

Upcoming events:

- **January 25 & 26:**
Museum Open House
- **February 16:**
“Great Stories” Program
& General Membership Meeting
- **February 22 & 23:**
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

GREAT ALPINE STORIES

*Have you heard the one about how
Cockney Bill found a wife?*

Do you know the story of Frank Ball's first car?

*Who saved the Grand Opening of
Bailey's Cafe?*

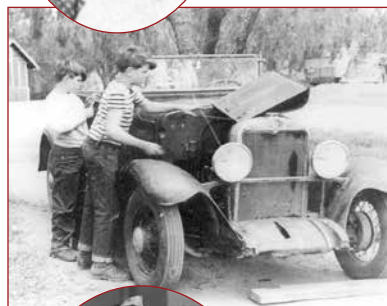
*How about the story of how a few young girls
were able to buy a "harmonium"?*

*Have you ever considered using
a wheelbarrow for a taxi?*

*What do olives and one little boy
have in common?*

These stories and more are on the program for our February 16th Alpine Historical Society General Membership Meeting.

We will start at 1:00 p.m. with a potluck luncheon provided by some of Alpine's best home cooks – **YOU**. At 2:00 pm or maybe a little before, we will have a short meeting which will include election of Officers and Board of Directors for 2020. Our special **Great Alpine Stories Program** will follow the membership meeting.



*Please bring a potluck item to share at the luncheon which begins at 1:00 p.m.
or arrive by 1:45 p.m. for the 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.*



WELCOME TO OUR NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Dave and Lisa Celeste have been long time residents of the San Diego area and moved to Alpine five years ago to be closer to work and family. Dave has owned Pacific Auto Repair in National City for 43 years and Lisa has always worked in the tax field as an Enrolled Agent, including ten years as a manager at Intuit and her own tax practice. Although she worked in the tax business, later in life her heart took her

to SDSU where she recently completed her degree in Anthropology. Now looking forward to retirement, Dave and Lisa hope to spend their retirement years pursuing their many interests, including anthropology, history, sustainability, gardening, and travel. Lisa currently serves on our board as Treasurer, and Dave helps out where needed when he's not riding his motorcycle or managing his business.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A Special Thank You to Our New Life Members: Lisa & Dave Celeste

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members: Beverly Stacy

A Grateful Thank You to Our Renewing Members: Cathie & Wayne Aymar, Kathy Balsley, athy Bartonicek, Gay Beauregard, Colin & Janice Campbell, Rita David, Cindy Day, Linda Dean, David & Lori Fountain, Richard & Vicki

Freeman, Chik & Pat Hylton, Norm & Delores Kling, George Landt, Wendell Maize, Ron & Carol Matzenauer, Marilyn Moore, Andy Reynolds, Kevin & Alejandra Schumacher, Jill Sing, Dave & Donna Smith, Sue Smith, Debbie & Bruce Van Hyfte, Deborah & Joseph Verfaillie, Susan Walter, Adam & Linda Whitlock, Jim & Sue Whitt

Many thanks to the following for their generous financial donations: Cathie & Wayne Aymar, Gay Beauregard, Rita David, Linda Dean, Chik & Pat Hylton, George Landt, Wendell Maize, Marilyn Moore, Kevin & Alejandra Schumacher, Carl Silva–VFW Bert Fuller Post 9578, Jill Sing, Sue Smith, Beverly Stacy, Debbie & Bruce Van Hyfte, Susan Walter, Adam & Linda Whitlock, Jim & Sue Whitt

Special Thanks of Appreciation to the following businesses

who renewed their annual membership in the Historical Society for 2020:

Alpine Ranch Chiropractic • Jeff Campbell, Realtor • Laurie Hallihan, State Farm Insurance • Hitech Screen Science
Kamps Propane • Rock Canyon Vinyards • VFW Bert Fuller Post 9578 • WestCal Die

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 • Lisa & Dave Celeste
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 Killion
John Krempp • 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

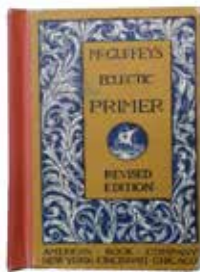
CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS: Life Members ~ 49, Supporting Members ~ 52, Members up for renewal ~ 56

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. Some of these objects may be seen 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.

