

# TATTERED TIDBITS

## ALPINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 3, Issue 1

April 2009

### Upcoming events:

- April 19<sup>th</sup>—Quarterly Meeting
- April 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>—Museum Open House
- May 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>—Museum Open House
- June 6<sup>th</sup>—Alpine History Day Celebration

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ALPINE  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

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## DR. LELAND FETZER GUEST SPEAKER —APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup>

The quarterly pot luck luncheon will be held on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at the Alpine Woman's Club, 2156 Alpine Boulevard. Dr. Leland Fetzer will be the featured speaker.

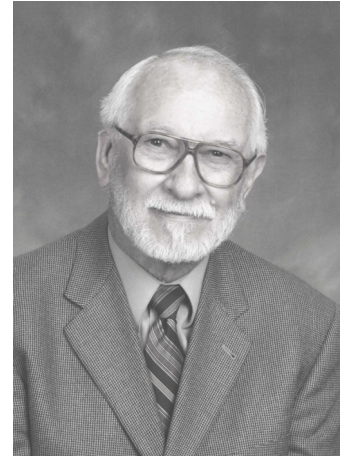
Dr. Fetzer was born in Salt Lake City, the son of a part-time mine owner. This led to an early interest in mines and their operation. He graduated from the University of Utah with a degree in history, but while serving in the Air Force he became a specialist in Russian. After completing his military service he earned a Ph.D. in Russian from the University of California at Berkeley. He taught at San Diego State University for twenty-five years, retiring in 1992.

During his retirement, Dr.

Fetzer has devoted his time to researching the history of the Julian, Banner and Cuyamaca mountain areas. After buying property near Julian, he spent a year building a cabin there. The result? A book of his essays, *A Year in the Cuyamacas!* His extensive field and archival research became the basis for his book *A Good Camp* and his most recently published book *Cuyamacas—Story of San Diego's High Country*.

Dr. Fetzer and his wife Lois divide their time between homes in San Diego and Julian's North Peak when not traveling.

Come for the lunch and the speaker or just to hear Dr. Fetzer's presentation at 2:00 p.m.



Dr. Leland Fetzer

Please R.S.V.P. to Carol Morrison at 619-445-2544 or e-mail us at [info@alpinehistory.org](mailto:info@alpinehistory.org). Feel free to invite your friends to this event! It promises to be an extremely interesting program. ■

## SUPERVISOR DIANNE JACOB VISITS MUSEUM



Supervisor Jacob (left) & Carol Morrison

San Diego County Supervisor Dianne Jacob and her Policy Advisor, Natalie Clark, came to Alpine on January 16<sup>th</sup> to pay a visit to the Alpine Historical Society Museum. Supervisor Jacob has long been a supporter of Alpine and the efforts of the Society to preserve the history of Alpine.

On hand for the event were AHS President Carol Morrison, Bill and Joan Waterworth, Carlette Anderson, Vikki Coffey and Carol Walker.

Carol Morrison gave an overview of the progress made in recent (*Continued on page 3*)

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS WERE DUE IN JANUARY!

If you haven't renewed, please mail your check today! Your contribution will play a vital role in preserving a very special part of East County History. **Thanks for your support!**

## Welcome to New and Renewing Members

A hearty welcome to the following new members:

Patricia Vacio

Gretchen Calabrese and Dan Heald

Sam and Gloria Purlia

John Hackett and Billie Truesdell

The following have renewed their memberships in the Alpine Historical Society. Their contribu-

tions enable us to continue the Society's work in the preservation of Alpine's rich history.

Renewing members include: Jim Hinds, Jill Sing, Anne Tarr, Alpine Chamber of Commerce, Joseph Forlenza, Vikki Coffey, Roy Williams, David Smith, Franklin Ball, James and Karen Cleland, John and Donna Boyer, Margaret Smith, David

and Lori Fountain, Mary Fritz, Colin and Jackie Campbell, Elmer and Mary Ellen Werner, Virginia Carlen, Katherine Robles, Suzanne Broderick, Iz Crain, Judy Matlock, Jack Spaulding, Jim and Sue Whitt, Kenneth Schulte, Norman and Dolores Kling, Joan Manuele, Bob and Beverly Ring, Ruth Jellison, Joseph Sisson, Chris Wiley (Primary Residential Mort-

gage, Inc.), Susan Walter, Max Robinson, Fred and Robert Higginbotham, James and Cheryl Minshew, Jean Christianson, Barbara Cater, Mike Harris and George and Yoshioni Barnett.

Thank you all for your support!

If you haven't renewed your membership or joined the Society—do it today! ■

## Farming in Alpine Through the Years



**Prize White Birds**  
Adams Turkey Ranch, Alpine Heights  
1971



**A Turning Plow**  
at  
Sky Mesa Ranch



**J. C. LaForce's**  
Cornfield  
Sky Mesa Ranch

## Community Involvement and Thanks

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have so generously donated time, money and artifacts to the Society.

