorporated in the design of our **DONOR WALL** for the new building,

UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2019

JUNE 1: Board meeting the first Saturday of the month. Museum open 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

JUNE 8: 3rd Annual Frog Fest Poker Run with a stop at the AVRМ.

JUNE 15: Museum open 10:00—2:00 p.m.

JULY 6: Board meeting the first Saturday of the month. Museum open 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

JULY 20: Museum open 10:00—2:00 p.m.

AUGUST 16—AUGUST 25: Antelope Valley Fair & Alfalfa Festival, 2019 - “Sweet Delights & Carnival Nights.”

SEPTEMBER 28: SAVE THE DATE! AVRМ annual fundraiser.

as well as decorative enhancements throughout the museum. Gears, pulleys, gauges, tools, implements, utensils, etc. are wanted.

The AVRМ is also looking for past **AV Fair belt Buckles and AV Fair Pins** for a permanent display. Duplicate items will be sold in our gift shop in the future. You may deliver to the museum or mail to us at AVRМ, P.O. Box 1316, Lancaster, CA 93584.

On June 15th we will be recording past **AV Fair and Antelope Valley memories** from anyone interested in telling their experiences on camera. If you know a “Pioneer” or Old Timer who might have some tales to share, please bring them to the museum. Mauricio Escobar and his crew will be professionally doing the interviews for the Fair and the AVRМ. *Below: Barbara Sterk ready for her closeup with the film crew!*



Finally – **SAVE THE DATE** – the evening of Saturday, **September 28th** will be our annual fundraiser. We always welcome quality raffle and auction items. More info to come soon.

**NAMES AND ENDEAVORS COMPILED BY THE OLDTIMERS ORGANIZATION—1964
LEDGER GAZETTE NEWSPAPER**

While going through some old photos and newspapers, I came across a story about Antelope Valley Oldtimers and pioneers in an article about the 1964 Oldtimers Barbeque. Included were many names of local farmers, ranchers and businessmen/women with their “endeavors” listed, not in any particular order. Of course, these are not *all* of the pioneers, but are the names recalled by the Oldtimers organization.

FRAKES—cattle and grain
KEELER—operated the Star Route from Lancaster to Lebec and did wheat farming
GODDE—grain farming, cattle raising, chickens, almonds (the Godde pass was named for the family)
NAGEL—hotelman
BEERY—alfalfa and grain
EICHENHOFER—vineyards
RITTER—vineyards, shipped wine all over the United States
MUNZ—storekeeper and postmaster of Palmdale, cattleman, grain
BARNES—grain and cattle
WEBBER—hotelman
CARTER—almonds, lumber yard, owned part of the townsite, drilled wells, accountant
CAMERON—owned the Ledger Gazette
SWEET—orchards
CAR—orchards
MARTIN—orchards
SINCLAIR—orchards
BONES—orchards
BRESLIN—orchards
PALLETT—orchards
WEST—orchards
DYER—cattlemen
DUNTLEY—cattleman
MODIE—cattleman
SETTLE—railroad section boss
BURTON—alfalfa, gold mining
GOOKINS—cattleman
STRATMAN—cattleman, grain
REDMAN—alfalfa
BLUM—orchards and flowers
KIDD—cattleman
PATTERSON—cattleman
CASSOU—cattle and grain
COCHAM—grain
GRAVES—discovered the Home gold mine
CURTIS—grain and almonds
MAXWELL—grain, cattleman and fruit
ELLIS—cattleman
OLDHAM—bakery
RADLOFF—grain
HULL—cement business
MUDGETT—goat ranch and gold mining
LANE—long line teams operated by jerk line, road building, ridge-route and aqueduct, developer
IKELER—vineyards, grain
SNYDER—grain
SPECHT—cattleman and grain
BLASDELL—grain
DOYLE—constable
WEBB—Rosamond hotel owner

COWBOYS/CATTLEMEN OF THE ANTELOPE VALLEY



Above: Alfred Mayet, Harry Vreeland, Harry Butterworth, Loring Stuckey, ? Narva (on white horse) and Oliver Mitchell. See page 7-8 for a new series "Antelope Valley Cowboys" featuring Alfred Mayet.

