

Upcoming events:

- **March 25 & 26:**
Museum Open House
- **April 23:**
Wright's Field Program & Potluck Luncheon
- **April 29 & 30:**
Museum Open House

Inside this issue:

- We Need Your Help, page 2
- Membership Update, page 2
- 55-Year Birthday, page 3
- AHS Organized Last Sunday, page 4
- Timeline Alpine: 1867-1894, page 5
- Pop Quiz, page 5
- AH&CS Board of Directors, Mission Statement, page 5
- Membership Application, page 6

JOHN DEWITT MUSEUM

2116 TAVERN ROAD
ALPINE, CA 91901

Open 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
last weekend of each month

Tom & Judy Myers, Editors
619-885-8063

Wright's Field • Conservation Management & Restoration

Potluck Luncheon & Presentation, Sunday, April 23, 2017

The most visited nature park in Alpine is Wright's Field, a 230-acre nature preserve located south of the village core, between Tavern Road and South Grade. For much of modern history, Wright's Field was used for raising grain, and historical accounts tell us of cartloads of grain being shipped to San Diego from here in the early days of statehood. In 1990 The Back Country Land Trust (BCLT) purchased a major portion of Wright's Field to protect this site from development, and later the property was entered into the San Diego County Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP).

Our guest speaker at the April 23, 2017, General Membership program is Jon Green. Jon is the Program

& Outreach Director for the Back Country Land Trust (BCLT). One of his primary responsibilities during his 5-1/2 years working for BCLT here in Alpine is the management and restoration of Wright's Field MSCP Preserve. Jon also conducts the community outreach and fundraising efforts for the BCLT, in support of Wright's Field and other conservation lands in Greater Alpine, and he manages BCLT's various community programs, such as the Living Classroom Program for environmental education, and the very successful Watershed Stewardship Program.

Originally from New England, Jon has a deep appreciation for nature and history, but, like so many Americans, was drawn westward by the freedom



and beauty of the wide-open landscapes. Living in CA for the last 10 years, Jon has spent most of that time in San Diego, and has found his home-place here in Alpine. During this talk, he'll be discussing what makes Alpine and San Diego unique environmentally, and why conservation and restoration efforts here in the East County are critically important to saving our natural and cultural heritage for future generations.

Please bring a potluck item to share for the luncheon which begins at 1:00 p.m. or arrive by 1:45 p.m. for the brief General Membership meeting followed immediately by Jon's presentation.

Admission is FREE, but your donation helps to support and maintain the museum facilities.

Location: Alpine Town Hall (Alpine Woman's Club), located at 2156 Alpine Boulevard.

Seating is limited, so please make your reservations early by calling Tom Myers at (619) 885-8063 or send an email request to info@alpinehistory.org.

Happy Birthday

55 years and counting . . .

~see page 3~





We need your help . . .

The Alpine Historical Society is looking for a volunteer to join our Board of Directors as its Secretary. Duties would include taking minutes at our monthly meetings, held the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Alpine Sheriff's Community Room. Other duties would include helping with our quarterly meetings, and participating in our History Day Celebration on the first Saturday of June. Please contact Tom Myers at 619-885-8063 to volunteer, or for additional information.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members:
Mark McFarland, Yolaine Stout

A Grateful Thank You to Our Renewing Members:
Bob & Sharon Beale, Gerald Dobbs, Jim & Karen Donoghue, David & Lori Fountain, Greg & Patti Fox, Judy Grant, Ron & Carol Matzenauer, Gary Mitrovich, Marilyn Moore, Michael & Lorraine Nelson, Michael Nelson II, Janis Vanderford

Many thanks to the following for making generous financial donations to the Historical Society:

Brian & Katie Ford, Ken & Debbie Gibson, Susan Jennings, Bob & Susan Manis, Mark McFarland, Marilyn Moore, Sharon & Thomas Murphy, Rodney Orth, Jay & Jeanne Pohl, Yolaine Stout, Charles & M.J. Sweetwood, Anne Tarr, Bill & Joan Waterworth

Special Thanks of Appreciation to the following businesses
who renewed their annual membership in the Historical Society for 2017:

Alpine Mountain Empire Chamber of Commerce • Hitech Screen Science • RPL Electric • West Cal Die Co.

