

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.

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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



© Ron Wolf

The John DeWitt Museum remains closed at this time, but that doesn't stop us from working safely from home or at the museum on maintenance, archives, and exhibit projects. In the previous issue we talked about the upcoming **Alpine's Women** exhibit in the east gallery of the Beaty House. Our progress has been steady and we have completed patching and painting the gallery. Display graphics are printed and we will be installing the exhibit soon.

While working on the Alpine's Women exhibit, we realized that now was the perfect time to freshen up the west gallery of the Beaty House too. The former exhibit featuring John Harbison and beekeeping along with some photos of early agriculture in Alpine is now being updated. The title of our new exhibit is **The Birds & The Bees**. We will continue to feature John Harbison and beekeeping, but the exhibit now includes California

MUSEUM ACTIVITIES DURING COVID-19

native bees and bird species commonly seen in Alpine.

Did you know that even though "honeybees" are not native to North America, there are over 4,000 species of "native" bees in North America? California alone has recorded nearly 1,600 species of bees. With few exceptions, native bees do not produce honey and do not live in social colonies as do honeybees. Instead, they are solitary bees whose job is to be super pollinators of wildflowers and agricultural crops. We don't know how many species are native to Alpine, but have identified some for our exhibit that are known to live here. Have you ever seen an Orange-Rumped Bumble Bee, or Metallic Green Sweat Bee, or a Leafcutter bee? Check out our quiz on page 3 and try to guess their identity.

During our research on birds, we discovered that San Diego County has the greatest number of bird species in the USA. Over 500

species of birds are residents or annual visitors to our county. We also learned from the San Diego Bird Atlas, that 166 different species of birds were recorded in the Alpine area during a five-year period from March 1997 to February 2002. That is waaaay too many bird species to easily display in the gallery, so we picked some of the most commonly seen species and included several "look-alike" species to illustrate the similarities and differences among the birds. For example, the Black-headed Grosbeak and the Spotted Towhee have remarkably similar coloration. Here's how you can spot the differences. If you see a black back, head and neck with white spots on black wings it's a Spotted Towhee, but if you see white patches, not spots, on the wings and a very large, gray beak it's a Black-headed Grosbeak. See if you can identify the birds in our quiz on page 3.



© Sundeep Kancherla

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT GRANT

We are pleased to report that the San Diego County Board of Supervisors approved a 2020-2021 grant of \$10,000 to the Alpine Historical and Conservation Society. The grant is to be used for upcoming expenses in two special project areas for the John DeWitt Museum.

Our first priority is to continue with essential maintenance on our historic buildings. The Dr. Sophronia Nichols house, the doctor's Carriage House, and the Adam and Caroline Beaty house, all three are over 120 years old.

The second project area includes purchasing office equipment and scanning of original copies of Alpine Sun Newspapers and other important historical documents. Preserv-

ing our historical documents in digital form and archiving them for easy searching and retrieval is an enormous and costly, but essential task. To date, we have completed digitizing the Alpine Sun from the first edition in 1952 to 1970. This project will allow us to continue this work.

We want to give special thanks to San Diego County Supervisor Dianne Jacob for recommending approval of this grant and many years of previous grants. Without her support, it would be very difficult to maintain our museum and archive system and to provide a high quality tourist destination and visitor experience in Alpine. After 28 years of serving Alpine and all the other communities in east county Ms. Jacob is retiring from



her position as District 2 Supervisor. Thank you Dianne for your support and your exemplary service. We wish you Happy Trails and all the best in your retirement.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members: Barbara & Gregory McCurtis

Many thanks to the following for their generous financial donations:
Barbara & Gregory McCurtis, Kevin & Alejandra Schumacher

Special Thanks of Appreciation
for renewing his 2021 Business Membership:

- Jeff B. Campbell, Inc., Realtor •

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 ~ 99, Members up for renewal ~ 8

Reprinted from November 20, 1952, The Alpine Sun — Something to be thankful for . . .

THE LANGUAGE OF NATURE

We who love these mountains are reminded now perhaps as much as in spring, that nature speaks wondrous language to those who understand.