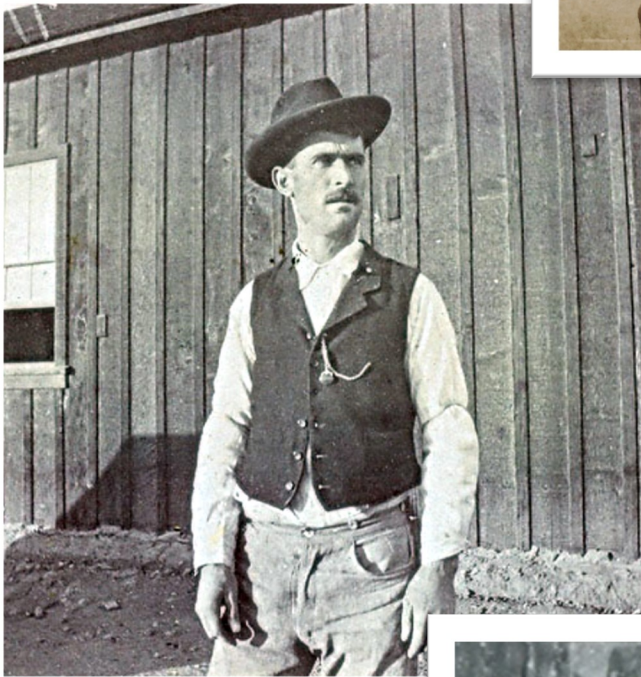
Right: Harry Butterworth



Left: Cattlemen, early 1900s at Buckhorn Springs



Unknown cowboy at Buckhorn Springs, a friend of Ed Sease.



William Mudgett

Will Frakes & William Mudgett at Camp Cody



CATTLEMEN OF ANTELOPE VALLEY PREPARING FOR ANNUAL RODERO
Owners of Range Herds Leave Lancaster on May 30 for First Round-Up at Oak Creek
Outfits will Camp Near Lancaster June 7

Camping outfits, impediments and the necessary equipment for the annual Rodero [Roundup] of the cattlemen in the Antelope Valley are being prepared by local rangers for the first round-up of the season which is to be held early in June at Oak Creek, about 35 miles northwest of Lancaster.

On the morning of May 30, Valley stockmen of this vicinity will meet at Charley Grave's place, about 15 miles north of the town, and will join the cattlemen from the north at Oak Creek. H.J. Butterworth, whose cattle have ranged this section, north and east for 20 years, will have charge of this division. His aides will be selected by vote after the trip is begun. Last year they were Messrs. George Kenton and Ed Linebarger. The rangers own some particularly fine saddle horses and ponies and these will be put through their paces at the several roderos.

From Oak Creek the cattlemen will work back toward Lancaster and they will camp at Vreeland's well, about five miles west of town, on June 7. The usual branding of the cattle and picturesque "stunts" which mark these annual events will prove a drawing card for everyone who can visit the camp.

The outfit will work in conjunction with others at many different points and will wind up at the Mojave river, arriving at Barstow July 3 or 4, where contests, roping and other special features will mark the grand finale. From that point, the cattle to be fattened will be shipped to the beet fields at Compton and Huntington Park or to the alfalfa ranches maintained by many of the owners. Market prices are considered good by owners of Valley herds who will receive more than a fair profit from their cattle.

Said Mr. Butterworth: "The range looks a great deal better than for years past. A number of years ago, with an abundance of rain, the feed was excellent; then came the dry seasons and it was scarce; but last winter's rains and the late spring precipitations were followed by a luxuriant desert growth and the mountain feed will be green much later than usual. For this reason I expect that the cattlemen will market considerable beef on the wild feed alone. This includes alfileria, or wild grass, and its seed when matured is fine for fattening and the grass lasts until winter. Then; there are many varieties of wild flowers, the bunch grass which grows in decomposed granite soil, and the sage brush, which flourishes on the desert and its flowers and seed are both good. Where nothing else will grow, one finds the sand grass to the northwest of here where miles of the scrubby peavine which, with its pod, constitute an excellent food. All brush this year was A No. 1." The loco weed is very generally omitted by the cattle in their menu, but horses will occasionally eat it and pay the extreme penalty.

The cattle range in this section extends from the Mojave river on the east to beyond Gorman Station on the west, approximately 150 miles; and south from Newhall, north to the south fork of Kern river, 200 miles.

An ample supply of water for the cattle is obtained from artesian wells, from springs and the flow from wind mills, beside the waters of the Mojave river. About 25 vaqueros range the Valley the year around and many have won their spurs through daring and intrepid feats of horsemanship and the skillful manipulation of the lariat.

The commissary department of the cattlemen is made up of mess wagons which accompany some of the largest squads of men from different sections of the range. Two wagons will be sent out from Mojave, two from Big Rock Creek, one from Lancaster. Forty or more men follow the outfit and attend to all the culinary duties. Requisitions are made upon the stores wherever the camps are established, but the piece de resistance of all is, of course, the savory barbequed beef which the adepts prepare with rare and consummate skill.

According to Ed Linebarger, one of the best informed cattlemen here, 10,000 head have roamed on the outside range the past season; 20,000 more have been in the enclosures, making a total of 30,000 head. Our informant reports they are looking fine and in good condition. While some large herds were sold last year, new cattle outfits are taking their place in the Valley and some of the old herds have received additions through the purchase of good stock, the owners anticipating seasons of good forage for their cattle.