RECOGNITION OF OUR CURRENT LIFETIME MEMBERS

Carlette Anderson • Deborah Anderson • George & Joan Anderson • Mark L. Anderson • Roy & Willa Athey
Claude Bailey • Franklin R. Ball • Pat & Joe Brunold • David Carey • Ted Christensen • James H. Cleland
Sharon J. Coop • Peggy & Jim Easterling • Beverly Falor • Katie & Brian Ford • Vincent Fritts • Paul Gonya
Gail Wilson Guth • Janet M. Harris • Linda Harshberger • Ann Hill • Leslie Holben • Ken & Denise Hujung
Ben & Kirby Johnson • Bill & Diane Keltner • Jill & Shawn Killon • John Krempp • J. Clayburn La Force
Joanne & Martin Marugg • Mary McBride • Chris McCoy • Carol Morrison • Tom & Judy Myers • Helen Porter
Mark & Pattie & Haley Price • Paul & Paula Saks • Kurt Scherbaum • Pauline Silver • Albert Simonson
Donna Sisson • Joseph Sisson • Virginia Sisson • Anne Tarr • Elma Terry • Rodney & Guille Tuttle
Paul & Carol Walker • William & Joan Waterworth • Sam Webb • Stanley Wilson

RECOGNITION OF OUR LIFETIME BUSINESS MEMBERS

Brabazon Alpine Paving and Trucking
Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians • Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians
Tom Dyke Drilling • John Garbaczewski Family Foundation
Chris Wiley—Primary Residential Mortgage • Turvey Granite Pit • Tuttle Charitable Trust

CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS: Life Members ~ 57, Current Members ~ 74, Members up for renewal ~ 43

ALPINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY CELEBRATES 55-YEAR BIRTHDAY

On April 8, 2017, the Alpine Historical Society celebrates 55 years of collecting, preserving and presenting the history of Alpine. It has been a great adventure in capturing the stories of early pioneers through oral interviews, historic property records, family recollections, objects and artifacts donated to the Society from hundreds of sources. Thousands of volunteer hours have been spent collecting the objects and documents to tell

the story, and thousands more hours have been given to setting up, operating, and maintaining the museum's two historic houses and the carriage house as well as the bi-monthly membership programs and annual Alpine History Day celebration. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find the newspaper account of the organizational meeting that set the ball rolling.

We are deeply indebted to the Alpine Business Community who have been generous sponsors of

our programs, and to the hundreds of members and volunteers past and present, and the life members who have contributed their time, talents, and treasures to advance our efforts to collect, preserve and present the story of Alpine to the community.

As we celebrate this birthday, we are also looking ahead to more new programs, exhibits, and activities, and opportunities to tell the story of our amazing little town of Alpine.



c. 1915—Alpine Store and Gas Station



c. 1940—"Best Climate" Welcome Sign



1998—Bea LaForce



2009—Supervisor Jacobs Visits Museum



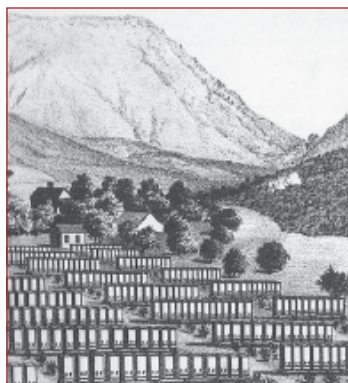
c. 1950—Alpine's First Fire Engine



c. 1930—Alpine Store and Post Office



1962—Water Comes to Alpine



c. 1878—Harbison's Hives



2016—School Tour of Museum

The following article is reprinted from the Alpine Echo Newspaper, April 12, 1962. The original newspaper is in our archives, and can be read in PDF form on our website www.alpinehistory.org

ALPINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ORGANIZED LAST SUNDAY

A new organization came into being here Sunday afternoon, April 8, when the Alpine Historical Society was formed at a meeting held at Sky Mesa Ranch on South Grade Road. Of the 25 people present, 22 are now paid up charter members of the new club.

