

Upcoming events:

- **September 28 & 29:** Museum Open House
- **September 29:** Trolley Tour: Alpine's Historic Places
- **October 20:** Program: Alpine's Historic Wildfires
- **October 26 & 27:** 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

WILDFIRE PROGRAM ■ SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2019 ■ 1:30 P.M.

ALPINE'S HISTORIC WILDFIRES . . . *What have we learned?*

Were you in Alpine during the **West Fire** (2018), or the **Cedar Fire** (2003), the **Viejas Fire** (2001), or the **Laguna Fire** (1970)? Each of these events was frightening to those in the path of the fire. Two of these, the **Cedar Fire** and the **Laguna Fire**, are still among California's most devastating fires of all time. What did we learn from these Fires? How can we prepare for the next one?

October is Fire Prevention Month, and we are delighted to have **Alpine Fire Marshal, Jason McBroom**, present our Program on October 20th.

Jason is a terrific speaker and has a lot of great information to share with us. His presentation will cover the following topics:

- *History of Wildfires in Alpine over the past century*
- *How can we make Alpine Fire Safe?*
- *What does the future hold?*

Our October Program, at the Alpine Woman's Club will start at a new time, 1:30 p.m., with light desserts and beverages (*coffee, iced tea, lemonade, water*). The program by Jason McBroom will begin at 2:00 p.m. and there will be time for ques-



Jason McBroom
Alpine Fire Marshal

tions at the end. Desserts will be provided by Alpine Historical Society Board of Directors, so there is no need to bring a dish to share. To assure that you get your dessert and a seat for the presentation, please make a reservation by email at info@alpinehistory.org, or by calling Tom Myers at 619-885-8063.



ALL FIRES FROM 1887–2018 OVERLAID

Alpine Area

Please join us at 1:30 p.m. for light desserts and drinks, followed by our Program at 2:00 p.m. 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.



AHS WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER

Corinne Lewis joins the Alpine Historical Society after a 29-year career at Alpine Elementary School. She, and her husband John, have lived in Pine Valley since 1983 and raised their two sons who went through the Alpine School system from 1993 to 2010.

Her interest in history began as a tour escort in 2002 for the 8th-grade Washington D.C. trip. Then in June of 2019, with the closure of the Alpine Elementary School, Corinne was tasked with archiving a room full of memories about the Alpine Elementary School including classroom albums from 1966–2019 (AES opened in 1953/54). She has a deep interest in Alpine's past and we look forward to the unique insight she brings to the Alpine Historical Society.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members:
Bob & Holly Hull

We are grateful to the following for their generous contribution in August to our 2019 Capital Campaign: Debbie & Bruce Van Hyfte

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 Kremp
 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
 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 ~ 48, Supporting Members ~ 113, Members up for renewal ~ 11

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

- Which of the following was the telephone exchange name assigned to Alpine in the 1950's?
 - Historical
 - Hieroglyphic
 - Hickory
- The speaker at our October meeting will be Alpine Fire Marshal, Jason McBroom, discussing which of the following topics?
 - History of Wildfire in Alpine
 - What does the future hold?
 - How can we make Alpine Fire Safe?
 - All of the above.
- Which of the following caused the population of California to exceed 60,000 people in 1849?
 - An extraordinary bloom of wildflowers in the desert
 - The California Gold Rush
 - Harbison's amazing wildflower honey

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AND MORE...

This 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.

HARRY FOSS'S BIBLE, 1886

Caroline Athearn married Edward Foss June 1, 1870. They moved to Alpine in 1876, with their two sons, Charles and Percy. Harry Foss was the third son born to the couple and the first Foss child born in Alpine. There would eventually be six children in the Foss family – Charles, Percy, Harry, Joe, Robert and Helen Pearl. The Bible shown here was given to Harry Foss on January 3, 1903 by Caroline's older sister, Annie Athearn. This version of the Holy Bible was published in New York by the American Bible Society in 1886.

The personal inscription inside says: "Harry A Foss from Aunt Annie".



