



Volume 1, No. 1

Antelope Valley Rural Museum

JUNE 2017

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CHAIRMAN’S MESSAGE

Giovanni “G” Simi



I am proud to say that the AVRM has regular hours from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the first and third Saturdays of the month.

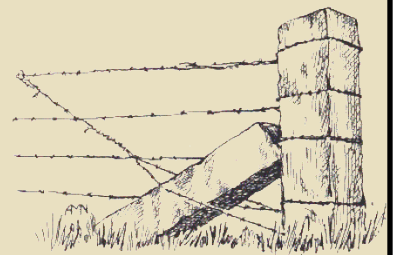
We have recently installed a First Responders display that proudly represents the sacrifices of the men and women in law enforcement and the fire department. Our military displays honoring all branches of the armed services and aerospace displays have grown to represent not only the pioneers of exploration, but the current and beyond technology in the military and aerospace community. Sheila Sola

and Dayle DeBry have done an outstanding job in bringing their expertise to the forefront of these outstanding displays.

The future of the AVRM looks bright as we recently met with Friends of the Fair for an estimated groundbreaking for the new home of the AVRM shortly after the 2018 Fair. The Fair has obtained a grant of approximately \$283,000.00 for installing electrical service for future expansion with will include our new home.

We continue to receive items from families that are important to the history of the Antelope Valley. Recent examples are the donation of a fully restored tractor from Rob Parris, and tractors from the Stivers and Krueger families. Also donated was the Carter Jeep from the Carter family used in parades and for the broadcasts of local sports games on the radio. Many smaller items are received that enhance and personalize our displays such as uniforms, trophies and actual material equipment and supplies that were used in the daily life of people from the Antelope Valley.

We continue to promote and raise funds for the AVRM and thank all who have donated to the future of the museum. Please come, visit, and tell your family’s story.





RAWLINGS' REVIEW

FUNDRAISING is that necessary chore that just about all of us are uncomfortable doing. As of June 1st we have \$33,308.98 in our General Fund, and \$168,767.42 in our Building Fund, for a total of \$208,548.21 cash on hand. All thanks to our fundraising efforts and the generosity of YOU, our donors and members. That's the GOOD NEWS. The BAD NEWS is that we are \$82,000 short of the \$250,000 we need to raise in the next 14 months to meet the Friends of Fair matching funds pledge, without borrowing from our General Fund.

We will continue with our most successful programs which include: The *Pickus Challenge*, (which has brought in over \$75,000 since 2012), *Fund Raisin' for a Barn Raisin'* annual fundraiser on September 30th, and Fair time raffles.

NEW in 2017:

- 1) **Clean Sweep Broom Contest:** Buy a broom from the AVRМ for \$15, decorate it and enter it in the Fair contest. AVRМ keeps \$10 for Building Fund.
- 2) **Lancaster Flea Markets:** Spring and Fall—donate good yard sale items to the AVRМ. We will sell at both flea markets.
- 3) **Antique Reed Organ:** Mickey Burns restored and donated this beautiful instrument to help raise funds. FOR SALE \$2,500 or best reasonable offer!



- 4) **1942 Jeep:** We are considering selling or raffling this Jeep which runs and is mechanically sound. Donate \$4,000 and own it today!



UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2017

JULY 1: Board meeting the 1st Saturday of the month and the Museum is open from 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

JULY 14: Fair Kick Off Dinner

JULY 15: Bullfrog Wild Ride in honor of L.A. County Sheriff, Sgt. Steve Owen. **Save the date!** (See pg. 9)

Museum open the 3rd Saturday of the month from 10:00—2:00 p.m.

AUGUST 5: Board meeting the 1st Saturday of the month and the Museum is open from 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

AUGUST 18—28: Fair time! Museum open every day/night during the Fair. Looking for volunteers to work at the Museum. Please contact Luci Pickus at (661) 406-6619.

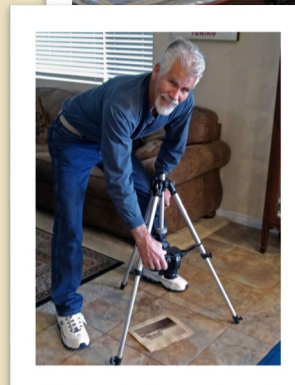
SEPTEMBER 2: Board meeting the 1st Saturday of the month and the Museum is open from 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 16: Museum open the 3rd Saturday of the month from 10:00—2:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 30: Save the date! Annual fundraiser at the Fairgrounds, 5:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

- 5) **Lancaster Then and Now Book:** Norma Gurba, Dayle DeBry, Bill Rawlings and Karl Peterson are nearly ready to send this to the publisher. The book should be available for purchase before Christmas.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Working on the new "Then & Now" book for the AVRМ with (top) Dayle DeBry, Norma Gurba, Bill Rawlings; (left) photographer Karl Peterson.

