

### Upcoming events:

- **May 25 & 26:**  
Museum Open House
- **June 16:**  
Potluck & Program:  
“The Man from 1926”
- **June 29 & 30:**  
Museum Open House

### Inside this issue:

- New Life Member, page 2
- Capital Campaign Progress, page 2
- Membership Update, page 2
- 100 Years and More, page 3
- Pop Quiz, page 3
- Volunteer Opportunities, page 4
- Meet Kaytlin Busby, page 4
- Take *Time Travelers* with You, page 4
- Timeline: Alpine 1875 to 1890, page 5
- Answers to Pop Quiz, 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

PROGRAM & POTLUCK ■ SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2019

## The Man from 1926



**O**ur June Program and Potluck will be the “*bees knees*” to steal a popular phrase from the 1920’s. This

program is all about the events, objects, history and culture of the 1920’s as told to us by “The Man from 1926”. James Train will join us as a time traveler dressed in 1926 attire who comes to visit Alpine in 2019.

His stories and commentary on past and current events will be very entertaining and enlightening. He will use props such as his vintage gramophone with a selection of

records from the 20’s, many photographs from the 1920’s era, along with Norm Kling’s 1926 Model T.



So bring your husbands, uncles, dads, and granddads to this special program. We guarantee it will be the *elephant’s adenoids*, the *bullfrog’s beard*, and the *caterpillar’s kimono* all rolled into one!

**Please bring a potluck item to share for the luncheon which begins at 1:00 p.m. or arrive by 1:45 p.m. for the brief General Membership Meeting followed immediately by our program.**

**Admission is FREE, but your donation helps to defray the cost of programs.**

**Location: The Woman’s Club, 2156 Alpine Blvd. Seating is limited, so please make reservations early by calling Tom at (619) 885-8063 or send an email request to [info@alpinehistory.org](mailto:info@alpinehistory.org).**

### TIME FOR SPRING CLEANING?

**T**he practice of *Spring Cleaning* dates back many centuries and is seen as a time to clean out the dust and debris that accumulated over the past year to prepare for a new year. In America during the 1800’s, before vacuum cleaners became widely available, spring was the best time for dusting because it was warm enough to open windows and doors and the high winds could carry the dust out of the house. For the same reason, in modern households, spring is a good time for cleaning with chemical products that generate fumes, which can quickly exit the home through open windows.

If you are also using *Spring Clean-*

*ing* as a time to sort through your stuff, please consider donating your old photos or historic items to the Alpine Historical Society. You may not think items from the 1950’s thru 2000’s are historic or important, but future historians will look at them and gain valuable insight to our history and culture through the objects, images and stories we collect and preserve today. If you can’t bear to part with your family photos, consider loaning them to the society so that we can digitally scan them and return the originals to you.

Contact us by phone at 619-885-8063 or by email at [info@alpinehistory.org](mailto:info@alpinehistory.org) to learn more about donating to the Alpine Historical Society.



## NEW LIFE MEMBER

We welcome **Barbara La Force** as our newest life member.

When she was a high school senior, Barbara and her parents, Howard and Anna Latham, lived in the historic Adam & Caroline Beaty House, now a part of the John De Witt Museum. It was here that she met neighbor, Clay La Force, a freshman at San Diego State. Barbara also chose San Diego State and after graduation Barbara and Clay were married. Barbara taught 4th grade in La Mesa and later taught school in “The Valley” while Clay pursued his Masters and PhD at UCLA. Barbara and Clay have been long time supporters of the Alpine Historical Society and now they are both Life Members.

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROGRESS

A big **THANK YOU** to all who have contributed to our **2019 Capital Campaign**, raising funds for essential plumbing and sewer repairs at the John De Witt Museum Caretaker’s residence. To date, we have received **\$4,615** towards our goal of \$8,000 for these critical repairs. This is a great start and we are grateful to our members for every donation. With these funds we can start the work, but we still need to raise the remaining funds to complete the projects without depleting our operating fund reserves. If you have not yet contributed, please consider making your gift today to help us reach our campaign goal.

