

Upcoming events:

- **March 26 & 27:**
Museum Open House
- **April 10:** An Alpine Native & the J.A. Cooley Museum
- **April 23 & 24:**
Museum Open House

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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

APRIL PROGRAM ■ SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2022 ■ 1:00 P.M.

AN ALPINE NATIVE & THE J.A. COOLEY MUSEUM

Our April 10th program speaker is Carmen Cooley Graham, speaking about her time in Alpine in the early 1970's, and the J.A. Cooley Museum created by her parents and now curated by our speaker. A third generation San Diegan, Carmen was born in Alpine in 1971.

A year before Carmen was born, her parents, Jim and Carmen, lost their first home in the 1970 Laguna fire, just five months after their marriage. With the insurance and FEMA money they were able to build a new family home on Foss Road. Alpine was still a small town and riding horses on Alpine Blvd was the usual. In 1978, the family decided to move to Normal Heights to be closer to schools.

In 1982, Jim's best friend Frank Cox, asked Jim to take ownership of his "Frank the Trainman" business, which Carmen still operates today. Then in 1997, their passion for collecting led them to open the J.A. Cooley Museum in University Heights. This private museum and foundation is Jim & Carmen's way of giving back to the community.

The museum is 10,000 sq. ft. of early American history and inventions. Most of the collection has significance to San Diego including the horse buggy made in Alpine by E.A Gardner. The Cooley's are the third owners of this over 100 year-old treasure.



The Cooley Family

Carmen's philosophy is that not only is history important to know but it is a blessing to share it with others.

The J.A. Cooley Museum is located at 4233 Park Blvd., San Diego. Their collection includes cars from 1886 through 1933 and over 25 different categories of collections including lamps, bells, irons, purses, trains, clocks, spittoons, posters, cameras, cast iron toys, typewriters, household appliances, music machines, telegraphs, telephones, and phonographs.



Aftermath of the 1970 Laguna Fire — the remains of their house



Horse buggy made in Alpine by E.A Gardner

Program held at the Alpine Woman's Club, 2156 Alpine Blvd., Alpine

Admission is **FREE** (donations appreciated) but seating is limited, so *please make a reservation* by calling Corinne at (619) 417-1306 or send an email to info@alpinehistory.org

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST LIFE MEMBER— CHERYL MINSHEW

Cheryl and Jim Minshew lived in Deheasa before moving to Alpine in 2003. They joined the Alpine Historical Society with a family membership shortly after that and have renewed each successive year. Their family includes 6 children, 9 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Sadly, Jim passed

away in May of 2021. Cheryl joined as Life Member in January 2022.

Those of you who remember the local business “Sorta Art”, a craft and quilting shop in Alpine, may recognize or remember Cheryl. She still does quilting and is an avid tennis and pickle ball player.



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A Hearty Welcome to Our New Life Member: Cheryl Minshew

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members: Julian Historical Society, James Peck, Sandra Wise

A Grateful Thank You to Our Renewing Members: Barbara Balaban, Susan Barker, Theo & Jan Bazdorf, Kathy Fiedor, Marilyn & Marc Fox, Chik & Pat Hylton, Richard & Jane Kelso, Judy Matlock, Barbara & Gregory McCurtis, Joan McCurry, Janet & Bill Peyton, Louise Phipps, John & Ann Pierce, Jim & Babra Rosenberg, G. Gage Skinner, Dave & Donna Smith,

Sandra Smith & Frank Hardt, Ray & Betty Sopfe, Beverly Stacy, Janis Vanderford, Linda & Adam Whitlock

Many thanks to the following for their generous financial donations: Carlette Anderson, Susan Barker, Theo & Jan Bazdorf, Kathy Fiedor, Richard & Jane Kelso, Judy Matlock, Carol Morrison, Louise Phipps, John & Ann Pierce, Kevin & Alejandra Schumacher, G. Gage Skinner, Sandra Smith & Frank Hardt, Ray & Betty Sopfe, Beverly Stacy, State Farm—Laurie Hallihan, Janis Vanderford, Linda & Adam Whitlock, Sandra Wise