Now are tired leaves falling while the stately eucalyptus have shed their bark, smooth-trunked for Winter. Pepper boughs have ripened their tiny red berries and our pomegranate tree is groaning with brilliant globes of red, forerunner of Christmas. The apricots are shedding their summer greenery. Grapes are done, but some are in the freezer for March. Our big walnut tree bore heavily, the husks have cracked



and now we gather the fallen fruit; our "tree meat" indeed. Olives are

bulging, turning purple. The bird tourists have gotten out their maps and gone south, but now we hear the first meadowlark who will be with us till summer. The mud swallows have twittered their way to follow the sun, but other singers have appeared, making old friends, including a mocker that may have followed us up from Hollywood. Many folks have oiled their driveways against winter floods, while others are seen about on rooftops, patching, painting. The kids have a suspicious, merry twinkle in their eyes, and older ones wisely know what is coming when we spell out "Christmas". Rusted chimneys send up fragrant spirals of woodsmoke, and—but oh, for a fireplace!

Old Sol is low in the sky, but bright, warm, friendly, and signal clouds are forming in cooler altitudes, signifying rains to

come. Our east wind blows more often, at times bringing a warm breath from the desert, at others carrying a crispness from higher mountains, soon to feel the snows.

Rosy apples from Julian are in the market, and pears, and persimmons and the tang of Alpine air helps us all, especially the asthmatic. Above all is our ever-blue sky, and from below our sweet wellspring of pure water. Ah, yes, He is sweet in San Diego's great backcountry with the "finest climate in the US". And there are waiting acres for those who love the good earth. And we feel thankful for all this from our generous Father and we will be thanking Him just a week from today. We hope you may all have much to be thankful for.

—Clark Irvine,
Editor and Publisher

Newsletter Quiz: Can you match the photos of Birds and Bees with the descriptions listed here? Try it, it's fun.



© UCB Urban Bee Lab



© Groundwork Somerville



© Sheryl Pollock

Leafcutter Bee #__

Smaller than a honeybee, mostly black or gray with white or yellowish hairs on the abdomen forming pale bands.

Orange-rumped Bumble Bee #__

Also known as a black tail bumble bee, bigger than a honey bee, has a yellow face, black and yellow thorax and a distinctive orange waist and dark tail.

Green Sweat Bee #__

Medium sized bee, about half the size of a honey bee, with metallic green color. Females are all green, males are green with yellow and black striped abdomen.

Black-headed Grosbeak #__

Medium sized bird with white patches (not spots) on black wings and a very large, gray beak.

Spotted Towhee #__

Medium sized bird with a black hood, a black back, and white spots on black wings.

Dark-eyed Junco #__

Medium sized bird with a black hood, a brown back, and white belly.



© C. Christie



© Kim Cabrera



© Mark Chappell

Answers on bottom of page 5.

WHAT TO DO DURING THE SECOND WAVE?

As a way of recording “Life in Alpine during the COVID-19 Pandemic,” we have been writing about how our friends and neighbors are coping with changes in their lives and daily routines. We continue this series in this issue with photos and stories about everyday Alpine at the Library during the pandemic of 2020.

One hundred and twenty years ago, in October 1900, the Alpine Library Association formed to establish a public community library in the Town Hall. In February 1978, needing more space for books and programs, the library relocated to a second story space at 1950 Arnold Way. The library is now at 1752 Alpine Boulevard, in an amazing new building constructed just for the Library.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the staff at the Alpine Library developed new and creative ways to serve the citizens while protecting the health of its employees and visitors. These photos illustrate how they have adapted to the challenge.



Alpine Library Youth Services Librarian Heather Pisani-Kristl taking her temperature under the watchful eye of Anwar Sanchez, attendant for Aging and Independence Services' Cool Zone. This device is a retrofitted metal detector with a thermometer on one side! The Cool Zone operates in the library's Resource Room each weekday from noon to 5 PM for local residents who need relief from high summer and fall temperatures.

One thing we have learned from the Library is that when times change, we have to change with them. So enjoy the Library services as much as you can, whenever you can—and be sure to check the Library website or look for them on facebook and linkedin for updates to schedules and services because these may change if health orders are modified.



