

Upcoming events:

- **January 28 & 29:**
Museum Open House
- **February 19:**
General Membership Meeting, and “A Trip Down Memory Lane”
- **February 25 & 26:**
Museum Open House

Inside this issue:

- Proposed Slate of Officers for 2023, page 2
- Membership Update, page 2
- Memories of Alpine, page 3
- Psalm for a Winter Twilight, page 4
- Cockney Bill’s Ox Carts, page 4
- Timeline 1923: Alpine, 100 Years Ago, page 5
- 2022 Alpine Historical & Conservation Society 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

ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM FOR FEBRUARY 19, 2023

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

The program presentation on February 19, 2023, features Joyce, Melodie, and April Earickson, three sisters who lived in Alpine during the 1960’s. Have you wondered what life was like in 1960’s Alpine? These sisters can tell you all the details from their own experiences.

To gather some background on the family, we performed a search of our newspaper archives and discovered nearly 50 entries in the *Alpine Sun* and *Alpine Echo* newspapers from 1960 to 1970 telling us about the Earickson sisters including a fourth sister, Elaine and brother Gene Earickson.

These young ladies were active in the Alpine Champion 4-H club, win-

ning numerous ribbons at the county fair for their baking and sewing skills. A weekly column in the *Alpine Sun* called “Horse Talk” described their love for horses, and another article tells us how upset April was when a stray dog attacked her pet rabbit and guinea pigs. Clearly, these young ladies were active in the community, and the family was friends with the Irvine family, editors and publishers of the *Alpine Sun*.

Three of the Earickson sisters, along with two friends, Colleen White who resides in the Mount Helix area and Betty McCloud from La Mesa, will present many memories of 1960’s Alpine, so plan now to



Parents Winifred and Robert, and April with her pet rabbit.



Joyce, Melodie, & April Earickson

attend this trip down Memory Lane.

ANNUAL MEETING CALL

The sixty-first Annual Meeting of the Alpine Historical and Conservation Society is February 19, 2023. The meeting at the Alpine Woman’s Club will start at 1:00 pm and will include an introduction of 2023 officers and board members and receive Treasurer’s Summary Report for the year ending December 31, 2022. Members and guests are invited to attend our Annual Meeting and stay for the program featuring the Earickson sisters. We will not have a pot luck luncheon at this gathering.

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

PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2023

Each year during January, ballots are mailed to Life Members, Business Members, and Regular Members of the Alpine Historical Society. When you receive your ballot, please vote for the candidates of your choice, and mail the ballot back to the Alpine Historical Society. The proposed Slate of Officers for 2023 are:

President: Bob Ring
1st Vice President, Programs: Corinne Lewis
2nd Vice President, Membership: Carmen Ring
3rd Vice President, Property: Marty Cochran
Secretary: Barbara McCurtis
Treasurer: Lisa Celeste

Director, Archivist: Carol Morrison
Director, Social Media: Jennifer Tschida
Director, Vintage Autos: Norm Kling
Director: Janet Harris
Newsletter Editor: Tom Myers
Newsletter Layout: Judy Myers

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members: Pat Cimins, Marty & Merlyn Cochran, Sue Mize, Gary & Kathy Swain, Faye White

A Grateful Thank You to Our Renewing Members: Cathie & Wayne Aymar, Marcia Bair, Kathy Balsley, Susan Barker, Theo & Jan Bazdorf, Gay Beauregard, Bert Fuller VFW Post 9578, Donna Boyer, Colin & Lisa Campbell, Barbara Cater, Pat Dolbeck, Richard & Vicki Freeman, Mary Fritz, Richard & Jane Kelso, Norman & Dolores Kling, Ronald & Carol Matzenauer, Andy Reynolds, Jill Sing, Sue Smith, Ray & Betty Sopfe,

Deborah & Joseph Verfaillie, Susan Walter, Adam & Linda Whitlock, Sandra Wise

Many thanks to the following for their generous financial donations: Carlette Anderson, Marcia Bair, Susan Barker, Theo & Jan Bazdorf, Gay Beauregard, Bert Fuller VFW Post 9578, Barbara Cater, Lisa & David Celeste, Pat Dolbeck, Mary Fritz, Richard & Jane Kelso, Ronald & Carol Matzenauer, Sue Mize, Tom & Judy Myers, Kevin & Alejandra Schumacher, Jill Sing, Sue Smith, Ray & Betty Sopfe, Deborah & Joseph Verfaillie, Adam & Linda Whitlock, Sandra Wise

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 • Lindy 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 • Bob & Carmen Ring
 Kurt Scherbaum • Kevin & Alejandra Schumacher • Albert Simonson • Donna Sisson
 Virginia Sisson • 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 ~ 49, Complimentary ~ 38, Current ~ 78, Renewing ~ 45

MEMORIES OF ALPINE: 1941 - 1991

Blanche and Carl McCall moved from La Jolla to Alpine in 1941, seeking a better climate to raise their three asthmatic sons. The boys regained their health and welcomed a new sister and brother born in Alpine. Carl and Blanche purchased property on the N.W. corner of Tavern Road and South Grade Road, where they established the McCall's Ranch School. Blanche McCall was also a writer for Alpine and Mountain Empire News, for the El Cajon Valley Newspaper and occasionally for The San Diego Union. Her articles often featured Guest Writers recording their "Alpine Memories". The following story, written by Blanche McCall, recalls some of her memories of Alpine from 1941 to 1991.