We are extremely grateful to the Lancaster Sheriff's Station and the family of Sergeant Steven Owen for their loan of Sgt. Owen's uniform and other items to be displayed at the AVRМ in his honor. Sgt. Owen was shot and killed on October 5, 2016 while on duty as he served his Lancaster community. He will always be a hero to us, not just here in the Antelope Valley, but to all—worldwide.



**FIRST RESPONDER
SERGEANT STEVEN CRAIG OWEN
1963—2016**

On Wednesday, October 5, 2016, at approximately 12:35 p.m., Lancaster Station was struck by a tragedy that broke their hearts. Sergeant Steven Owen, a 29-year veteran of the Sheriff's Department, was shot and killed as he responded to a call for service for a residential burglary in progress. Sergeant Owen was the first of two who responded to the residence. In an active attempt to preserve life and property, a containment was established. The suspect encountered Sergeant Owen, produced a handgun and opened fire, striking him. After several hours, Sergeant Owen succumbed to his injuries and passed away at Antelope Valley Hospital. He was surrounded by his family, his Lancaster Station family and other members of the Department.

Steven Craig Owen was born on June 23, 1963, in Encino, California. He was one of two boys of John and Mildred (Millie) Owen. He spent his childhood in the San Fernando Valley and attended Granada Hills Baptist Elementary School and Los Angeles Baptist High School, where he excelled in football and was the team's football captain. He played center and nose guard. Steve attended College of the Canyons and California State University Northridge.

Steve joined the Sheriff's Department in March 1987, where he worked a myriad assignments, eventually promoting to the rank of sergeant in 2011. During his career, he was recognized on several occasions. On two separate occasions, he received the Department's Meritorious Service Award for his outstanding police work and ethic. Additionally, Steve received the Department's Meritorious Conduct—Gold Award for his participation in an armed carjacking call.

Steve is survived by his wife, Tania; his sons, Chadd (wife Nicole) and Brandon; daughter, Shannon; mother Millie; brother Dave (wife Terri); niece, Cassidy and nephew, Daniel.

In his personal life, Sergeant Owen was passionate about his family and his faith. He was an avid off-road bike rider and horse lover. He was a member of the Sheriff's Department's Mounted Enforcement Detail. Sergeant Owen loved gardening and had been tending to gardens since he was a child. While he was physically imposing, he was a gentle giant who had a very soft heart for his wife Tania's bomb dog, Tank. Sergeant Owen loved football and was a mentor and coach to many kids throughout the Antelope Valley, including the Highland Youth Football League as well as Paraclete High School. In addition, he volunteered his time with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Explorer Program. Numerous times, people questioned how he was able to coach, work full time and still be a family man. Everybody concluded he must have been a superhero. With his deep voice, he was nicknamed "Bullfrog" and quickly returned the favor by coming up with some incredibly clever nicknames for everyone else.

Sergeant Owen always led by example, in both his professional life and his personal life.

Based on Sergeant Owen's service to the community with pride and distinction, the Lancaster City Council rededicated Lancaster City Park, the centerpiece of many local activities, as Sergeant Steve Owen Memorial Park.

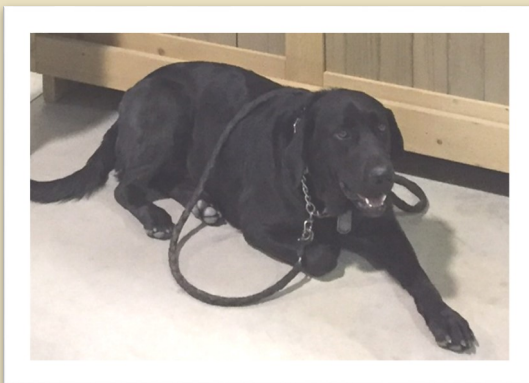
~Lancaster Station Public Information Officer



Above: Sgt. Owen with the Sheriff's Department Mounted Enforcement Detail.

Right: Sgt. Owen's wife, Detective Tania Owen, and Detective Dan Gore with AVRM showcase honoring Sgt. Owen.

Below. Tania's bomb dog "Tank" who held a special place in Sgt. Owen's heart.



