

Upcoming events:

- **May 28 & 29:**
Museum Open House
- **June 12:** Honey Bees & African Elephants
- **June 25 & 26:**
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

JUNE PROGRAM ■ SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2022 ■ 1:00 P.M.

HONEY BEES & AFRICAN ELEPHANTS

Our next General Membership program meeting is at 1:00 p.m. on June 12, 2022. East County beekeeper (apiarist) Richard Edwards and Radio Personality Coe Lewis are presenting the program focused on the history of local beekeeping and an interesting new adaptation: using bees to create a biofence.

The earliest American settlers to come to Alpine, including Adam Beaty in 1869, John Harbison



Coe Lewis

in 1872 and the Foss family in 1875, were beekeepers. Honey production was a major industry in Alpine during the early settlement period, often extending to a second generation of apiarists. Though not as

popular now as it was 150 years ago, honey production is making a resurgence with contemporary apiarists such as Edwards.



Richard Edwards

However, the concept of using honeybees to create a biofence is a new one. If you don't know about biofences, you must come and find out. You will discover how honey bees can

be used effectively to keep African elephants safely within a wildlife sanctuary to mitigate the poaching problem and provide a substitute source of income for poachers. This might save thousands of elephants each year from being killed to harvest their ivory tusks.

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



OUR POPPIES ARE BLOOMING – ARE YOURS?

Last December, as part of a fundraising promotion, we mailed customized packages of California Poppy seeds to our local members as part of a campaign to "Make Alpine Golden Again." In doing our part for the project, we planted poppy seeds at the entrance to the Sophronia Nichols house and we were thrilled by this beautiful display in April. At the completion of bloom, the plants will produce seed pods and should re-seed themselves for a new display next year. We hope your poppies turned out fabulous as well.

WELCOME TO BOB & CARMEN RING: NEW PROPERTY MANAGER ~ NEW MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR NEW LIFE MEMBERS OF ALPINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Please welcome Bob and Carmen to our Board of Directors. Bob is our new Property Manager, and Carmen is our new Membership Director, and both have joined as Life Members.

Bob and Carmen have been married for 20 years and are very proud of their blended family: 6 kids & 11 grandkids! Although Carmen is a California girl — born and raised — she had never heard of “Alpine” till she met Bob, and admits that “I’ve fallen in love with the place, it has been a big part of our marriage”. Bob, however, has spent much of his early life in Alpine, even living in the Dr. Sophronia Nichols house in the early 1970’s.



In 2006, Bob worked as a Store Director for Albertsons, and in 2008 opened the Alpine Alberstons. After retiring from Albertsons in 2014, he began working for Barons Market until retiring in 2019.

Carmen also worked for Albertsons for 35 years, then began working for Barons in Marketing. She loves working for Barons and being part of the Barons Family. And, of course, she’s always glad to be available whenever Bob or one of their kids or grandkids need something.

Bob and Carmen are eagerly looking forward to working at the Historical Society and getting to know everyone in Alpine.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A Hearty Welcome to Our New Life Members: Bob & Carmen Ring

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members: John & Laura Grisafi, Morgan & Jeremy Sterling

A Grateful Thank You to Our Renewing Members: Brenda Clark, Linda Dean, Anna Knuth, Jo Moreland, Beverly Stacy

Many thanks to the following for their generous financial donations: Mark Bissonnette, Brenda Clark, Linda Dean, Jo Moreland, Kevin & Alejandra Schumacher, Beverly Stacy

We are grateful to the following for their donations in memory of Elma Terry: Bob & Sharon Beale, Lisa & David Celeste, Katie & Brian Ford, Carol Morrison, Carol & Paul Walker

RECOGNITION OF OUR CURRENT LIFETIME MEMBERS

Carlette Anderson • Deborah Anderson • George 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 • Bob & Carmen Ring
Kurt Scherbaum • Kevin & Alejandra Schumacher • 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 ~ 51, Current Members ~ 100, Members up for Renewal ~ 10

NEWEST ARTIFACTS AT DEWITT MUSEUM

The Alpine Historical Society recently received some additional artifacts for our collection, and they are now on display in the Alpine Women exhibit at the John DeWitt Museum.

In our last newsletter, we remembered Elma Terry, a long-time member and volunteer with the AHCS. Many of you will remember her



from her appearances in Alpine Parades, at Alpine History Days, or at the Alpine Woman's Club annual Victorian Tea. Elma's family donated her black lace Victorian gown along with lace parasol and black lace hat to the museum. These items are a lovely addition to our exhibit and evoke fond memories of Elma.