Happy Memories: Another Pioneer Story

By Blanche McCall

It has come to me with rather a jolt that May 30, 1991, will commemorate 50 years, a half-century, of living in Alpine for the McCall family. Carl and I, with our three sons Bruce, Mike and Brian, moved to Alpine where we lived in a little cabin on the Eltinge Ranch during the time we were building our home on McCall's Ranch hilltop on the corner of South Grade and Tavern Roads. Julian Eltinge had recently died and his Mother lived in the big white frame house south of the estate. Our little mountain cabin was small, with solar water heating, cozy and comfortable and isolated, but wildlife was all about us—deer, rabbits, birds and so forth. While we were living there, Pearl Harbor happened and War declared. A totally unforgettable memory.

What changes I've seen! From a small village, not much more than a hamlet with about 250 residents, a Community Church and two Catholic churches, (one in Alpine and one on the Indian Reservation),

the precious Alpine Woman's Club which has done so much through the years for Alpine community, an elementary school, grades one to eight, of about 80 students, with 4 classrooms and 4 teachers. Mr. Parsons was principal and teacher. The only high school was Grossmont, which had one bus to pick up Alpine students. At that time we thought we should have our own high school in Alpine, and I still think so. Homes had septic tanks and wells that provided crisp clean delicious water. Our well was only 30 feet deep. There were only 4 or 5 telephones in all of Alpine. Most of us liked it that way without too many people. Alpine could only grow with development of sewer lines and piped-in water. Eventually this development came about with much volunteer work and effort within the Alpine Community.

Two more children came into Carl's and my life, Betsy and Barry. When they started school there were ever so many problems with overcrowding of classrooms, which necessitated double sessions. So we started a private summer camp and winter school which became a very consuming part of our lives for 35 years.

Then there were all the wonderful organizations formed, especially during the war



Volunteer Firemen & the First Fire Truck

years and post-war years, to suit everyone's needs, as so much was a volunteer project, such as the Volunteer Firemen. Remember the first Alpine fire truck? We were all so pleased and proud. That took a bit of doing to acquire.

The marvelous climate in 1941! Healthy, clear and clean. "The Healthiest Climate in the U.S.A., according to Government Report", that's what the sign said, coming into Alpine and that was our original reason for moving to Alpine from La Jolla!

But, best of memories are the many friends I made in Alpine, all of whom I cherish with my Happy Memories, and continue to nurture.



McCall's Ranch School, 1966





BOOK REVIEW: **PSALM FOR A WINTER TWILIGHT: A Story of Native Americans, 1882-1891**

AUTHOR: Beatrice LaForce

PUBLISHER: Royal Fireworks Press, Unionville, NY. 1996

Author Beatrice LaForce wrestles with the competing narratives of white settlers and Native Americans as she describes the atrocities both sides dealt out and dealt with during the decades-long fight for the prairie lands of the West. This story is set in the period of time when the Indians had been defeated and were being driven from their ancestral lands. In this time of cultural grievance and of vengeance on both sides, there was one twilight where both the white man and the Native American shared the transcending beauty of the Twenty Third Psalm in both sign language and spoken word.

Where to get this book: For this review, we were able to purchase a used book from amazon.com.

More recent web searches turned up no new or used copies in any bookstore. However, we were able to secure the last seven original copies from the publisher and are offering them for sale at the John DeWitt Museum bookstore while supplies last.

About the Author: Beatrice LaForce lived in Alpine from 1944 to 2003. While in Alpine she served as president of the Artists and Writers of Alpine, librarian for the Alpine Library, correspondent for the *Mountain Messenger* and staff writer for the *Alpine Echo*. She participated in The Players theater group, directed the Christmas Pageant for 15 years, and wrote an abundance of short stories and articles as well as stage plays and radio and TV shows. A notable work published in 1971, is *ALPINE, History of a Mountain Settlement*, also available for purchase at the Museum.

COCKNEY BILL'S OX CARTS

East County Historian Albert Simonson, formerly of Alpine but now living in Santa Ysabel, extensively researched and wrote about historical topics and figures in East San Diego County. Some favorite topics were Cockney Bill Williams and Ox Carts. You can read the full text of his many essays on our website www.alpinehistory.org. This article combines information from four essays: "Spokes and Yokes", "Ox Carts of Volcan and Viejas Ranchos", "The Granddaddy of Sport Utility Vehicles" and "150 Years of Viejas Days", all penned by Simonson.