Elected to office were president, Ralph Walker, whose boyhood home was THE WILLOWS; vice-president, Mrs. Lenore Oakley Lusk, whose ancestors were the Pennoyers; and secretary-treasurer, Bea La Force. A committee of two was appointed by the new president to meet with the officers and draw up a Constitution and By-Laws. Appointed to the committee were Mrs. Forrest Hohanshelt and E.L. Freeland.

Mr. James Reading, president of the San Diego Historical Society and Mr. Wilmer Shields,

secretary of that organization were present to give advice and encouragement in the forming of the Society.

Mr. Reading stated in a brief talk that the aims and purpose of the historical association was the preservation of local landmarks, documents, pictures, and other relics relevant to the history of the area. No small part of this antiquity is the remembrance of past events in the growth of the area from wilderness to a public water supply. He pointed out that often a vast amount of vital material is lost because no one realized its significance or bothered to save it. He explained that the State of California Department of Natural Resources, Division of Beaches and Parks, is now beginning a study of historical resources of the State. This project is to be done in close cooperation with all historical organizations in the State.

"San Diego County, and one other county, have been chosen as guinea pigs for the survey," said Mr. Reading.



Bea LaForce Photo
Left to right, Wilmer Shields, Secretary, San Diego Historical Society; Bea La Force, Secretary-Treasurer; Ralph Walker, President; Lenora Lusk, Vice-President, Alpine Historical Society, and James Reading, President of the San Diego organization, April 8, 1962.

He explained that the San Diego group will be working with the State people in the study and would appreciate the local society's cooperation in surveying our area on the location of historical information.

It was voted to hold the next meeting May 6, at 2 p.m. at Sky Mesa at which time the new Constitution will be presented for approval of the membership.

Said president Walker, "We will hold the charter memberships open for one month to allow other interested people of the area to join." It is not necessary to be an old timer here to become a member of the new club. Any sincerely interested person may join.

Present at the meeting were Miss Margaret

Lowthian, D.L. Freeland, Hazel and Forest Hohanshelt, Mr. and Mrs. Basil Spears, Neil Galloway, Jean McCullough, Edith Cromarty, Phil and Dorothy Hall, Mrs. Angie Little, Mrs. Dorothy Markley, Mr. Albert Greenleaf, Mrs. Worley, Verlie Boyd, Mrs. Lenore Oakley Lusk, James Reading, Wilmer Shields, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. La Force, Sr.

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EMPIRE MARKET
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AVOCADOS	LARGE SIZE	4 for	25 ^c
BANANAS		2 lbs.	25 ^c
POTATOES	RUSSET—U. S. No. 1	10 lbs.	39 ^c
APPLE SAUCE	Royal Pride No. 303 Can	7 for	\$1.00
PINEAPPLE JUICE	No. 2 Dole's	7 for	\$1.00
CORN FLAKES	Kellogg's 12-oz. Pkg.	2 pkg.	49 ^c

MEATS

GROUND BEEF	Lb.	39 ^c
Fryers	Cut up: lb.	39 ^c	Hams Reg. Lb. 55 ^c

FROZEN FOOD

FROZEN PEAS	BIRDSEYE 10-oz. Pkg.	6 for	\$1.00
COUNTY FAIR 8-IN. PIES	Apple—Peach—Cherry	3 for	\$1.00