Special Thanks of Appreciation to our new Business Member:

DMK Pharmacy

Many Thanks of Appreciation for renewing their Business Memberships for 2022:

Alpine Woman’s Club

Jeff Campbell
San Diego Estates

Laurie Hallihan, State Farm

RECOGNITION OF OUR CURRENT LIFETIME MEMBERS

Carlette Anderson • Deborah Anderson • George & Joan Anderson • Mark L. Anderson • Willa Athey
Franklin R. Ball • David Carey • Lisa & Dave Celeste • Ted Christensen • James H. Cleland • James David
Rita David • Peggy & Jim Easterling • Beverly Falor • Katie & Brian Ford • Vincent Fritts • Paul Gonya
Janet M. Harris • Linda Harshberger • Ann Hill • Hilde Hinchcliff • Leslie Holben • Ken & Denise Hujing
Ben Johnson • Bill & Diane Keltner • Jill & Shawn Killion • John Krempp • Barbara Lea LaForce
J. Clayburn LaForce • Joanne & Martin Marugg • Cheryl Minshew • Carol Morrison
Tom & Judy Myers • Helen Porter • Kurt Scherbaum • Albert Simonson • Donna Sisson • Virginia Sisson
Anne Tarr • Rodney & Guille Tuttle • Paul & Carol Walker • Joan Waterworth

RECOGNITION OF OUR LIFETIME BUSINESS MEMBERS

Brabazon Alpine Paving and Trucking • Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians
Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians • RGT Charitable Trust • Rock Canyon Animal Rescue Foundation
Turvey Granite Pit • Chris Wiley—Primary Residential Mortgage

CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS: Life Members ~ 49, Current Members ~ 104, Members up for Renewal ~ 4



PIONEER STORIES RETOLD — William and Ida Stephenson with two children, Lena and Hugh, moved to Alpine in 1891, staying with their Aunt Louisa Willett. Their second son, George, was born February 24, 1895, the first Alpine baby delivered by Doctor Sophronia Nichols. The following story, recorded by Bea La Force, illustrates some interesting aspects of Alpine life in the early 1900's.

THE YELLOW SHOE DATE

On a bright warm Sunday afternoon in July 1907, George Stephenson, age twelve-and-a-half, suffered a serious crisis. He had a date (his first) with a girl and he had no shoes. No shoes at all; he was literally barefoot. Few ever wore shoes in warm weather. Boy's feet grew so fast that new shoes were not purchased until winterish weather demanded it.

George was accustomed to barefooting it everywhere, but he could not any longer. At 12-and-a-half he was almost a man, by the then current measure of age. An almost-a-man character would not go calling on a girl in his bare feet, especially on Sunday afternoon, which was dress-up time, for adults. The girl – her name is disputed by

old-timers . . . Lottie Snow? One of the Emery girls? Clara somebody? No matter. Whoever it was, she'd be embarrassed to have a big lug of a barefoot feller come visiting on Sunday afternoon. He had to get shoes somewhere. Turning naturally to his kinfolk; they were a big family, cousins all over the community: Snows, Willett, Taylor and more. It turned out all their shoes were too big or too little or in use. George was becoming close to desperate, but would not give up . . . yet. As he sat worrying on the front porch steps his older sister Lena came out and sat down beside him, sympathizing. She was wearing a brand new pair of mail-order shoes. They were high-top bright yellow leather. She saw him staring at her new shoes. "Want

to try them on?" she asked kindly.

"Women's shoes . . ." Said George, seriously tempted.

"They'll fit you," said his kind sister, unlacing the shoes. They did fit, comfortably. And George accepted them with joy, although a bit uneasy about it. Would people notice that they were ladies shoes? Would they laugh at him? He had to risk it. No one laughed. He later told his nephew Roy Williams, son of the sister, Lena, that he tried to keep his feet back and as unexposed as possible. Still he had a wonderful visit with the girl. A Pennoyer girl? Miss Bozza? No matter. The episode became a favorite memory for George Stephenson. He enjoyed telling it and did so with a delight flair. The listener lived it as he talked.