McGUFFEY'S ECLECTIC PRIMER REVISED EDITION~MID 1800's

The *McGuffey Readers* are among the best-known schoolbooks used in American Schools since the mid-1800's. This book, from the Hazel Hohanshelt collection, is a third edition published by the American Book Company in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1909. The *McGuffey's Readers* series books stressed the fundamental skills of reading and writing and included stories from many sources. With a religious overtone,



the books intended to develop a good moral character in its readers. The book preface states that it "enables the teacher to pursue the Phonic Method, the Word Method, the Alphabet Method or any combination of these methods. The script exercises throughout the book and the slate exercises at the close, have been specially written and carefully engraved for this Primer; they may be used to teach reading of script, and as exercises in learning to write."



SEIDLITZ POWDERS METAL TIN ~LATE 1800's

In the late 1800's Seidlitz Powders were often used and prescribed as a laxative. Our museum has two tins that once contained the powders whose name comes from the village of Sedlec in the former Bohemia, now the Czech Republic. Produced under many brand names, these particular tins are from the Owl Drug Company, established in 1892 in San Francisco, later to become a subsidiary of Rexall stores. The Owl Company sold the powders through much of the western U.S. including California, Oregon and Washington.

It is likely that these powders would have been used or pre-



scribed by Alpine's first physician, Dr. Sophronia Nichols, as she had successful medical practices in California, Oregon and Washington

from 1876 to 1901. Although this product has been replaced by more contemporary formulas, they were immortalized in the lyrics of *A Fine Romance* from the 1936 film *Swing Time*, starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers with the lines, "We two should be like clams in a dish of chowder / But we just fizz like parts of a Seidlitz powder."

ARCADE COFFEE MILL~LATE 1800's

This Arcade "Favorite 267" box mill coffee grinder, was patented by the Arcade Manufacturing Company of Freeport, Illinois in September 1888.

The Arcade Manufacturing Company was a major producer of coffee grinders in the U.S. for over 50 years.

Arcade Manufacturing made dozens of models of box mills,

using the names "Favorite" and "Imperial" on many of them. The design of the Favorite No. 267 is

unique in that it uses no screws to attach the grinder mechanism to the wood. Instead, the hopper is inserted into tabs in the wood base and twisted to lock in place. All other wooden parts are connected using dovetail joints.



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

At our February 16 General Membership Meeting the 2019 Financial Report will be presented, and we will vote on Officers and Board of Directors. The current slate is:

- President — Tom Myers
- 1st Vice President (Programs) — OPEN
- 2nd Vice President (Memberships) — Judy Myers
- 3rd Vice President (Facilities) — Dave Smith
- Secretary — Janet Harris
- Treasurer — Lisa Celeste

- Board of Directors: Archivist — Carol Morrison
- Board of Directors: Social Media — Jennifer Tschida
- Board of Directors: Norm Kling
- Board of Directors: Corrine Lewis
- Board of Directors: Vikki Coffey
- Board of Directors OPEN

Nominations from the floor will be welcomed. If you wish to volunteer for any of the positions, please call Tom Myers [619-885-8063] for a description of the position and time commitment anticipated.

ALPINE THROUGH THE EYES OF A PIONEER

F. B. Walker, a pioneer of Alpine and founder of Alpine's Willows Resort, wrote the following article that was published in the San Diego Union on January 1, 1898. His sense of pride and entrepreneurial approach is evident. It was subsequently reprinted in the Alpine Sun Shopper on December 2, 2011.

The name of the little town of Alpine, which is situated among the mountains thirty miles from San Diego, in a north-easterly direction, is suggestive at once of the snowy ranges of Switzerland's celebrated mountains. The name Alpine is not only associated with the town of Alpine, but the country around within a radius of five miles, partakes of the same general character, as well as the name.

To San Diegans and those who know Alpine the name is synonymous with an invigorating atmosphere, bright sunshine and balmy breezes. No dense, damp fogs or raw winds visit this favored section, its distance from the coast tempering the breezes, which blow over thirty miles of mesa and mountain before reaching this friendly clime. What California is to the United States as a health resort, Alpine is to the state of California.

The altitude of the Alpine country varying from 1,500 to 2,500 feet, gives a variety of temperatures and conditions of climate, some of which are found to meet the requirements and desire of all who avail themselves of it. While those who are seeking health find a friend in the climate of Alpine, it is none the less beneficial to those who have lived near the coast long enough to have become tired of the monotony of its even temperature and ocean breezes.



The Oaks — J.A. Love, Proprietor



Villa Viejas — S.H. Mauzy, Proprietor

It is sometimes necessary when large parties come to Alpine together to arrange for entertainments can always be made. The following resorts are some of those where a pleasant time can always be had, any and all of whom will satisfactorily care for those coming to them: "Alpine Center Hotel," kept by Mr. Campbell; "The Oaks," by J. A. Love; "Alpine Berry Fields," by Mrs. F. B. Walker; "Villa Viejas," by S. H. Mauzy; Mrs. Dr. Pontius, Mrs. F. Hill, Mrs. R. B. Lyness and T. Horton.