KRAFT CHEESE BOX, 1919

This wooden box is one of the containers that was mass produced by the Kraft Cheese Company specifically to ship their Pasteurized American Cheese. The box is imprinted with the label: Patented Dec 2, 1919, which most likely refers to the spoil-resistant processed American cheese product, sold by the Kraft brothers in large quantities to the U.S. Army during World War I. This box will hold 5 pounds of Pasteurized American Cheese.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1850

CALIFORNIA BECOMES THE 31ST STATE IN RECORD TIME

Though it had only been a part of the United States for less than two years, California became the 31st state in the union (without ever even having been a territory) on September 9, 1850.

Mexico had reluctantly ceded California and much of its northern territory to the United States in the 1848 **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo**. When the Mexican diplomats signed the treaty, they pictured California as a region of sleepy mission towns with a tiny population of about 7,300—not a devastating loss to the Mexican empire. Their regret might have been much sharper had they known that gold had been discovered at Sutter's Mill in Coloma,

California, nine days before they signed the peace treaty. Suddenly, the greatest gold rush in history was on, and "forty-niners" began flooding into California chasing after the fist-sized gold nuggets rumored to be strewn about the ground just waiting to be picked up. California's population and wealth skyrocketed.

Most newly acquired regions of the U.S. went through long periods as territories before they had the 60,000 inhabitants needed to achieve statehood, and prior to the Gold Rush, emigration to California had been so slow that it would have been decades before the population reached that number. But with gold

fever reaching epidemic proportions around the world, more than 60,000 people from around the globe came to California in 1849 alone. Faced with such rapid growth, as well as a thorny congressional debate over the question of slavery in the new territories, Congress allowed California to jump straight to full statehood without ever passing through the formal territorial stage. After a rancorous debate between the slave-state and free-soil advocates, Congress finally accepted California as a free-labor state under the **Compromise of 1850**, beginning the state's long reign as the most powerful economic and political force in the far West.

This article is reprinted from the History Channel website: www.history.com.

The article was written by the history.com editors; the publisher is A&E Television Networks. If you ever wonder what happened on any day of the year, go to the history.com website and look for This Day In History.

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Thank you to all who generously donated to our 2019 Capital Campaign. The total amount of donations received, ranging in amounts from \$10 to \$1,000, was **\$5,665.00**.

We are happy to report that during July, the **Alpine Drainage Company** performed all work necessary to extend the septic drainage system at the Museum Caretaker's residence into an area of previously undisturbed soil. The repair work is now complete and functioning very well. While the work was underway, several Alpine neighbors asked if they could have some of the excavated dirt. We gladly gave the soil to neighbors who could load it and haul it away. This saved us the disposal cost and helped to reduce the overall cost of the project.



Thanks again to all who helped make this project possible:

Carlette Anderson

Joan Anderson

Marcia Bair

Franklin Ball

Susan Barker

Kathy Bartonicek

Sharon & Bob Beale

Brabazon Alpine Paving

David Carey

Lisa & David Celeste

Brenda Clark

James Cleland

Vikki & Paul Coffey

Tom Dyke

Jon Green

Janet Harris

Lindy Harshberger

Anne Hill

Diane Keltner

Norman & Delores Kling

Joanne & Martin Marugg

Judy Matlock

Ronald & Carol Matzenauer

Carol Morrison

Tom & Judy Myers

Beverly Ring

Kevin & Alejandra Schumacher

Joseph Sisson

Dave & Donna Smith

Gary & Suzanne Smith

Sandra Smith

Anne Tarr

Mark & Rhonda Turvey

RGT Charitable Trust

Debbie & Bruce Van Hyfte

Deborah & Joseph Verfaille

VFW Post 9578

William & Joan Waterworth

Jim & Sue Whitt

Genna Yoder

WHAT WAS ALPINE'S TELEPHONE EXCHANGE NAME?