REMEMBERING ELMA TERRY

In February 2022, Elma Terry passed away peacefully at her home in Alpine at age 99.

Elma moved to Alpine in 1989, two years after losing her husband Dr. Condon Terry, a Presbyterian minister. Elma soon joined and became quite an active volunteer at the Alpine Historical Society, the Alpine Community Church, and the Alpine Woman's Club. She was also a regular at Matt's Sit and Fit classes at the Alpine Community Center.

Elma, dressed in her Victorian style dress and hat, is an image that few in Alpine will forget. Her energy and enthusiasm was remarkable and many will remember her as the "flower lady" who provided fresh cut flowers from her garden for gatherings of the Histor-

ical Society and the Woman's Club. She was always present at the church rummage sale, the AWC Victorian Tea, and every event of the Historical Society, where she was a member of the Board of Directors for many years. In 2015 she was made an Honorary Lifetime Member of the Historical Society.

Alpine was her home for 33 years, one third of her life. Those who knew her will miss her dearly. A Memorial Service will be held March 12 at 2:00 p.m. at the Alpine Community Church, 2225 W. Victoria Drive, Alpine.



MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Women's History Month is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society and is recognized annually in the United States during the month of March. The theme for 2022 is "Women Providing Healing, Promoting Hope."

We invite you to visit the John De Witt Museum during March and immerse yourself in the Alpine Women Exhibit in the east gallery of the Beaty House to learn of some of the amazing women who, in their own way, provided healing and hope in Alpine from the 1860's to the present day. The museum is open the last weekend of each month from 2 to 4 pm or make an appointment for a private tour by calling Carol at 619-445-2544.

REMEMBERING GAIL GUTH

Gail Elizabeth Wilson, the youngest of four children, was born in Spirit River, Alberta, Canada on June 24, 1934.

Two years later her parents, Gordon “Joe” and Mava Wilson moved the family to Alpine, purchased the Alpine Store, and settled the family in the living quarters above the store. Gail attended school in Alpine, graduated from Grossmont High School, and attended San Diego State. While attending San Diego State, she went on a blind date with a handsome Navy Underwater Demolition Team officer named John Guth.

In 1957, she married John and the couple soon moved to Palo Alto to further their education. While John attended Stanford graduate school, Gail finished her degree at San Jose State and later earned her masters and doctorate degrees in education.

The couple returned to San Diego where Gail taught school and was the reading specialist at Lowell Elementary. She later became a vice-principal and principal.

Gail strongly believed in the “Butterfly Effect”, where the smallest of actions can cause long lasting greater effects.

She was known to always wear a butterfly pin somewhere on her clothing. She always had a kind word, a quick smile and positive words of encouragement for all she encountered.

John & Gail owned property near Palo Verde Lake where they and their four children would spend every weekend dreaming of the home they would one day build here.

Although that was not to be, they were frequent visitors, spending time with Joe & Mava until the parents both passed away in 1977 & 1979.

Gail was a Life Member of the Alpine Historical and Conservation Society.



She passed away in November 2021. A Celebration of Life will be held on June 1, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. at Kensington Community Church, 4773 Marlborough Drive, San Diego.

CERTIFY YOUR GARDEN FOR WILDLIFE – EARN POINTS FOR ALPINE

In 1998, the National Wildlife Federation named Alpine the first **Community Wildlife Habitat** in the United States. Now, over 250 homes, schools and businesses in Alpine help to maintain that distinction with their certified wildlife habitats.

To keep our designation as the longest continuously certified community we encourage all Alpine residents to certify their garden, balcony, or outdoor space. Each newly certified site earns us points towards our annual goal. This process is a self-certification, so no inspections are needed.