The babbling brook which runs on forever is not a stranger to Alpine, and unlike so many streams in the state of California, it is not "bottom-side up," for here one may find secluded nooks beside a rivulet and be wooed to slumber by the musical ripple of its notes.

Shade trees, not the artificial creation of man, but noble trees whose grateful shade offered a welcome to the Mission Fathers more than a century ago, are found in abundance. The live oak, than which there is found no more graceful tree, has its home in these Alpine valleys.

Viejas Mountain, the peak of which is distant about four miles from the post office, and towering more than two thousand feet higher, affords a

view such as few people have ever enjoyed. From this elevation, 3,950 feet, a great portion of the south-west corner of the United States is visible. On a clear day the ocean line can be traced from the Catalina Islands to a point far distant below the Mexican line. Turning toward the interior, one sees a great part of Lower California and meets the Colorado Desert on the east. All the habitable portion of San Diego County is here unfolded to the eyes.

From the deciduous orchardist's standpoint Alpine has few rivals. All deciduous fruits thrive without irrigation and it is a fact well known to all housekeepers that the mountain fruit in flavor far surpasses that grown on the mesas nearer the coast, where irrigation is absolutely necessary. Scale is an unknown quantity with us. Take away the expense of irrigation and the frequent spraying necessary lower down and more orchardists would find the balance at the end of the year on the right side of their books. For this reason the Alpine country is prosperous.

Alpine is reached by a ride of twenty-one miles over the Cuyamaca railroad from San Diego to Lakeside, thence by a charming staging trip of eleven miles over a good road and behind fast horses, the whole trip being made in four hours' time, the fare from San Diego to Alpine being \$1.25.



Alpine Hotel — J.R. Campbell, Proprietor

TIMELINE: ALPINE 1894

Frederick B. Walker was born in England in November 1853. At the age of 13 he set sail as a cabin boy on an English merchant ship headed for trading ports around the world. In 1868, after two years at sea, he immigrated to the United States. At that time immigrants were welcomed and even recruited by many states. The newer mid-western states such as Iowa and Wisconsin actually competed for immigrants and attracted many British, Irish, Germans, Scandinavians, and Africans. Walker spent some time in the Dakota Territory, where he became a U.S. citizen, but eventually found a home in Sioux City, Iowa, where he met Bevie Mortimer Boehmler, a young woman of German descent, born in Iowa in 1869. At age 13, Bevie married F.B. Walker and a year later gave birth to their first child, Ralph C. Walker, born December 16, 1883. Two years later, on August 30, 1885, the second child, Lucile, was born. The Walker family lived in Iowa until about 1889 before moving to San Diego.

In San Diego, F. B. Walker started a rubber stamp business and three more children were added to the

family. Cornelia (Nean) was born on April 28, 1890, Frederick B, Jr. on September 30, 1891, and Arthur B. in April 1893.

Then in May a serious economic depression, called “The Panic of 1893”, gripped the nation. Perhaps it was this depression that caused the Walkers to make their final move. On June 21, 1894, the family loaded their household furnishings into a farm wagon pulled by a team of horses, and moved to the foothills village of Alpine. Walker purchased 160 acres of land in the southwest corner of Viejas Valley from Frank Burnham for \$1,000 which he had won in a poker game. He called this place “*Rancho Verde*”. Here he planted 30 acres each of peaches and plums, and a few acres of other fruits. The property came with an abundance of blackberry bushes, live oak trees, willow trees and precious water from the constantly flowing Viejas Creek running through it. Over the next five years, the Walkers welcomed three more children. Dorothy was born January 6, 1897, Donald was born February 18, 1898, and William Douglas was born September 17, 1899. The family now numbered ten.



Alpine Berry Fields — Mrs. F.B. Walker, Prop.

Stories handed down through the generations tell of the generosity and hospitality offered by the Walkers to weary travelers passing through town. Within a few short years, the family decided to open a resort called the “*Alpine Berry Fields*” (see article page 4), later renamed “*The Willows Resort*”. *The Willows*, whose slogan was “The Place of Good Eats”, became a nationally known resort, hosting visitors from all over the country.

F. B. Walker, Sr. died in 1922 and Bevie Walker in 1931, but the Walker family continued to operate *The Willows* until 1950. Several of the original *Willows Resort* cabins remain on the property today, but most of the resort was demolished in the 1960’s to make way for Interstate 8.



Bevie Mortimer Boehmler — age 13



Bevie Boehmler Walker — age 18



Bevie Boehmler Walker — age 26

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

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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.