Perhaps a better question is: *What is a telephone exchange?* In the earliest days of local phone service, all calls went to a telephone operator at a central switchboard, and she would manually connect the caller to the phone line of the receiving party. As early as 1917, AT&T had developed a dialing service in the largest cities, such as New York City, Boston, and Chicago, with telephone numbers consisting of three letters followed by four digits. Smaller towns used just four or five digit phone numbers. Toward the end of the 1940's, to prepare for nationwide

“Direct Distance Dialing”, all local numbering plans changed to two letters followed by five digits. During the 1950's customers could dial long distance service using the two letters + five digits system. By 1955, a standardized list of exchange names was designed to minimize misunderstandings when spoken. In later years, the letters were discontinued in favor of seven-digit numbers and then a three-digit area code prefix was added.

Let's go back to the original question: *What was Alpine's telephone exchange name?* A local history buff asked us this question, so we did some

research. The easiest way to find it was to look in local newspapers from the 1950's. On our website, www.alpinehistory.org, under the tab *Historical Research*, we have a list of all the newspapers that we have scanned, beginning with the *Alpine Sun*, Volume 1, Number 1, dated February 14, 1952. We found that most of the phone numbers started with H14 followed by 4 digits, but the one that caught our eye was the Valley Bank in El Cajon, phone number Hilldale 4-3115. That was close, but not Alpine. By January 7, 1955, all the *Alpine Sun* advertisements were listing Alpine phone num-



bers as H15 followed by four digits, but one that caught our attention was the *EMPIRE Market* ad listing their phone number as Hickory 5-2105. We found our answer and now you have the answer too.

Do you have a question about something relating to Alpine history?

Send your questions to info@alpinehistory.org. We will answer your query or let you know if we are stumped.

TIMELINE: ALPINE 1885 TO 1890

The period 1885 to 1890 saw several changes in land ownership within the Alpine community. Some folks with established homesteads now set their eyes on greener pastures; others were relocating to pursue new ventures, and new neighbors were taking up roots here. The community now claimed 35 families with about 70 children and nearly 100 total residents. A list of Alpine residents in 1887 includes the new names of **Nicholas Anderson, Charles Emery, John Love, Dr. Elijah Love, Jesse Mayes, Dr. Nugent,** and **Ludwig Schmidt.**

About 1887, **Dr. Nugent** moved here from Canada and reportedly purchased 320 acres of land in the center of town. This included the 160-acre homestead of **Nelson Overmier**, who then moved to El Cajon. The same year, **Benjamin &**



Monte Vino Winery — located behind the present day Post Office

Harriet Arnold visited Alpine for the first time and found the climate to be very agreeable for Benjamin who suffered with severe asthma. The Arnolds decided to stay and build a home. They purchased land in the center of Alpine from **Dr. Nugent**, most likely the northeast corner of the former Overmier property.

The next year, **Dr. Nugent** sold the remainder of the Overmier homestead, already planted in zinfandel grapes, to **Captain George Philip Augustus Brabazon**. The new owner increased the grape plantings and developed a winery, which they named **Monte Vino**.

On June 3, 1888, **Charles Foss** recorded in his diary that **Dr. Love** pulled two teeth. We do not know if Dr. Love was a dentist or if the title Doctor was an honorary title.

On October 4, 1890, **Jesse B. Mays** purchased a 40-acre parcel at the north-west corner of Tavern Road and South Grade Road. Sometime within the next eight years the parcel was sold or transferred to **J.A. Love**, who developed "**The Oaks**", a health resort of some notoriety. This land is historically called "**Loves Corner**".



Croquet at The Oaks Resort

ALPINE HISTORICAL AND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Tom Myers
1st Vice President,
Programs: Vikki Coffey
2nd Vice President,
Membership: Judy Myers
3rd Vice President,
Property: Dave Smith
Secretary: Janet Harris
Treasurer: Lisa Celeste
Archivist: Carol Morrison

Director: Norm Kling
Director: Jennifer Tschida,
Social Media
Director: Corinne Lewis
Lifetime Director: Elma Terry

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
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Alpine, CA 91903-0382

Address Service Requested

**ALPINE
HISTORICAL &
CONSERVATION
SOCIETY**

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Alpine, CA 91903-0382

Phone: 619-659-8740
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.