



# Bill Dalton & Julian Eltinge

POTLUCK LUNCHEON & PRESENTATION—SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21



Our potluck luncheon and program on October 21, 2018, will explore Alpine's most famous characters of the 1920's, **Bill Dalton** and **Julian Eltinge**. Early stars of vaudeville stage and later the silver screen, they lived in Alpine for a time during the Roaring Twenties, before the Great Depression destroyed their fortune.

Our guest speaker, **Susan D. Walter**, will guide us through the stories and history of Dalton and Eltinge – focusing on their fascinating life during and after their years in Alpine.

Susan describes her introduction and addiction to the work of Dalton and Eltinge this way: As her husband Stephen perused information about a new project in 1999, to assess whether Eltinge's Alpine house was a significant historical resource, he turned to her, saying "Here – you do the research; this is right up your alley."

Susan was smitten. She needed to know who this fellow was. Julian Eltinge, aka Bill Dalton, turned out to be the world's most famous female impersonator! His career spanned several decades, with plays and movies written just for him. He performed in vaudeville, headlined on both national and worldwide tours,

and set new attendance records everywhere. He hobnobbed with celebrities of every ilk including actors, authors, artists, and politicians.

Julian Eltinge's story appealed to Susan. She was piqued by his unusual line of work, his phenomenal success, the current lack of public knowledge of him, and what seems to be his basically good humanity. Eltinge was a good neighbor and ardent supporter of San Diego and – significantly – Alpine.

Susan's talk will focus on Julian's effect upon the small community of Alpine from the mid-1920s until his death in 1941. Details about his life in Alpine, the construction of his adobe home here, his grandiose plans for a destination hotel, and some of the many glamorous actors and celebrities he attracted will be described.

Susan will also reveal several glaring pieces of misinformation uncovered during her research.

Susan has had a long career in historic archaeology in San Diego County, and has been a long-time friend and member of the Alpine Historical Society. She is married to historian Stephen R. Van Wormer, and is mother to actress Rachael VanWormer and auto body specialist Aaron Van Wormer.



**POTLUCK LUNCH & PROGRAM • Sunday, October 21, 2018**

**Alpine Woman's Club, 2156 Alpine Blvd., Alpine**

**1:00 p.m. Potluck Lunch & General Meeting ■ 2:00 p.m. Program**

Please bring a potluck item for the Luncheon at 1:00 p.m., or arrive at 1:45 p.m. for the Program. Admission is **FREE** (donations appreciated) but seating is limited, **please make a reservation:** call Tom Myers at (619) 885-8063 or send an email to [info@alpinehistory.org](mailto:info@alpinehistory.org)

**Alpine Historical Society**