Among large stock owners are H.J. Butterworth, who has from 1,200 to 1,300 head; the Powers Brothers and W.H. Robinson, who have a camp at Halleck, east of here, represent 1,000 head or more; Gabe and James Bright, Tehachapi, about 1,400; Manuel Andrada, Leonis Valley, about 800; William Bailey, west of the Tejon Ranch, 700; Messrs. James Monroe and John Duhart, the Fairmont Ranch, 500. Walter Bauker is the general manager of the Tejon Ranch which represents 2,000 head roaming the Mojave range and coming down to the

Antelope Valley. Numerous owners of herds varying from 150 to 300 and 400 head are scattered all about.

Among “oldest timers” in this section are John Mathews, of Big Rock Creek, who has been in the range business between 40 and 50 years, and W.H. Robinson of Halleck, who has resided in the Valley about the same period. Both are full of reminiscences of the “good old days” of exciting pioneer adventures.

While not one of the oldest, established cattlemen here, Ed Linebarger is nevertheless reminiscent of early days in these parts, having driven cattle through Tia Juana to San Luis Obispo in 1869—three months enroute. This was before the coming of railroads when antelopes were at home and the Indians roamed, kept watch over by the soldiers stationed at Fort Tejon.



ALFRED “ALF” MAYET & THE MAYET FAMILY 1872—1959

Alfred Mayet was born June 22, 1872 in Los Angeles, California, the son of Louis Mayet, born about 1822 in France, and Maria Riesgo, born in Mexico around 1843. The first sign of Alfred’s father Louis is recorded in the Daily Alta newspaper in San Francisco, CA. Louis was a delegate of the Marseilles Expedition and arrived in San Francisco onboard the Princess Belgiajosa around 1850. He is then listed on the Nevada State Census in 1852 as L. Miayet, age 30, born in France.

By 1859, Louis is selling his blacksmith shop and residence in Quincy, located in northern California. He is married to Maria by the early 1860s, with son Louis Henry born in Mexico in 1865 and daughter Carmelita born in California in 1869. Alfred was born in Los Angeles in 1872, but by 1880, father Louis is a widow and the family is living in Soledad Township, Elizabeth Lake. The area where he lives is a “very prosperous neighborhood.” The *San Francisco Examiner* newspaper reported December 16, 1883, the neighbors in the Elizabeth Lake area were “busy preparing their lands for another crop and getting ready for the grand dinner and Fair...They danced ‘till daylight, and all went home with happy hearts in the morning. The table was laden with the best of everything and the finest wines that Los Angeles afforded.” Some of the participants were Heffner, Andrada, Frakes Mayet, Crain, Tweedy, Porter, Myers and Harris. All familiar Antelope Valley names.

Just two years later, Mr. Louis Mayet would pass away. Young son Alfred would be appointed Constable of Fairmont in July of 1896 at just 24 years of age. Alfred was well-known in the Antelope Valley and was an expert cattleman. An article in the *Los Angeles Herald* newspaper, February 15, 1906, describes the difficult job of the Constable.

CATTLE RUSTLER AGAIN IN JAIL

Chas. Caldwell Captured By Constable

Alleged Bad Man and Cattle Thief Only Enjoys a Few Hours of Liberty After Escape

Confronted by the cold, passionless muzzle of a Colt’s revolver in the hands of Deputy Constable Alfred Mayet of Palmdale early yesterday morning, Charles, alias “Spotty” Caldwell, alleged leader of one of the most desperate gangs of cattle rustlers in the country, quietly put up his hands and was brought to Los Angeles and lodged in the county jail.

Caldwell escaped from Deputy Sheriff Bert Franklin while on the way to Los Angeles late Tuesday evening and kept his liberty scarcely more than nine hours before he was retaken.

The alleged cattle rustler was taken to Palmdale for preliminary examination before Justice Watkins Tuesday in charge of Franklin and Deputy District Attorney North, who was to prosecute him. Attorney Luther Brown was one of the party and represented Caldwell.

Following the examination, in which Caldwell was held to answer to the grand larceny charge in the superior court, the party boarded a caboose on a freight train and started on the return trip.

Jumps From Moving Train

“Caldwell had been behaving himself all along and Franklin didn’t put the irons on him,” said Attorney

North yesterday. “We were going along at a great rate of speed down through the Soledad Canyon and we were nearing Saugus when the escape occurred.

“Franklin and I had been talking to Attorney Brown, and as it was very dark in the caboose we could just barely distinguish one another.

“The first intimation we had of the escape was when the whistle blew for Saugus station and at the same moment the train slowed down. Franklin turned to watch the man and he was gone and the front door of the caboose was open. He must have leaped from the train while it was going at a terrific rate of speed.

“As soon as we reached Norwalk, Franklin telegraphed for aid from Los Angeles and telephoned officers north and south of where the man escaped. He then procured horses and awaited the arrival of the searching party.”