We are an all-volunteer organization, so 100% of your donation to this campaign will be used for these essential repairs. The Alpine Historical Society is a registered 501-c (3) non-profit organization. Please send your contributions to Alpine Historical Society, PO Box 382, Alpine, CA 91903.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

*A Special Thank You to Our New Life Member:* Barbara Lea LaForce

*A Warm Welcome to Our New Members:*

Christine & Bob Figari, Anna Knuth, Michael Lembeck, Jo Moreland

*A Grateful Thank You to Our Renewing Member:* Beverly Ring

*Many thanks to the following for making generous financial donations to the Society:*

Anna Knuth, Kevin & Alejandra Schumacher

*We are grateful to the following for their generous contributions to our 2019 Capital Campaign:* James Cleland, Tom Dyke, Jon Green, Beverly Ring, Deborah & Joseph Verfaille

*Special Thanks to the following businesses for renewing their annual memberships in the Historical Society:*

- Alpine Woman’s Club •
- Postal Annex of Alpine •

## 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 • 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 & Kirby Johnson  
 Bill & Diane Keltner • Jill & Shawn Killon • John Krempp • Barbara Lea LaForce • J. Clayburn LaForce  
 Joanne & Martin Marugg • Carol Morrison • Tom & Judy Myers • Helen Porter • Kurt Scherbaum  
 Albert Simonson • Donna Sisson • Joseph 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  
 Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians • Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians  
 Tom Dyke Drilling • John Garbaczewski Family Foundation  
 Chris Wiley—Primary Residential Mortgage • Turvey Granite Pit • RGT Charitable Trust

**CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS:** Life Members ~ 49, Supporting Members ~ 83, Members up for renewal ~ 16

## ONE HUNDRED YEARS AND MORE...

**T**his month we continue our series describing selected objects from the collection at the John De Witt Museum that are a century or more old. You can view these objects by visiting the museum during our regularly scheduled open house from 2:00 to 4:00 pm on the last Saturday and Sunday of each month.



This document, on display in the John DeWitt Museum, certifies that on June 1, 1870, Edward Foss of Reading, Massachusetts and Carolyn Athearn of North Bridgewater, Massachusetts were united in marriage at the First Congrega-

tional Church in North Bridgewater.

Two witnesses, Albon C. Athearn and Annie Athearn, brother and sister of Carolyn, signed as witness to the Foss marriage. Six years later Edward and Carolyn, along with their two sons, Charles and Percy, moved to the area that would later become Alpine. Here they established a homestead where they engaged in agriculture and beekeeping. The Foss family increased to eight with four more children born in Alpine. There were no grandchildren.



This metal monument was once installed at the grave site of a Civil War soldier. Sadly, we have no information to identify the original location, the person honored by the monument or who donated the marker to the Alpine Historical Society. Because of the total

lack of custody documentation, we are unable to repatriate the marker to its original site. So, we honor the "unknown soldier" who was awarded this star, by displaying it in the John DeWitt Museum.

This medical bag belonged to Dr. Joseph H. Raymond, who practiced medicine during the late 1800's and early 1900's in New York City. Dr. Raymond founded the C.W. Post Medical School and Hospital in Brooklyn, King's County, New York. He also served as Medical Director of King's County prior to its being annexed by New York City.

Alpine residents, Kemp and Terry Christian, donated this bag to the John DeWitt Museum. Terry Christian was the great step-grandson of Dr. Raymond.



The belfry of Alpine's new one-room schoolhouse, built by Benjamin Arnold in 1890, housed this cast-steel bell. This bell was used to call students to class, and to announce community events in Alpine before the New Town Hall, complete with a bell of its own, was constructed in 1899.