This article goes along with our new Timeline displays featuring Antelope Valley sheriffs, firemen, and other first responders who have bravely served our community since the beginning of our local history. Unfortunately, the name of the author of the article was not included. Information was given to the author by Rawley Duntley and Myrtie Webber (from the best of their recollection) in 1955.

HISTORY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT IN ANTELOPE VALLEY REVIEWED ANTELOPE VALLEY PRESS—JANUARY 28, 1955

(AVP Editor's Note: Integral factors in any community are law enforcement agencies and the Antelope Valley Sheriff's Station is no exception.

Today, the AV Sheriff's Station is commanded by Capt. H.P. Stockbridge and personnel include four lieutenants, nine sergeants, 63 deputies, 14 detectives and 11 stenographers, the latter headed by Jan Veen.

That wasn't always the case, as the following article relates, prepared under the direction of Capt. Stockbridge with assistance from members of his department.)

THE OLD AND THE NEW

While conversing with old timers in and around the Antelope Valley some very interesting data was compiled regarding the Sheriff's Department and Los Angeles County and the constables and deputies attached to the Palmdale-Lancaster area. Both communities were small; however, crime still flourished.

MARCUS ANDRADE was the first constable of Antelope Valley that Rawley Duntley and Myrtie Webber could remember. He wore the badge from approximately 1889 until 1891. Andrade also had a large feed store in Lancaster which he managed in his spare time.

MACE MAZE [MAYES], a saloon keeper, was then voted constable of Antelope Valley and served the County from 1891 until 1894 when ELI KAMMER [CAMMER], a Ledger Gazette printer took over.

ELI CAMMER was constable from 1894 until about 1898 and while constable he had the pleasure of arresting his predecessor for cattle rustling. MACE MAZE [MAYES] served a 4-year jail sentence after being found guilty of this charge.

HARRY R. BUTTERWORTH, cattleman, was the next lawman in the history of Antelope Valley and served from 1898 to 1902 when he was beaten in an election by OLIVER MITCHELL.

OLIVER MITCHELL served a four-year term and while constable stayed at the Western Hotel and made it his headquarters. MITCHELL lost out to GAR A. CARTER.

GAR A. CARTER served a double term (8 years) – 1906 – 1914.

ED GLIDDEN then won the election and served until he was shot to death by a bandit who had stolen a car, repainted it and was attempting his get-away. Death came to Constable Glidden at Sierra Highway and Lancaster Boulevard in 1920. A posse of citizens from Palmdale and Lancaster was immediately formed and Constable Glidden's murderer was located near Avenue N and Sierra Highway and was shot to death by Posseman BILL SHUFFLEMAN, now a resident of Pearblossom.

From 1922 until 1933 there were four more Constables of Antelope Township. Constable Hunter, first name unknown, Constable Ed Cummings, Constable John W. Allen, and Constable Thos. (Tom) A. Dearth.

Constable ED CUMMINGS was an early resident of Antelope Valley, and operated a livery stable during the construction of the aqueduct. He later moved to Imperial Valley where he was undersheriff of Imperial County. Constable Cummings was appointed constable of Antelope Township about 1925, and, with his four deputies was the entire police agency of Antelope Valley. Constable TOM DEARTH knew Ed well and states he was a very efficient peace officer. Upon Constable Cummings' retirement because of ill health, Sheriff E.W. (Gene) Biscailluz transferred Constable JOHN ALLEN to Antelope Township from Gardena.

CONSTABLE TOM DEARTH was appointed by Sheriff Biscailuz, June 1, 1936 after having served as constable of Malibu Township for two years. This was the first date the sheriff's sub-station was established in Lancaster, and three years after the sheriff's department donned uniforms. The first sheriff's station was in a building on Sierra Highway near the present location of Philbrick's Pool Hall and Bar. Before that the constable was housed in the small office at the rear of Wescott & Plummer's Drug Store.

The personnel of the first sub-station was as follows:

CAPTAIN J.W. HANBY, station's first captain and a veteran southland peace officer who served under three sheriffs and was at one time captain of the sheriff's farm detail.

SGT. JOHN W. ALLEN (formerly constable), Deputies B.C. Kee, John Taylor, Ray R. Reeves, Pop Hailey, Ben F. Summers, Kenny Wahl, Chas. (Chuck) Kelley, Fred Maxwell, and Constable Tom Dearth. The constable held office in a small building on the site of the present courthouse which burned in 1937.

Constable Tom Dearth and Deputy B.C. Kees are the two remaining officers from the original group. Deputy Kees is working at the Malibu Sheriff's Detention camp and Constable Tom Dearth is the division commander of the Antelope Judicial District Marshal's Office.

