

Upcoming Events

For the safety of our visitors and volunteers, the museum is temporarily closed, and sponsored events will be rescheduled when it is safe to do so.

Inside this issue:

- Membership Update, page 2
- Vocabulary of a Pandemic, page 2
- Developing a New Exhibit—Alpine's Women, page 3
- Celebrating 100 Years, Women's Suffrage, page 4
- Your Will Can Make a Difference, page 4
- Timeline: 1935-1995 Lee Roper, 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

COPING WITH COVID-19 IN ALPINE

What has it been like to live in Alpine during the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020? We think it is important to record our experiences for future generations, and in our last newsletter we asked you to send in your stories. Here are a few that we received:

• **Debby** told us that she is keeping a diary. She recognized that this is an historic time so she is listening to and reading news reports daily and recording lots of data to show trends of progress and reversals. She is also telling her diary her daily thoughts, experiences and even some opinions of how the response to the pandemic is being handled.

• **Lisa and Dave** are continuing to work safely at their jobs both from home and at the shop. When they need a little outdoors and fresh air, they go to the museum



to pull weeds or water the native plants along the Chocolate Creek. They also go for hikes on some of the many trails in and around Alpine.

• **Sarah** said she has been on a reading binge during this time. She keeps up with friends by telephone, and misses going to church, the Alpine Library and Bookstore.

• **Kathy and Cathy** of the Alpine Garden Club have been faithfully caring for the native plant garden they installed at the Museum. This year the bloom was absolutely beautiful and we appreciate all the effort it takes to keep it that way. During summer months native plants usually go dormant, but if you get a chance to stop by the museum, you may still enjoy walking around the gardens and exploring the outdoor exhibits.



Although the Museum is closed temporarily during this pandemic, volunteers at the Alpine Historical Society continue to work on various projects, either individually or within our family "bubbles". For example:

- **Courtney** is earning community credits for school this summer by photographing buildings and scenes in Alpine as part of a project to document what Alpine looks like in 2020.
- During April & May, **Bryon Harrington** and **Gary Gorecki** replaced the rear exterior stairs at the Beaty House and the ramp entrance at the Nichols House porch.
- In anticipation of a future date when the museum will open, volunteers are developing a new exhibit in the Beaty House east gallery telling the stories of **Alpine's Women**.

Are you keeping a diary or are you recording your thoughts and experiences in any way? Do you have photography skills or photos you have taken recently that can document people, places, or things in and around Alpine in 2020? We would love for you to share these with us. Send a note to express your interest to info@alpinehistory.org.



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A Grateful Thank You to Our Renewing Members: Corinne & John Lewis, Pene & George Manale, Betty McMillen

Many thanks to the following for their generous financial donation: Kevin & Alejandra Schumacher

RECOGNITION OF OUR CURRENT LIFETIME MEMBERS

Carlette Anderson • Deborah Anderson • George & Joan Anderson • Mark L. Anderson
 Roy & Willa Athey • Franklin R. Ball • Pat & Joe Brunold • David Carey • Lisa & Dave Celeste
 Ted Christensen • James H. Cleland • 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 Hujing • Ben Johnson • Bill & Diane Keltner • Jill & Shawn Killion
 John Krempp • Barbara Lea LaForce • J. Clayburn LaForce • Joanne & Martin Marugg • Carol Morrison
 Tom & Judy Myers • Helen Porter • Kurt Scherbaum • Albert Simonson • Donna Sisson • Virginia Sisson
 Anne Tarr • Elma Terry • Rodney & Guille Tuttle • Paul & Carol Walker • William & Joan Waterworth

RECOGNITION OF OUR LIFETIME BUSINESS MEMBERS

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

CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS: Life Members ~ 48, Supporting Members ~ 103, Members up for renewal ~ 2

VOCABULARY OF A PANDEMIC

***D**uring the COVID-19 pandemic some words in our vocabulary have taken on new meanings. Here are a few that you may recognize. How long will they last?*

Bubble: A close family or neighborhood group that gather socially only within their group as a strategy for avoiding the spread of Coronavirus.

Coronavirus: an RNA-containing spherical virus of the family Coronaviridae, including several that cause acute respiratory illnesses. First recorded in 1965–70. When viewed under a microscope the coronavirus displays a spiky array that resembles a crown-like shape or a corona.

COVID-19: is a highly infectious respiratory disease caused by a new coronavirus. The disease was discovered in China in December 2019 and has since spread around the world.

Flatten the curve: slowing the spread of an epidemic disease so that the capacity of the healthcare system doesn't become overwhelmed.