A big thank you goes to our local Albertsons Store. When Albertsons opened, manager Bob Ring offered to sell Alpine history books at the store. In the last year, 45 books have been sold at Albertsons! This is tremendous. Albertsons is

always there to donate items for Historical Society events and their constant support is very much appreciated.

The Society participated in the Albertsons Community Event in February as well as the Longs Drug Store Sidewalk Sale in March. Many visitors stopped by at each of these events to share their family stories with us and to browse

through historic photos. One visitor, Dona Lockhart, donated a Civil War wheelchair to the Society. It will be on display at the Alpine History Day celebration in June! Thank you, Donna!

Don Walker has donated an additional piece of farm equipment for our farming display. Thank you once again, Don!

Monetary contributions have been received from: Vikki Coffey, Joseph Sisson, Katherine Robles, Tom and Ann Hill, Albert Simonson, Don Walker, Elmer and Mary Ellen Werner, Jean Christianson, Barbara Cater, Mike Harris and George and Yoshioni Barnett.

**MANY THANKS TO ALL! ■**

## Farming in Alpine

Alpine's farming history dates back to the earliest settlers—the range of crops is wide. In the 1870's, honey was a major money crop in the area. While widely known, honey was not the only crop of importance.

The grape was another crop that made money for early settlers. Because of difficulty in transporting table grapes to market, most of Alpine's grape crops became wine. Fine Zinfandel grapes were raised at the Brabazon vineyard.

Olive trees that still can be seen throughout Alpine were planted in the 1890's. Old timers made their own home-cured olives from a special old recipe.

Pit fruits were another crop that helped support Alpine's pioneers. Trees planted included peaches, apricots,

plums, prunes and pears.

The Foss brothers planted about two acres of almonds in 1918 and the English walnut also grew here. There was even a macadamia nut tree on Victoria Hill.

Tom and Flora Hill had one of the finest pit fruit and citrus plantings in the county—from the late 1920's until the 1950's. Mrs. Hill reported they got "four cents a pound" for their beautiful peaches!

Wheat was grown in some of the larger valleys as was barley for grain and straw, but they were replaced with oat hay which made better crops. Corn was raised in Alpine, although it was not usually grown for market.

As early as 1885, turkeys were raised here. The turkey ranches sold both eggs and meat. Chickens, sheep, hogs and cattle



**Zinfandel Grape Vineyard**

were also raised in Alpine and there have been two dairies.

Malcolm Huey raised squash and melons and others grew apples.

Walker, Foss, Brabazon, Galloway, Pennoyer, Harbison, Hill—all farmers who made Alpine's history so rich. Learn more about farming in Alpine at our museum on June 6<sup>th</sup>! ■

*Our museums are open the last Saturday and Sunday of each month between the hours of 2 and 4 p.m. Stop by and see the recent changes!*

## Supervisor Jacob's Visit *(Continued from Page 1)*

years in the restoration of our pioneer houses and the updating of displays.

One of our major revenue sources comes from the Community Enhancement Grant Program. Funds from these grants has allowed the Society to pursue the renovations and improvements at the museums.

Supervisor Jacob's visit was an exciting event for us and we so appreciate her kind comments and dedication to duty. Her attentiveness and interest in what we are doing was obvious. Thank you, Supervisor Jacob, for all you do. ■



**AHS President Carol Morrison serves as docent for visit—they are shown here in the Dr. Sophronia Nichols House**



**Supervisor Jacob chats with Bill Waterworth while Natalie Clark looks at display**



## January Meeting Update



**Carlette Anderson**

The Quarterly Meeting of the Society, held on January 25<sup>th</sup> at the Alpine Woman's Club, was a big success. After an exceptionally wonderful potluck luncheon, Carlette Anderson provided interesting tidbits pertaining to Alpine's History. Everyone became involved in the discussion which was most enjoyable.

After her presentation, the Historical Society's slide presenta-

tion on the life and accomplishments of Benjamin R. Arnold was shown as well as a documentary piece on Alpine's Dinosaurland.

The photograph on the left, showing Carlette in a very historic pose, was taken in 1997 at the home of Beatrice LaForce.

Sincere thanks to Carlette for a delightful presentation!■

## New Website Published

Our website has been completely redone—just in time for the third grade students to perform research for their essays!

If you haven't been to it before, now is the time. Our address is: [www.alpinehistory.org](http://www.alpinehistory.org)

There's something for everyone on the site—stories,

facts, photos, slideshows and on and on.

Our website is a work in progress. We have identified thirty-two more photo albums which will be added as time permits and have a file of documents to be added that is several inches thick!