The manual typewriter belonging to Beatrice La Force found its way home to Alpine thanks to a donation of the object by Natalie I. Lanigar who purchased the typewriter at the Estate sale following Mrs. La Force's death in 2003. This item has

particular historical value in Alpine because of the volume of works produced on it. The attic of the Adam Beatty House at the John DeWitt museum contains 14 storage boxes crammed full of literary works written by Bea La Force and published in various media. Mrs. La Force was a long time resident of Alpine and she produced over 1,500 manuscripts including stage plays, screen plays, newspaper and magazine articles, and the definitive book of Alpine history titled: *"Alpine, History of a Mountain Settlement"*.

We invite you to visit the John DeWitt Museum,



where you can learn more about some of **Alpine's Prominent Women** as well as the **Birds and Bees of Alpine**, the **History of Farming**, and **Historic School Houses** in early Alpine.

The museum is open the last Saturday and Sunday of each month from 2:00 to 4:00 pm or other days by appointment by calling Carol at 619-445-2544.

CLEANING UP THE CREEK FOR EARTH DAY

In celebration of Earth Day 2022, the Alpine Historical and Conservation Society's John DeWitt Museum was the site of the **20th Annual I Love a Clean Alpine Day**, one of the sites in San Diego County to participate in the Creek to Bay Cleanup produced by I Love a Clean San Diego. In Alpine, 18 volunteers met at the DeWitt Museum to remove rubbish and debris from a portion of the Chocolate Creek Watershed that traverses the southern border of the museum property. Additional chores included removing invasive species from the watershed, trimming trees and stacking the cuttings for curbside chipping. One small dumpster and a trailer were filled with refuse. The summary data for the day includes:

- Weed-whacked and mowed the entire property
- Cleaned up litter from the creek bed, backyard, and along Tavern Road
- Removed old lumber pile and hauled to the dump
- Trimmed trees along Tavern Road for fire safety
- Pulled annual weeds from creek banks and native habitat areas
- Planted 3 Coast Live Oak seedlings along Chocolate Creek!

Total Trash Hauled — 1,300 pounds (800 pounds hauled to dump + 500 pounds in the 3-yard dumpster)

Total Green Waste cut and stacked for chipping — approximately 800 cubic feet

Fun Facts:

- Most Common Item Found: Wrappers and Packaging tossed out of vehicles on Tavern Road
- Most Unusual Item Found: 1980 Porsche 928 Hotwheels Car

Our sincere thanks go to all the volunteers with special thanks to site captains Jon Green and Bob Ring.



Echoes of the Past, by Neil R. Galloway, reprinted from the Alpine Sun, July 19, 1962

ALPINE'S TEA COTTAGE

The young couple was tired and hungry when they pulled up the old 80 grade and rolled into Alpine where they were going to make their home. On the right side of the road stood an attractive old-fashioned house bearing the modest sign, *Rose Cottage Tea Room*. Mr. and Mrs. Rex Darnell, the hungry couple, went in for tea. This was the first meeting of the Darnells and the proprietor of *Rose Cottage*, Mrs. Mary Ansell. "I remember it as a very pretty place," Mrs. Belle Darnell, now 80 says. "We could see on into the interior of the house and there was Mary and Marie (Mrs. Lars Carlson) in the living room. We liked each other right away and have been great friends ever since."

Rose Cottage was the first tea room in the mountains. Its site was approximately that now occupied by the Empire Market. Mary Ansell

started it and ran it for over two years until her health nearly broke, as business boomed and put too heavy a work load on her shoulders. Mary used to make fabulous cakes and cookies, and other deserts, and sandwiches, and her ice cream concoctions soon became known up and down 80. Each afternoon the nurses and doctors and others working at the hospital then operating in Alpine, used to come over for refreshments in their off hours. Travelers stopped off the highway and many people drove out especially to have tea at Mary's *Rose Cottage*. The prettily appointed tea room was very popular and strategically located at the top of the long hot haul up the slow grade from San Diego and down the equally tiring grade from the east. *Rose Cottage Tea Room's* brief existence is remembered pleasantly by many old-timers.

Reprinted from the Alpine Sun, October 8, 1954



Two happy Alpiners, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Barrelle on the porch of their beautiful adobe home above Victoria Drive. He is noted artist, formerly of Philadelphia. One of his advertising ideas is still going strong: Salt container picture of child and umbrella with slogan "when it rains it pours".