Old timers also recall that the salary for constable in the Antelope Valley was \$30 per month with a bonus for each arrest, not to exceed \$100 per month. Constables were guaranteed a dollar a day. During the winter season the constable participated in what was called "The Hobo Harvest," which term was applied because during this season each month several "hobos" were arrested and transported to Los Angeles.

JUDGE DINSMORE served as the Justice of the Peace for several years for the citizens of Lancaster, Palmdale and the surrounding district. Old timers tell of Judge Dinsmore adjourning his court to the local saloon where drinks were purchased for the house by contempt violators.

JUDGE BUCKLEY [BULKLEY] served in both Fairmont Township and Antelope Valley Township for a great number of years. Judge Bulkley resigned to become a bailiff in the Federal Court of Los Angeles, and passed away some years ago.

Upon Judge Bulkley's resignation, the Board of Supervisors appointed JUDGE JOHN F. McNEIL to preside in Antelope Valley Justice Court. McNeil was the first lawyer to hold office in a local court. McNeil served as judge until his defeat by a local boy, namely WILLIAM D. (BILL) KELLER who was elected for four four-year terms.

JUDGE KELLER resigned to take a position as chief field deputy for former County Supervisor Roger Jessup and still is employed by the county in the road department. At the time of his election, Judge Keller was the youngest judge to hold office in the state of California, 25 years of age.

While interviewing Mrs. Myrtie Webber of the Western Hotel, she stated that the first known jail in the Lancaster area was a two-cell affair, approximately 8' x 10', made of 2 x 4 boards and nailed together one on top of another.

Jail breaks were quite frequent and Mrs. Webber recalls serving hot meals to prisoners being held in this jail. The 2 x 4 cells, Lancaster's first jail, were situated just behind Griffin's Hardware Store on what is now their parking lot.

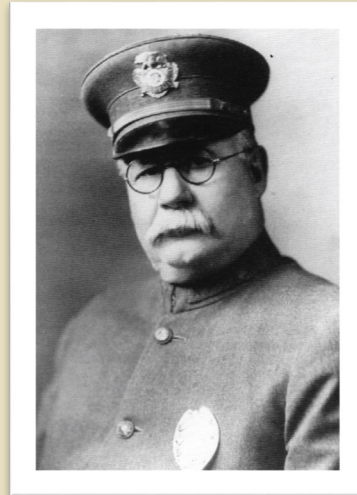
CAPTAIN TOM LYNSKY took of captaincy of the Station after Hamby and he, in turn, was relieved by CAPTAIN DAN HEINE who remained in this position until the late 30's when he was relieved by CAPTAIN R.H. BOYD.

CAPTAIN BOYD commanded the Lancaster Station until World War II at which time he was called to active duty with the U.S. Navy. CAPTAIN FRED ENGLAND replaced Captain Boyd until his return from service.

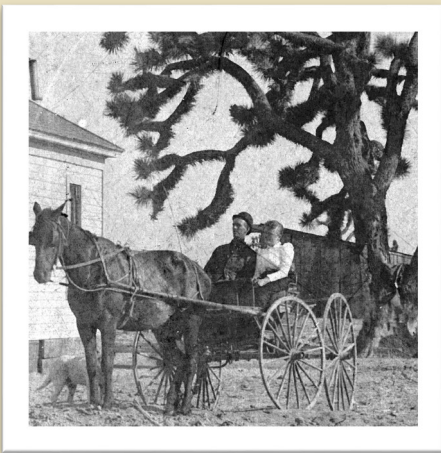
Following Captain Boyd's retirement in 1957, CAPTAIN D.H. MAHAN, who now heads the Sheriff's Vice Detail, was appointed as captain of the Sheriff's Station for a short period of time, followed by CAPTAIN HAROLD STOCKBRIDGE in 1958 and who is now the present commander of the new Antelope Valley Sheriff's Station.



Old Lancaster jailhouse—early 1900s.