If you have content you feel

would be appropriate to add to the website, please feel free to contact Carol Walker, our webmaster, at [cwalker@alpinehistory.org](mailto:cwalker@alpinehistory.org) or by telephone at 619-741-4629.

We're very proud of our new website and hope you will be as well! Visit is soon and keep the ideas and additions coming!■

*"Awards to contest winners are made at the annual Alpine History Day Celebration which will be held this year on June 6<sup>th</sup> at the museum on Tavern Road."*

## Third Grade Essay Contest and Alpine History Day

The Alpine Historical Society is conducting its annual essay contest for all third grade students in Alpine during the month of May.

The essay contest is conducted during the time the third graders study local history. Included in the program is a visit to the museums by the students and their teachers.

Vikki Coffey is the Essay Contest Chair and is hard at work preparing and distributing packets of information to local third grade teachers.

Awards to contest winners

are made at the annual Alpine History Day Celebration which will be held this year on June 6<sup>th</sup> at the museum on Tavern Road.

The topics of the essays this year are: Life in Alpine's Past, My Favorite Historical Person in Alpine or My Favorite Historical Place in Alpine. They will be judged on creativity within historical guidelines, legibility and adherence to topic.

While the third grade students are busy preparing their essays, many of our members are busy prepar-

ing for the Alpine History Day Celebration. A new display of farming equipment and farming in Alpine is being prepared. It is sure to be a hit with both young and old alike. A portion of the bee exhibit (which has always been a favorite) will be retained, but additional information and artifacts will be added. Wait until you see our outdoor display!

Watch for more information coming soon about the essay contest, the History Day Celebration and our new exhibits and mark June 6, 2009 on your calendar—don't miss it!■



**Carol Morrison introducing winners of 2008 Essay Contest**

## Our Dedicated Volunteers: Vikki Coffey

It's almost time for the third grade essay contest in Alpine, so Vikki Coffey is a very busy lady. In addition to chairing the essay contest for the past two years, Vikki has served as a docent at the museum for eight years. In that time she only missed five Sundays! She has been an AHS Board member for two years, done five Voices of Alpine interviews, given special presentations at the museum and worked to prepare the museums for the Christmas Home Tour.

Not limiting her volunteer work to the Historical Society, she also is on the ALFA Board and is a member of the Tree Town USA Group.

Vikki retired from teaching in 2006 but continues to

tutor reading at Lemon Crest Elementary School.

Vikki's life started out in Pottstown, Pennsylvania where she lived on a farm until age seven when her family moved to Philadelphia—what a change! Because of injuries he received in the war, her father was advised to move to a warmer climate, so before Vikki turned eight her family moved to California. Lucky us!

Always active, she held many student government positions while in school and worked full time while attending college. She took her first full-time teaching position in 1972 and taught at various districts until retirement. In 1989 she came to Lakeside where she taught elementary and middle school children.

She ended her career teaching fifth grade at Lemon Crest Elementary School for eight years.

During her teaching years, Vikki was pleased to work with eighteen student teachers. She found real joy in working with them.

She was named Teacher of the Year for the Los Angeles County Juvenile Court and Community Schools and then one of LA County's Teachers of the Year for 1988.

Vikki and her husband Paul like to spend time with Paul's parents and Vikki's brother, sister-in-law and niece.

Vikki is a tremendous asset to the Historical Society. We very much appreciate all her contributions. ■



**Vikki Coffey**

### **OUR WISH LIST INCLUDES:**

**Pair of child-sized mannequins**

**Old hand water pump**

**Technical assistance**

## Needed for New Displays!



**An old-fashioned hand water pump**

The Alpine Historical Society is always in need of contributions to the archives and additions to the displays at the museum.

One of the items that is at the top of our "Wish List" is a pair of child mannequins for the school display in the Nichols House. The school display will be renewed in time for the Alpine History Day Celebration in June and we hope there will be child mannequins sitting at the desks!

Another item high on our list is a hand water pump to be used in the farming display. We know where the original well is located—we just need a pump!

We continue to seek technical guidance in the preparation of a DVD which will document the lost trails and roads of Alpine's history. Albert Simonson is willing to narrate the DVD and he has all the research completed—we're just looking for technical advice!

*If you have fundraising ideas, or if you wish to make a donation, please contact Carol Morrison at 445-2544 or [info@alpinehistory.org](mailto:info@alpinehistory.org).*

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### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Send notices via: E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Category (Please check one):**

Student \$5                       Family \$35                       Business \$50  
 Senior \$15                       Nonprofit Org. \$30                       Business Life \$1,000  
 Individual \$25                       Life \$500

**Amount Enclosed:**

Membership                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Donation                              \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL                                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Interest for Volunteers:**

Building Preservation  
 Technical/Clerical  
 Where Needed

Please complete this form and include your check payable to the Alpine Historical Society, a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

ALPINE HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

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We're on the Web!  
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