Herd immunity: the resistance to a particular infection that occurs in a group of people or animals when a very high percentage of individuals have been vaccinated or previously exposed to the infection.

New normal: a phrase used to indicate a life event that is out of the ordinary and has a long-lasting or permanent impact

on a person's daily routine. For example, wearing a face mask in public situations may be called the new normal, as this practice may be common for many months in the future.

Pandemic: a disease occurring throughout an entire country, continent, or the whole world. A pandemic is an epidemic that has spread over a large area.

Shelter in place: During the coronavirus outbreak, shelter in place refers to orders for people to stay at home and not leave unless absolutely necessary. Shelter in place restrictions are intended to prevent the further spread of the disease and allow health professionals to more effectively treat patients.

Social distance: measures that reduce contact between large groups of people by encouraging a separation of at least six feet between people to help stop spread of disease.

Zoom: a video chatting service that allows hundreds of users to participate simultaneously. Its popularity soared during the COVID-19 pandemic when it became a popular tool for remote work, distance learning, and social gatherings.

Developing a New Exhibit During Covid-19 ... Alpine's Women

Our exhibit developers at the John De Witt Museum are all volunteers—that's another way of saying that we don't work to a schedule. For a while, or maybe several whiles, we have been thinking about a new exhibit featuring the contributions of women to the development of Alpine. Then, during March 2020, we learned that in order to *flatten the curve*, we all needed to *shelter in place* to limit the spread of the new *coronavirus*. Museums had to be closed to visitors and volunteers.

So, stuck at home in our own little *bubble* we started working on the long-awaited exhibit, researching our archives through the alpinehistory.org website, and reviewing several of the excellent books on Alpine history in our bookshelf. But how do you open a new

exhibit when you are in the middle of a *pandemic*? Well, it seems that unless we develop some form of *herd immunity*, the *new normal* will be wearing masks, *social distancing*, and keeping the museum closed until a vaccine is developed. We have decided to produce and install the new exhibit in the Beaty House, replacing the *Alpine: Then and Now* exhibit. As you can imagine, that will take us another while or two, and then we'll figure out how to set up a *ZOOM* gathering or distribute an online version, or maybe we can reopen the museum. In the meantime, we want to begin our promotion with the match-up quiz below. The challenge for you is to match the name and photo of these distinguished Alpine Women, with the appropriate description of their contribution to the development of Alpine.

Harriet Arnold



Julian Eltinge



Caroline Foss



Hazel Hohanshelt



Beatrice LaForce



Carmen Lewis



Sophonra Nichols



Mrs. Peutz



Bevie Walker



Louisa Willett



- #1—Cafe Owner
- #2—Cheese Maker
- #3—Christian Leader

- #4—First Doctor
- #5—Homesteader
- #6—Library Benefactor

- #7—One-room Schoolteacher
- #8—Resident Writer

- #9—Theatrical Performer
- #10—Willows Resort Proprietor

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS . . . WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

August 18, 2020 is the Centennial Anniversary marking the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution. This amendment gave women the right to vote and is called the Suffrage Amendment. So, now is a good time to tell you about two women who each briefly lived in Alpine and who supported equal rights for women.

By her own example, **Doctor Sophronia Nichols** demonstrated to all whom she encountered that women were equal to men in the medical profession. After 21 years of marriage, and giving birth to six children, only two of whom survived, Sophronia Nichols began her medical studies and in 1874 received her degree in medicine from Boston University School of Medicine, the only woman in the graduating class. Following a year of practice in Pennsylvania, Dr. Nichols moved to San Francisco in 1876, where she earned medical license #26 in California. She went on to practice in California, Oregon, and Washington, finally setting up a practice in Alpine in 1895.

Throughout her adult life she was outspoken about the merits and abilities of women in society and argued that women were intellectual and social equals to men.



She died in November 1903, never receiving the right to vote.

Katherine Reed was born in Maine, the daughter of Thomas B. Reed, a two-term Speaker of the United States House of Representatives. She married Colonel Arthur Balentine and had two children, Thomas and Katherine.

The assertiveness and spunk she learned from her parents came in handy when, in 1906, living in San Francisco, Katherine founded a statewide suffrage newspaper, *The Yellow Ribbon*, to help meet the suffragist's first priority—visibility for the cause. Parades, rallies and door-to-door canvassing took place in order to gain support for women's suffrage, and fliers were distributed in English, Spanish, German and Yiddish. Her efforts played a major role in California's 1911 vote for women's suffrage.