Then, in 1953, about the time that the new Alpine Elementary School was set to open, a small airplane crashed into the old schoolhouse causing irreparable damage. When the building was demolished, the bell was saved and later donated to the Alpine Historical Society.



### POP QUIZ: Answers can be found in articles in this newsletter.

- Which of the following is true about new Life Member Barbara La Force?
  - She once lived in the historic Adam & Caroline Beaty House.
  - During high school, she lived in the Dr. Sophronia Nichols house.
  - She lived in the Nichols Carriage House where she also tended horses.
- Which of the following is true about the *Time Travelers* benefit program?
  - AHS members can receive free admission or other benefits at nearly 400 museums and historic societies in the USA.
  - There are 34 *Time Traveler* museums in California.
  - Both a and b.
- Which statement is true about Mrs. Eleanor Finley?
  - She wrote an 18 stanza poem titled *Lovely Alpine, The Bell of the Southland*.
  - She founded the village of Finley Springs, which is now called Desert Hot Springs.
  - She is presenting the June program dressed as "The Man from 1926".



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**A**re you a history buff? Do you want to learn more about the history and cultural heritage of Alpine? Can you spare a couple of hours per month to learn something new and share it with others? We have volunteer opportunities that just might fit your interest.

**Greeters** are needed at the John De Witt Museum to welcome visitors, generally describe the museum, offer free brochures and information, and encourage folks to explore our facilities. Greeters work only two hours a month, on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon at our regularly scheduled museum Open House. Training is provided.

We also need **Docents** at the John De Witt Museum to provide more in-depth information about current exhibits and historical topics. Docents provide guided tours of the museum, assist with special events and school tours. Docents will volunteer a minimum of two hours per month and will spend additional time independently or in conjunction with Senior Docents learning more details about the people, places and objects that define Alpine history.

Currently, the John De Witt Museum is open the last weekend (Saturday and Sunday) of each month from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. The limited hours of operation means that many visitors and residents of Alpine do not get to visit the museum. With more volunteer **Greeters** and **Docents**, we can expand our hours of operation to include more open days each month.

To volunteer to become a **Greeter** or **Docent**, please contact Tom at 619-885-8063 or send us an email at [info@alpinehistory.org](mailto:info@alpinehistory.org).



### ~VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT~ MEET KAYTLIN BUSBY

**T**his February, we were delighted to receive an email from **Kaytlin Busby**, identifying herself as a graduate student looking for a volunteer project. After receiving a Bachelor's Degree in archeology from SDSU, Kaytlin is now pursuing a Master's Degree in Library & Information Science at the University of Southern Mississippi, and is currently taking a course in museum archiving.

Although she lives in Alpine, all her classes and assignments are online, except that she needed a hands-on project for her archiving class. The assignment was to locate an unprocessed collection and to organize and describe the collection. Our Archivist, Carol Morrison, was very happy to help. As a small historical society with a limited number of volunteers, we had many unprocessed collections to consider. It was decided that Kaytlin would work on a portion of the **Beatrice La Force Collection**, and she got right to work, completing the hands-on task in just a couple of weeks and moving to the next phase which is preparing the written project report for grading.

It was a real pleasure working with Kaytlin and we wish her great success in her academic pursuits. We are grateful to her for not only organizing a portion of our collection, but also giving us good advice to follow as we continue to improve our systems.

If you would like to know how you can help preserve the history of Alpine for the benefit of future generations, please send an email message to [info@alpinehistory.org](mailto:info@alpinehistory.org).

## TAKE "TIME TRAVELERS" WITH YOU THIS SUMMER!

**W**hen making your summer vacation plans, don't forget the **Time Travelers** benefits that you receive as part of your membership in the Alpine Historical Society.