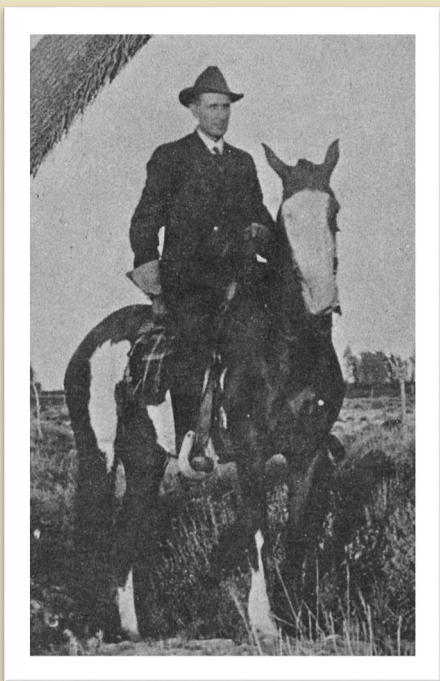
Constable Marcus F. Andrade
Constable from 1889—1891
Anaheim Public Library/Norma Gurba



Constable Edwin "Eli" Y. Cammer and
daughter Margaret at their residence
south of Lancaster.
Constable from 1894—1898
AVRM Fred Strasburg Collection



Constable Herbert "Ed" Glidden
Killed on Antelope Avenue in
1920



Edwin Ellsworth "E.E." Cummings
Constable abt. 1925—1928
Glenn Settle Collection



Thomas Alfred Dearth, 1904—1971
Constable 1930s
Buried at Lancaster Cemetery

FRED HANN ANTELOPE VALLEY'S FIRST PARAMEDIC

The Hann's moved to California from Indiana in 1949 to find a healthier climate for Fred's mother. They moved to the Antelope Valley to start a chicken ranch in 1952.

Fred graduated from Antelope Valley High School with the class of 1956, and then attended Antelope Valley Junior College. He became a Deputy Sheriff after college and was stationed at the Mira Loma jail in Lancaster. Following his passion, Fred was offered a position with the Fire Department and served with Fire Station 33 in Lancaster from 1973—1986. In 1973, Fred Hann was one of eight firefighters who volunteered for the first paramedic program in the Antelope Valley. Part of his career included the job of Fire Prevention Inspector. After retirement, Fred would travel to movie sets and advise them on safety during the filming of movies and television shows.

Fred loved what he did and was good at his profession. The community appreciated what Fred did for them and in 1977 Fred ran for a seat on the Lancaster City Council as "Freddie the Friendly Firefighter." His good friend Stan Kleiner won the election and became Lancaster's first Mayor, but Fred came in with the second highest vote. He was elected Mayor of Lancaster in 1980-81 and 1986-87.

His love for history led to a position as the Executive Director for the U.S. Route 6 Tourist Association and involvement with the AVR. All of who knew Fred miss him and his friendly smile. He was a true hero of the Antelope Valley.



L.A. Co. Sheriff's Dept.

Firefighter-Paramedic



Fred with Supervisor Michael Antonovich unveiling a new Route 6 sign on Sierra Highway.



Director Sheila Sola with new First Responder showcase at the AVR with Fred's uniforms and photographs.



A NO CLUB COLORS EVENT
SATURDAY, JULY 15TH 2017

We welcome Motorcycle and Car enthusiasts from all walks of life to come out to **Antelope Valley Harley Davidson**.

Kickstands up at 9:30am and ride to honor the life of

Sergeant Steve Owen

Join us on this wild ride which navigates through the High Desert and the Canyons. When the ride concludes, join us at the **Sergeant Steve Owens Memorial Park** for the Inaugural. "Frog Fest" The gates open at 2:00pm with Live Music, Food, & Family Fun.

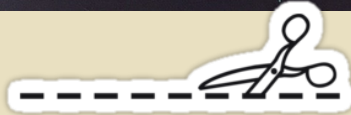
The riders on the **Inaugural Bullfrog Wild Poker Ride** will be stopping at the Antelope Valley Rural Museum on their trail around the High Desert on Saturday, July 15, 2017. The riders will pick up a card at the Museum, rest and view our displays, including the new showcase honoring Lancaster Station's Sergeant Steve "Bullfrog" Owen.

Riders can sign up at:

A.V. Harley Davidson

or online at www.helpforheroes.us

We expect a very large group to stop at the AVRVM so please be sure and be at the Museum to support this event!



Membership Application for the Antelope Valley Rural Museum

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

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: AVRVM P.O. Box 1316, Lancaster, CA 93538

Donate and pay dues via **PayPal** on our website: www.avmuseum.org

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 93538



Contact us:
avmuseum@verizon.net

Donate and pay dues via PayPal on our website

ANTELOPE VALLEY RURAL MUSEUM GIFT STORE

Annual membership dues (Existing members)	\$20.00
New members (Balance of 2017+2018)	\$30.00
Hats—all baseball hats (Members)	\$10.00
Hats—all baseball hats (Non-members)	\$15.00
History books—all books are priced at:	\$20.00
Images of America “Lancaster”	
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

DONATIONS

Pickus Challenge 2017 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

Antelope Valley Rural Museum
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