Ox Cart Drawing by Bonnie Gendron

Cockney Bill, a salty sailor turned mountain man, allied himself with mountain and desert Indians and together they were able to put Viejas to the plow. To supply San Diego and the Army at Fort Yuma with grain, trains of ox-drawn carts, led by Indians, began to rumble through Mesa del Arroz toward Sycuan (now a casino location). More grain was produced in Viejas Valley than anywhere else in the county. This was a time of tri-cultural harmony, with men and women of Viejas working together in creating roads, manufacturing ox-carts, growing barley and providing the Army with loads of grain.

In those days, rancheros and their Indian vaqueros built their own ox-carts, which were used for everything including hauling grain, transporting wedding parties and bringing rancho ladies down to Old Town dances. They must have looked primitive like other California ox-carts with big solid wood wheels and straight yokes lashed to the oxen's horns.

About 1853, trains of ox-carts rumbled toward San Diego laden with Viejas grain, mainly barley. Those carts were built at Cockney Bill's Valle de las Viejas Rancho. A peculiarity of early California and the rest of New Spain (Southwest US) is that the rancheros did not

put a contoured yoke across the necks of the oxen. Instead, the straight yoke was tied with rawhide to the horns of the oxen. Wooden pegs and rawhide held everything together on the carts and rendered animal fat was used to lubricate the wheels. Spanish-built carts had world-class spoked wheels that were too delicate for our California ox-cart roads.

You can still see some of these ox-carts at San Miguel Mission and Santa Barbara Presidio. One of the best is in San Diego's Old Town at the Seeley Stable. It is reported to have been found under a haystack at Sutter's Fort, where the California Gold Rush began.

TIMELINE 1923: ALPINE, 100 YEARS AGO

Nowadays, everything local seems somehow to be linked to what's happening in the country and the world around us. But in 1923, world events had less impact on the little east county hamlet of Alpine. With no local newspaper, Alpiners may have missed the news that Hitler's followers had attempted a coup d'état in Munich. This failed attempt foreshadowed events to come.

In publishing, the weekly news-magazine *Time* made its debut in 1923 and on the musical scene, George Gershwin introduced *Rhapsody in Blue*. Other popular songs that year included *Yes, We Have No Bananas*, and *Tea for Two*. These may have been played on early San Diego radio stations, but not in Alpine, where homes were not yet connected to the electric grid.

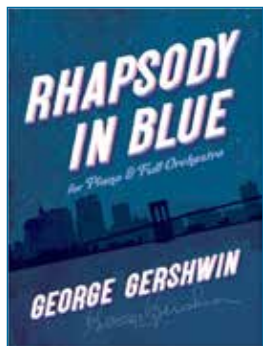
If the *Alpine Sun* existed in 1923, it may have reported that Mrs. Darnell opened the Green Parrot Tea Room at her home near the Willows. While her best-selling item was

cinnamon toast and tea, she also offered cakes, cookies and dainty sandwiches. Dinners and luncheons were by appointment only. Mr. Darnell fabricated an illuminated sign for the Green Parrot Tea Room using gasoline-fueled lanterns – it was the only illuminated sign between San Diego and El Centro in the day.

Bill Dalton, aka Julian Eltinge, Hollywood's top box office attraction, purchased property in Alpine in 1923. He planned to build a big resort on his place situated between Eltinge Drive and South Grade Road. His idea was to build a large hotel with first-class dining room and resort amenities including a very large swimming pool, and two separate dwellings for rent. He called it "Sierra Vista Rancho" and envisioned it as a gathering place for artists, writers and all those desiring the last word in mountain resorts. When the depression hit in 1929, Bill Dalton lost most of his fortune. Semi-retired, he had to liquidate his holdings and go back to the New York stage.

The year 1923 also saw a fire destroy the sanatorium operated by Dr. Hyman Lischner in the grand old Victorian house built on Alpine Boulevard by Benjamin Arnold. After the fire, Lischner's associate, Dr. Barkema, built the Alpine Sanatorium and General Hospital on Tavern Road.

Also in 1923, Colonel Arthur Balentine and his wife Katherine purchased the former Adam Beaty property on Tavern Road in the area called Rancho del Sequan. Serving on General Pershing's staff meant that Colonel Balentine had to spend a great deal of time in Washington, D.C. so the Balentine family lived in their San Diego home during the school year and made frequent weekend trips to the ranch. Their beautiful old home burned to the ground in 1950 but in 1998, new owners, Ted and Donna Christianson, donated the small cottage called "Chiquita" to the Alpine Historical and Conservation Society to join the historic Nichols House as part of the John DeWitt Museum.



Green Parrot Tea Room



Chiquita, Adam Beaty's House

ALPINE HISTORICAL & CONSERVATION SOCIETY

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Tom Myers
1st Vice President, Programs: Corinne Lewis
2nd Vice President, Membership: Carmen Ring
3rd Vice President, Property: Bob Ring
Secretary: Barbara McCurtis
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Director, Archivist: Carol Morrison

Director, Social Media: Jennifer Tschida
Director, Vintage Autos: Norm Kling
Director: Janet Harris
Newsletter Co-Editors: Tom & Judy Myers

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.

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

Address Service Requested

**ALPINE
HISTORICAL &
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SOCIETY**

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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):

- 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.