Later, the Balentine family lived in San Diego, and in 1923 purchased the Rancho del Sequan prop-



erty (formerly owned by pioneer Adam Beaty) as a summer retreat. Her daughter, Katherine Balentine Jenney inherited the property when Col. Balentine died and she lived here with her children during summer breaks from school. Eventually, Alpine became her permanent home.



YOUR WILL CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

You can provide a lasting legacy to Alpine by including the Alpine Historical Society in your Last Will & Testament. After providing for loved ones, your Will can carry out your wishes by directing that a gift be made in one, or a combination of, the following ways:

- a specific dollar amount,
- a percentage of an estate,
- the remainder of an estate.

Bequests should read as follows:

"I bequeath to the Alpine Historical and Conservation Society, _____, to be used for the support of the Society's programs."

The Society is available to consult with your attorney about the best way to use your will, living will, trust, insurance policy or other

estate plan to help develop and maintain the historic resources in Alpine. Your attorney can provide you with details about the estate benefits that may result from your bequest. If you have already included the Society in your estate plan, please let us know so that we may thank you. Your gift will make a difference to our community.



TIMELINE: 1935–1995 LEE ROPER

Lee Roper was born in Albia, Iowa, on October 9, 1910. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1932 from Drake University where he majored in mathematics and chemistry, graduating *summa cum laude* (with highest distinction). Lee married Juanita Dawsey on January 22, 1933, and they moved to Alpine in 1935. The couple had two daughters, Janice and Anna.

When the Ropers moved to Alpine, the town had only five homes on Victoria Drive and only one in Palo Verde. There were no street numbers.

Mr. Roper's first job in Alpine was at *Ye Alpine Tavern*. Then in 1936, he was employed as ranch manager at the *Lazy A Ranch* and later at *Happy Valley Ranch* until his death in 1995.

Even in Alpine's early days, fire was one of the greatest hazards, and a house that was on fire was usually lost. When the Alpine Fire Protection District was approved in 1948, Lee was one of the first volun-

teers for the local fire department, serving for 24 years—the longest term of any of the original firemen. On February 19, 1954, Lee Roper was elected to be the Fire Chief, and he served in that position for four years.

Lee believed that he had an obligation to be a part of the community and to contribute to making it a better place to live. He certainly fulfilled these expectations here in Alpine. Lee contributed to the community in many ways, not the least of which was working the barbecue station at many local fundraising events.

Lee was a member of the Alpine Historical Society, an officer in the Alpine Cemetery Association and a Life Member of the Alpine Youth Center. In 1977, Lee Roper was named Alpine's Honored Citizen of the year.

His wife, Juanita, was born December 26, 1912. She passed away on July 1, 1970, and is buried in the Alpine Cemetery. Lee lived to be 84 years old. He passed away on

April 19, 1995 and is interred with Juanita. Their youngest daughter Anna, born in 1938, passed away in 1999, and is memorialized with her parents in the Alpine Cemetery.



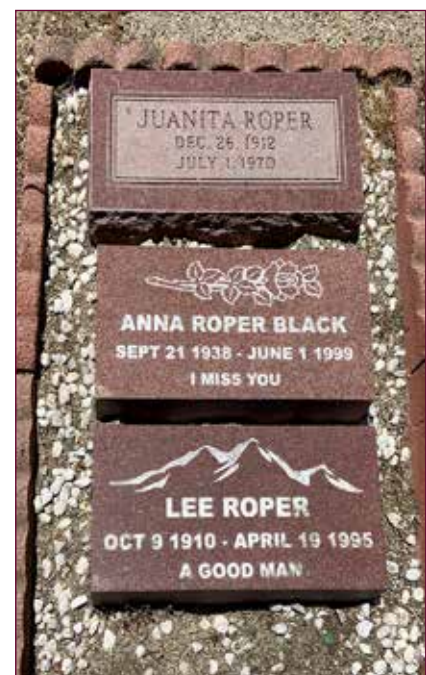
Lee Roper, Alpine's first volunteer Fire Chief—1957 to 1961.



Bronze plaque on Alpine Cemetery's office wall.



Alpine's volunteer fire department with the first fire truck. Lee Roper is standing in front, plaid shirt, 4th from left.



Grave markers in the Alpine Cemetery, wife Juanita, daughter Anna, and Lee.

Alpine Historical & Conservation Society
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Alpine, CA 91903-0382

Address Service Requested

**ALPINE
HISTORICAL &
CONSERVATION
SOCIETY**

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

NEW Phone: 619-485-0625
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.