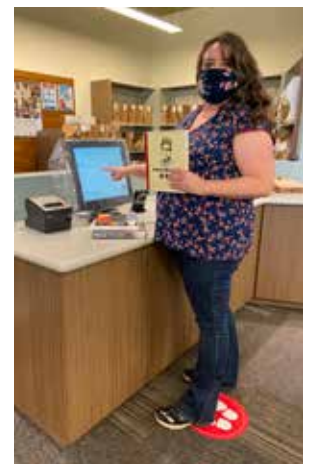
Youth Services Librarian Heather Pisani-Kristl staffing the Alpine Library's Mail Ballot Drop Off station for the 2020 Presidential Election. Although Mail Ballot Drop Off has taken place at the library for years with the help of Registrar of Voters volunteers, this is the first year that library employees have staffed the table.



Assistant Branch Manager Connie McKeever at Alpine Library's service desk, displaying an acrylic shield, table for 6-foot social distancing, and ubiquitous bottle of hand sanitizer.



Library Technician II Rheana Corirossi at the Alpine Library's greeting station, behind an acrylic window. Simple bandanas are provided by San Diego County; library users consent to wearing a face covering over nose and mouth, practicing social distancing, keeping their hands clean, and following library hours. The library currently operates in-person services from 10 AM to 4 PM Tuesday through Thursday, with a one-hour break at lunchtime so that staff can sanitize computers.



Alpine Library Branch Manager Jenne Bergstrom demonstrates self-check-out with social distancing floor labels and disposable touch-screen covers. The book in her hand pays tribute to recently-deceased Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

A TRIP THROUGH TIME: BURMA-SHAVE

When you hear the name Burma-Shave do you think of a brushless shave cream, a Southeast Asian shaved ice, or a series of roadside signs? Well, if you answered “roadside signs”, you might not want to say that out loud, it may give away your age.

Burma-Shave was a brushless shave cream introduced in 1925 by the Burma-Vita Company. Their original liniment product included ingredients from Burma, but it did not sell well. The company reformulated the ingredients and developed a brushless shave cream sold in a tube. Again, sales were disappointing, so the company started a marketing campaign based on roadside signs. When sales picked up in towns where these signs were posted, the company started installing signs in all their market areas. Eventually, Burma-Shave became the second highest seller of brushless shave cream.

The signs evolved to be a series of six consecutive signs posted along the edge of highways, spaced for easy reading by motorists. Early signs focused only on advertising:

**Your shaving brush
Has had its day
So why not
Shave the modern way
With
Burma-Shave**

Soon, the signs became more puckish:

**Shaving brushes
You'll soon see 'em
On the shelf
In some
Museum
Burma-Shave**

In 1935, some of the signs expressed highway safety slogans:

**Train approaching
Whistle squealing
Stop
Avoid that
run-down feeling
Burma-Shave**

Are you now wondering if any Burma Shave signs appeared in Alpine? The answer is YES. In the late 1920's Vic Head and his siblings, Consuelo, Sylvia and Norman, lived with Helen and Percy Foss. When he recorded his memories of Alpine in his book, *Meandering Through the Journey of Life*, the following story, featuring Vic and his friend Ostes walking to school in Alpine, appeared:

The other way [to school] was west down the same driveway, under a mulberry tree, on past Helen and Percy's place, past the billygoat, and down to a crossroad. I think a house in the northwest corner of that intersection belonged to a Mr. Galloway. Just before that house we'd turn right, over a gorge, and so north to Highway 80 [later re-named Arnold Way]. They must have really economized when they built Highway 80, for instead of separate concrete slabs each way, each slab was full highway width. There Ostes and I would turn east on a



long uphill curve where a series of signs suggested:

**Don't take
these curves
at 60 per
we hate to lose
a customer
Burma-Shave**

Although Burma-Shave survived the depression, they could not survive the interstate highway system with its higher speeds and ban on roadside signs. The company was sold in 1963 and later went out of business. But the memory of those roadside signs lingers with many folks of a “certain age.”

There are several good books about the Burma-Shave signs, and a good encyclopedia entry is on Wikipedia. If you are inclined to take a road trip, you can see replica signs along original U.S. Route 66, between Ash Fork and Kingman in Arizona.

**Big Mistake
Many Make
Rely on Horn
Instead of
Brake
Burma-Shave**



Alpine Historical & Conservation Society
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Alpine, CA 91903-0382

Address Service Requested

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HISTORICAL &
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NEW Phone: 619-485-0625
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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.