2169 Arnold Way Next to Post Office

TIMELINE ALPINE 1867-1894



Nearly two decades before the Civil War, when the government wanted to encourage settlement of the western territories, Congress passed The Preemption Act of 1841. This Act permitted "squatters", who were living on land owned by

the federal government, to purchase up to 160 acres at not less than \$1.25 per acre. To qualify under the law, the "squatter" had to be a head-of-household, a single man over 21, or a widow. The buyer had to be a US citizen or an immigrant intending to become naturalized, and had to live on the claimed land for a minimum of 14 months. Acquiring property in this way was very popular until the Homestead Act of 1862 which

offered government lands for free after the homesteader completed a five year "proving-up" period. On September 10, 1867, the 28-year old Mexican-born Cayatano Cota took a preemption on 160 acres of land in the Valle de las Viejas. This allowed him to purchase the land and avoid the five-year "proving-up" period before receiving a deed of title through the homesteading process. Cayatano and his wife, Benedita, who was born in Santa Barbara, had six children. The Cotas lived on the land and developed the rancho with agricultural crops until

1870 when they sold the property to Royal Barton. They then purchased 160 acres of land at the present day address of 2301 South Grade Road, where they lived and ranched until 1883 and then sold this property to Henry Steil, a German immigrant. Benedita Cota died in 1893 and Cayatano in 1894; both were buried in the Flynn Springs Cemetery. Today we remember this Mexican born immigrant and his California born wife as among the earliest permanent settlers in the area that would later take the name of Alpine.

POP QUIZ: All questions come from articles printed in this newsletter. (see answers below)

1. The Alpine Historical Society celebrates its 55th birthday this year. In what year was the Society founded?
 - a. 1962
 - b. 1692
 - c. 1492
2. What Mexican-born immigrant settled in Valley de las Viejas in 1867?
 - a. Zorro
 - b. Cayatano Cota
 - c. Don Jose Antonio Aguirre
3. The most visited nature park and the only Multiple Species Conservation Project site in Alpine is known as:
 - a. Otto Field
 - b. Old Ironside Park
 - c. Wright's Field

ALPINE HISTORICAL AND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Tom Myers
 1st Vice President, Programs: Vikki Coffey
 2nd Vice President, Membership: Judy Myers
 3rd Vice President, Property: Allen Earley
 Secretary: Vikki Coffey
 Treasurer: Fred Barker
 Archivist: Carol Morrison

Director, Gift Shop
 Coordinator: Anne Tarr
 Director, Wildlife Habitat: Carlette Anderson
 Director: Norm Kling
 Director: Janet Harris
 Lifetime Director: Elma Terry
 Webmaster: Pene Manale
 Caretakers: Baltazar & Laura Marquez

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the [Alpine Historical & Conservation Society](#) is to encourage the community in an effort to retain structures and sites of historical significance, conserve natural resources and parkland, make available the visible evidence of the history of our community, and develop historical programs which emphasize the contributions of the various cultural, ethnic, religious and social groups that comprise the Alpine area.

ANSWERS TO POP QUIZ:

1. a. 1962, story on page 3 2. b. Cayatano Cota, story on page 5 3. c. Wright's Field, story on page 1.

Alpine Historical & Conservation Society
P. O. Box 382
Alpine, CA 91903-0382

Address Service Requested

ALPINE
HISTORICAL &
CONSERVATION
SOCIETY

P. O. Box 382
Alpine, CA 91903-0382

Phone: 619-659-8740
E-mail: info@alpinehistory.org

We're on the Web!
www.alpinehistory.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Date _____

Street Address/P.O. Box: _____

City/ST/Zip: _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Send Newsletters via: E-mail U.S. Mail

Membership Category (Please check one):

- Student \$5 Individual \$25 Nonprofit \$30 Business \$50
 Senior (1) \$15 Family \$35 Nonprofit Life \$600 Business Life \$1,000
 Senior (2) \$20 Life \$500

Amount Enclosed:

Membership \$ _____
Donation \$ _____
TOTAL \$ _____

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Museum Open Houses History Day
 Programs & Events Oral Histories
 Exhibit Development Archival Data Entry
 Garden Maintenance Other _____

Please complete this form and include your check made payable to the Alpine Historical Society, a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.