Most Alpine addresses naturally meet the four certification criteria:

FOOD, WATER, SHELTER, and A PLACE TO RAISE

YOUNG. Plants provide food: nectar, pollen, berries and seeds, or you can install feeders. You can count a nearby natural water source or you can put out a bird bath or bowl of water at your site. Trees, shrubs, mulch, or birdhouses, bee boxes, and piles of brush provide shelter and a place to raise offspring. The fifth criteria, **SUSTAINABILITY**, is achieved with water conservation, natural pesticides and planting natives, composting or using organic practices. Providing the five elements is more important than the size of the site or quantity of

plants and water.

Try creating a child’s garden, your children can watch and learn about wildlife and you can certify the space. You can also install a NWF Certification plaque at your site to show your neighbors that you value wildlife. All the information you need is available on line at <https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/Certify>.



We encourage planting milkweed.

This is the only plant the Monarch butterfly lays her eggs on. The Monarchs have declined over 90% due to pesticide use and a limited amount of milkweed plants. San Diego native milk-

weeds are best and are available at local native plant nurseries. Monarchs are good pollinators, so use native plants that bloom in late fall and early spring.

To certify your site go to www.NWF.org and fill out the application. Fee is only \$20. Please email me to let me know that your garden is certified so I can add your name to our master list. When we each do our small part, Alpine can become a haven for Monarch butterflies. Lets keep those little critters happy.

—*Carlette Anderson, Director, Alpine’s Community Wildlife Habitat Program, WildlifeHabitats@aol.com*

TIMELINE 1929-1935: BARON LONG, THE ALPINE YEARS

Baron Long earned quite a reputation in California as a businessman, hotelier, and horse breeder, beginning in the early 1900's until his death at age 79 in 1962.

In 1911, in a small town 5 miles from Los Angeles, Long built the Vernon Country Club, later called the prototype for the modern nightclub. In 1917, he bought his first hotel in Van Nuys, which he sold two years later using the proceeds to become part owner of the U.S. Grant Hotel in San Diego. By 1927, he became the full owner of the Grant Hotel, one of the most elegant hotels on the West Coast.

Baron Long was also heavily involved in Tijuana, beginning in 1915 when he became part owner of the Tijuana Jockey Club and built their racetrack. In 1924 he decided to go into the horse racing business by purchasing 1609 acres of land, named by the Spanish who called it Valley de las Viejas, from Douglas Ogden. It was on this site that Baron Long built a very successful horse breeding Rancho. Three years later, in 1927, Long and his partners



U.S. Grant Hotel

built the Agua Caliente Resort and Racetrack.

At Viejas Rancho, he built a nationally recognized horse breeding facility, complete with training track, where his stable produced many of the best racehorses of the decade. His horses placed fourth among America's top thoroughbred winners in 1930. The next year, his horses finished first in 251 races, second in 199 races and third in 201 races, winning a total of \$200,000.

Baron's career as a horse breeder came to a sudden end in 1932 in the Linden Tree scandal. Long was angry with East Coast bookmakers who regularly cheated their customers by "plugging", a practice used to cut their payouts by lowering the odds. Baron Long decided to give them a payback in kind. He had two of his own horses, a lackluster pair who finished last and next to last, entered in a race at Agua Caliente on January 6. He placed bets to manipulate the odds on the two-year-old favorite, Linden Tree. After his large win, Long called a press conference to tell the world how he had put one over on the crooked bookies. The news created an uproar in the press and Stewards at Agua Caliente banned him from racing on his own track. In February 1932, Baron Long announced he would quit racing, sell his breeding ranch, and devote himself to his hotel business.



Agua Caliente Resort

He soon entered into protracted negotiations with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to sell the property. The government was building the El Capitan Reservoir to provide water for San Diego, causing displacement of 150 members of the Capitan Grande Band of the Kumeyaay Indians from the floodplains of the El Capitan Dam. The tribe by treaty had the right to select where they might be moved and they chose two locations, the Barona Ranch and Baron Long's Rancho el Valle de las Viejas. Upon completion of the sale in 1935, the valley became tribal land and was known as the Baron Long Reservation, ending the non-native ownership of the Viejas Valley.



Viejas Rancho

ALPINE HISTORICAL & CONSERVATION SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Director-at-Large: Janet Harris
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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.

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

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.