**Time Travelers** is a free reciprocal membership network, created by *The Missouri Historical Society*, for historical museums, sites, and societies throughout the United States. Nearly **400** organizations in more than **40** states participate in **Time Travelers**, offering incentives for visiting their museum or historical site. Your membership in the *Alpine Historical Society* makes you eligible to receive a variety of exclusive benefits and privileges, such as free admission, gift shop discounts, and much, much more at participating organizations.



To find a site near your vacation destination, go to <http://timetravelers.mohistory.org/institutions/> and search for the location by state. You will find a list of participating museums and historical sites to visit. If you are planning to stay in California this summer, you can find **34** participating sites, the closest to home being our very own *John DeWitt Museum* in Alpine, the *Bonita Museum and Cultural Center* in Bonita, the *San Diego History Center* in Balboa Park, and the *Catalina Island Museum* in Catalina. Up the coast a bit you can find **7** participating sites between Newport Beach and Pasadena. Any direction you go from here, you are likely to find an interesting site, so start planning now to take advantage of your **Time Travelers** benefits.

Be sure to take your AHS membership card!

## TIMELINE: ALPINE 1875 TO 1890

The first school in Alpine dates back to 1875 when **George Washington Webb** constructed a small two-story building just 40 feet from his ranch house—on the ground floor was the school room and the top floor was a modest apartment for Alpine's first school teacher, **Miss Emma Everhart**. Two years later, the Webb family moved to Sweetwater and the Foss family built a lean-to addition to their house, which served as the grammar school and Sunday school for their sons, Charles and Percy. The boys received their lessons from **Zachias Lee Kay**, a relative of Edward Foss.



*Percy Foss and his sister Pearl are standing in front of the lean-to addition to their father's home.*

When school enrollment grew to seventeen in 1881, the settlers built a new one-room schoolhouse on the **Hugh Field** homestead near South Grade Road. This redwood, shed-like structure, reportedly had no windows, just openings in the wall with solid boards that opened and closed to provide fresh air. The teacher, **Mrs. Eleanor Finley**, is somewhat surprising as it was customary in those days for teachers to be men or unmarried women. We find out that Mrs. Finley is full of surprises as we learn more of her life in Alpine. The Bureau of Land Management records show that she received a 160-acre homestead patent in 1890,

for a nearly square piece of land roughly a half mile on each side, with the center located approximately at the intersection of Alpine Heights Road and South Grade Road. To earn her homestead, she needed to build a house, improve the property and have neighbors certify that she lived there for at least 5 years.

Perhaps the thing most remembered about Eleanor Finley is the poem she penned in 1885 titled *Lovely Alpine, The Bell of the Southland*. The poem describes the beauty of Alpine, the climate, the clean air, sunshine, and the lovely plants growing here. Some say she set the words to music and the children sang it in school every day. The entire poem is 18 stanzas long. You can see a reprinted copy of it in the school exhibit at the John DeWitt Museum.

In 1886, another new school building was constructed about a quarter mile westward to replace the 1881 structure. This rectangular building was a big improvement since it had windows and white painted wood siding. By this time, the number of students had increased to twenty and **Edwin Snow** was the teacher. In 1901, **Dr. Sophronia Nichols** had the 1886 school



*The last one-room school house was built by Benjamin Arnold in 1890.*

building moved and attached to her home to provide more space for her medical practice.

The last of Alpine's one-room schools was built and paid for in 1890 by Alpine's benefactor **Benjamin Arnold** at the location of the current Alpine Union School District Administrative Offices. This building served Alpine students and families until the Alpine Elementary School opened in 1953.



*The 1886 school house was attached to the back of Dr. Nichols house in 1901.*

**ANSWERS TO POP QUIZ:** 1—a. She once lived in the Beaty House. (page 2); 2—c. Both a and b are correct. (page 4); 3—a. She wrote the poem titled *Lovely Alpine, The Bell of the Southland*. (page 5)

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

Phone: 619-659-8740  
E-mail: [info@alpinehistory.org](mailto:info@alpinehistory.org)

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.alpinehistory.org](http://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.