In the meantime officers along the line had not been inactive. Deputy Mayet, as soon as he learned of the escape, started for the house of Russell Burns, Caldwell’s cousin, who is also charged with cattle stealing. It was thought that Caldwell would attempt to reach the house near Palmdale and get funds from Burns with which to make good his escape, as he has many friends in the Antelope Valley.

Mayet was on horseback tramping along the tracks toward the cottage when he saw the figure of a man walking along before him. The stranger was hurrying along and paying not attention to anyone, and the horse, walking through the soft mud, made no sound.

Suddenly Caldwell turned and as he did so he looked down the muzzle of the officer’s revolver. “Throw up your hands, quick,” said Mayet as Caldwell made a suggestive motion toward his hip, and the escaped prisoner promptly turned and marched back to Palmdale in front of the officer. He was brought to Los Angeles yesterday morning and stated that following his escape he had boarded a freight car but had been kicked off by the brakeman and compelled to walk.

Alfred Mayet would go on to capture many thieves and bandits throughout the Antelope Valley.

On July 20, 1906, Alfred married Maria Busse in Los Angeles, California. His brother Louis and wife Manuella “Nellie” (Andrada) Mayet witnessed the ceremony.

In April of 1910 Alfred’s occupation is listed as a stockman on the open range, in the Antelope Valley, Lancaster Precinct. He is living alone but listed as married.

By May of 1910 he is with his wife Marie and listed as a cowboy working on a ranch, living on Fir St., a part of San Antonio Township, Los Angeles.

On the January 1920 census he and Marie are living at the same address and his occupation is a mining engineer.

Alfred’s wife Marie passed away on September 8, 1922 in Los Angeles.

In the 1930s through the 1940s, Alfred returns to the Antelope Valley and is listed as a blacksmith and a miner. By 1950 he is back in Los Angeles as his health is failing.

Alfred passed away on February 16, 1959 at the Pleasant View Sanitarium in Monrovia, California. Cause of death was pneumonia, bronchitis, and terminal cancer. He was entombed with his sister Carmelita “Carrie” (Mayet) Maxwell at the Inglewood Park Cemetery, Inglewood, Los Angeles Co., California.



*Maria (Riesgo) Mayet, Louis Mayet and son
Louis Henry Mayet, circa 1869.*



2019 Membership Application for the **Antelope Valley Rural Museum**

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

2019 Annual Dues \$20/person _____


Special Interest as a volunteer? _____

Tax deductible Donation \$ _____

Bronze = \$100 Silver = \$1,000 Gold = \$10,000

Please make checks payable to: AV Rural Museum

Mail to: AVRMM P.O. Box 1316, Lancaster, CA 93584

Donate and pay dues via PayPal or credit card on our website: www.avmuseum.org 



Third Annual FROG FEST in honor of Sgt. Steve Owen. AVRMM is the first stop on the ride so be sure and attend to greet the riders! For information on the poker run go to their website at: www.helpforheroes.us Kickstands are up at 10:00 a.m. at Antelope Valley Harley Davidson in Lancaster, CA.

Website: www.avmuseum.org
[www.facebook.com/Antelope Valley Rural Museum](http://www.facebook.com/AntelopeValleyRuralMuseum)

Mailing address:

AVRM
P.O. Box 1316
Lancaster, CA 93584



Contact us:
avmuseum@verizon.net

Donate and pay dues via PayPal and credit card on our website

ANTELOPE VALLEY RURAL MUSEUM GIFT STORE

Annual membership dues	\$20.00
Hats—all baseball hats (Members)	\$10.00
Hats—all baseball hats (Non-members)	\$15.00
Lancaster, CA Through Time	\$25.00
History books—all books are priced at:	
Images of America "Lancaster"	\$20.00
Images of America "Palmdale"	
Legendary Locals of the AV	
(Above AV history books signed by Norma Gurba)	
P-38 Lightning	
Images of America "Edwards Air Force Base"	
DVDs Listed DVDs are priced at:	\$20.00
Jane Pinheiro Wildflowers NEW!	
Yester Years—AV History 1876—1942	
1987 Rural Olympics (narrated)	
Evolution of the Rural Olympics book	
(On DVD—Excel & Word Doc format)	

The AVRM is a 501(c)(3) public charity
EIN: 27-1002922

MISSION STATEMENT: The AVRM will honor the history of the Antelope Valley with documentation, preservation, exhibition, and education.

DONATIONS

Pickus Challenge 2019 Building Fund	\$1,000
Honor the Past Plaques and Display Sponsorship (Custom laser cut wood plaques with Personal memorial or message)	\$1,500
Bronze Sponsorship Donor	\$100
Silver Sponsorship Donor	\$1000
Gold Sponsorship Donor	\$10,000

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