"CONSERVATION" IS OUR MIDDLE NAME

Well okay, it's one of our middle names at the *Alpine Historical & Conservation Society*. Because it is such a long name we often shorten it to simply *Alpine Historical Society*, but in doing that we sometimes lose our connection to the "conservation" element. This article is about how we



promote conservation. "Conservation" and "Preservation" are often synonymous, so it is easy to see that, through the John DeWitt Museum, we are conserving, protecting and caring for numerous artifacts, photographs and documents that inform and portray the history of Alpine. Examples are the Doctor's Buggy, Rorie the Gorilla, and the three historic buildings that house the museum collection.

Conservation can also involve the stewardship of wildlife and wildlands. Although the AH&CS does not manage

open spaces as the Back Country Land Trust does at Wright's Field, and we don't promote gardening as the Alpine Garden Club does, we are partners with these two organizations in promoting the *Certified Community Wildlife Habitat Program* in Alpine. Carlette Anderson is the Director of the program and her yard is designated the first Certified Habitat in Alpine. The AH&CS property at 2116 Tavern Road is also certified. In fact, Alpine became the first *Certified Community Wildlife Habitat* in the USA on May 1, 1998.



This year the 20th annual I Love a Clean Alpine Day (see article on page 3) focused on cleaning up a portion of the Chocolate Creek tributary of the San Diego River.

So next time you think of the Alpine Historical Society, don't forget that our other middle name is "Conservation".

TIMELINE 1919-1970: JAMES & MARY ANSELL

In her book, *Alpine, History of a Mountain Settlement*, Bea La Force tells this about Jim and Mary Ansell:

“Early in 1919, a young New England couple, James and Mary Ansell, made another desperate attempt to save his life. So far everything they’d tried had failed to help him. Mary said that when they reached Alpine, her husband was a stretcher case, and within one month he was practically well. Their first home was one of Clark’s Cottages. With Mr. Ansell fully recovered they soon joined the square dancers at the Town Hall, the picnickers and the hikers. Among the several jobs she held, Mary became manager of Clark’s Cottages, a position she held until the place was sold.

The Rose Cottage Tea Room (see story on page 4) was opened in Alpine Center by Mary Ansell around 1921. Mary’s New England industry and eye for amenities, plus her delicate cakes and pastries, soon made Rose Cottage a favorite place for people driving out from the City for lunch or afternoon tea. Her double chocolate cake was a house specialty, the recipe for which was rarely shared. Many regretted the end of Rose Cottage Tea Room when, after several very busy years, Mary closed it, being unable to carry the work load longer.”

Jim Ansell, a carpenter, worked on many local construction sites. He, along with many other Alpine men, volunteered his time and talent to help build Alpine’s first chapel on Victoria Drive (now called Fuller Hall).

Mary Ansell was a very active community volunteer, during her first year she joined the Alpine Booster’s Club (forerunner of the Woman’s Club), in 1930 she served as Librarian and later as a Trustee of the Alpine Library Association. After Jim died in 1956, Mary stayed in Alpine, later moving to a care facility near her sister

in Santa Ana. Mary died July 24, 1970, in Santa Ana; she was 84 years old.

With a lot of sleuthing in our Historic Society Archives, we were able to find Mary Ansell’s recipe for the coveted double chocolate cake mentioned by Bea La Force:

Mary Ansell’s Black Angel Cake

1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup milk
1 egg
3 squares bitter chocolate

For the chocolate paste, I cook sugar, milk and chocolate over very low heat until chocolate is melted, then pour the mixture slowly into beaten egg, then cook over very, very low heat until thick. Cool.

1 cup sugar
1/2 cup butter
1/2 cup milk
2 eggs
1/2 tsp baking soda
2 cups flour
Vanilla to taste



Mix cake thoroughly, add chocolate paste and beat well. Bake in two layers. (P.S. This recipe is so old it gives no directions as to time and temperature. I bake at 350 degrees about 35 minutes).

Frost with Viennese chocolate icing. Melt 4 squares Baker’s Chocolate (unsweetened). Remove from fire, add 1 cup confectioner’s sugar, 2 tablespoons hot water, blend well. Add 2 eggs, one at a time, beating thoroughly after egg. Eggs are added un-beaten. Then add 6 tablespoons melted butter, two at a time, beating well after each.

This is a very rich cake, popular with chocolate lovers.

ALPINE HISTORICAL & CONSERVATION SOCIETY

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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

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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):

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (1) \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit Life \$600 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Life \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (2) \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life \$500 | | |

Amount Enclosed:

Membership \$ _____

Donation \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Volunteer Opportunities:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Museum Open Houses | <input type="checkbox"/> History Day |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Programs & Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Oral Histories |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibit Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Archival Data Entry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

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