

TATTERED TIDBITS

ALPINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 5, Issue 1

Carol Walker, Editor

January 2011

Upcoming events:

February 20th —
Quarterly Meeting

February 26th and
27th—Museum Open
House

March 26th and
27th—Museum Open
House

April 17th—
Quarterly Meeting

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ALPINE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 382
ALPINE, CA 91903-0382

CAMPO: THE FORGOTTEN GUNFIGHT

The next quarterly meeting of the Alpine Historical Society will feature Alpine's Bryon Harrington, author of a new book, *Campo: The Forgotten Gunfight*.

The meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 20th, at the Alpine Woman's Club, 2156 Alpine Boulevard. The meeting will begin with a potluck luncheon and Bryon will speak at 2:00 p.m.

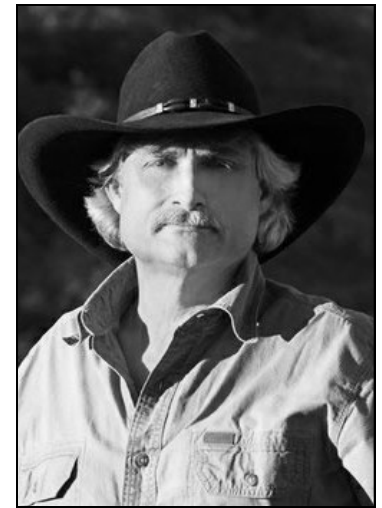
The book tells of the 1875 wild west shootout— which was just as big as those occurring in Dodge City or

the OK Corral—in Campo. Our backcountry truly was part of the old wild west.

A member of the East County group that re-enacts the gunfight each year, Bryon is also a loyal supporter of the Alpine Historical Society.

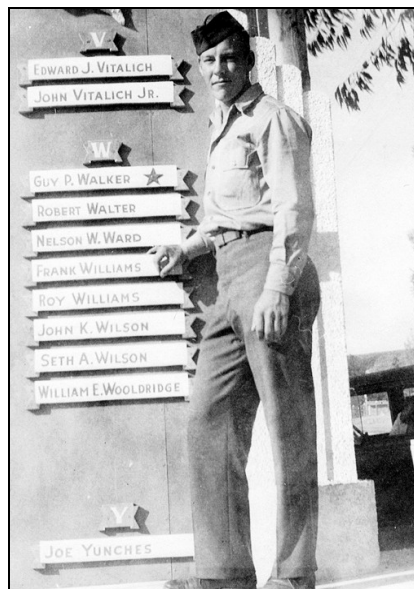
Everyone may attend the luncheon or come just for the speaker. Please R.S.V.P. to Carol Morrison at 619-445-2544 or e-mail info@alpinehistory.org.

We hope to see you on the 20th! ■



Bryon Harrington

ALPINE'S OLD AND NEW WALLS OF HONOR



Nineteen-year-old Frank Williams places his hand on his name on Alpine's Honor Roll seven months before his death at the Battle of the Bulge during World War II.

Many years ago an Honor Roll was erected in Alpine to honor the veterans from Alpine who loyally served in the Armed Services. Jim Hinds and David Carey recall that John "Coca Cola" Jones, former owner of Campbell Ranch, put the Honor Roll up and maintained it. Jim recently found a photo in a 1959 edition of *The Alpine Sun* showing the sign which had fallen over due to strong winds; a 1962 photo shows the corner without the sign. The memorial was located on the corner of Alpine Boulevard and Victoria Drive.

As you may know, the Wall of Honor Committee is currently raising money to erect a new memorial to honor all Alpine and Mountain Empire Veterans. A rendering of the proposed wall is shown on page 2 of this newsletter. Recently, the Committee received a grant from the county and construction should begin soon.

You may make a contribution to this worthwhile cause in two ways. Sue Roff, of the Alpine Community Center, 619-445-7330, is accepting contributions and the Alpine Historical Society is accepting contributions to fund the purchase of three commemorative tiles to honor Alpine's pioneer veterans. ■

A Message from the President

Yet another year is behind us and, as we start 2011, I'd like to take a moment to recap significant events from 2010. They include:

- Held monthly open houses.
- Continued to enhance the landscaping around the museums with additional native plantings.
- Held the "Alpine History Day" event including lunch, music and events.
- Conducted the third grade essay contest.
- Participated in the Vie-

jas Day and Crown Hills parades.

- Conducted school, individual and group tours of the museum houses.
- Applied for and received a Community Enhancement Grant from the county of San Diego.
- Attended the ALPS Award Ceremony and other Alpine Chamber of Commerce events.
- Obtained many interesting and valuable artifacts to add to the museum collection.
- Continued to expand

communications via website, newspaper articles and newsletter.

- Worked with the DAR to prepare application for commemorative marker honoring Dr. Nichols.

The volunteers and donors who unfailingly support the Society make these things happen. Thanks to each and every one of them for their dedication and commitment to our community.

To each of you may you have a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. ■



Carol Morrison

Membership Renewals Due

Membership renewal reminder letters were mailed to all members in January. So far, response has been wonderful, but many of you have not yet been renewed.

During this time of year, many life members also make monetary contributions to the Historical Society.

Membership dues and

contributions enable the Society to continue its efforts to preserve and maintain Alpine's rich history. They are vital to our continued success.

If you haven't mailed your dues or contribution, please consider doing so today. It will be greatly appreciated and will be put to good use. There are many plans for 2011—help make them happen! ■

In Memoriam Effie Harlan

Effie Harlan, one of Alpine Historical Society's most generous supporters, passed away on November 23, 2010.

Carlette Anderson shared the following memories of Effie: "My husband JC and I met Effie in 1993. She and her husband Bob were hosting the AHS meeting at their home. It was the very first meeting that we attended. Effie was the sweetest and most generous person you would ever want to know. Whenever the Historical Society needed something, she would either underwrite it or simply write a check. She was an active member until she was no longer physically able to attend the meetings."

She will be missed.

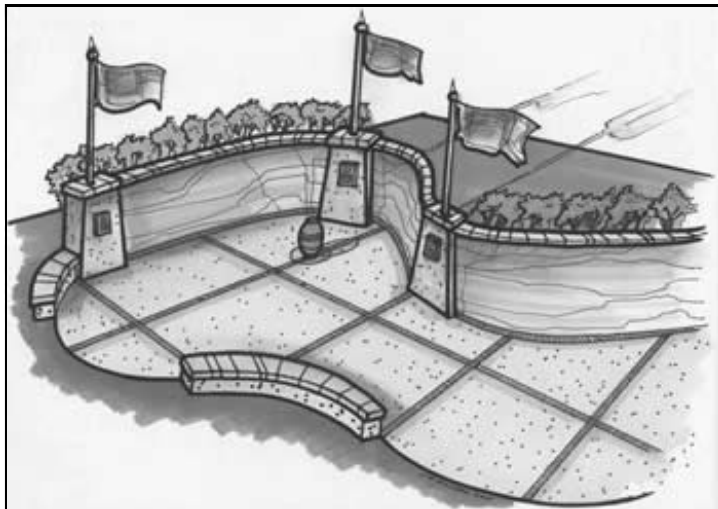


Photo at left is an artist's rendering of Alpine's proposed Wall of Honor.

The Wall of Honor will be placed at the corner of the Alpine Community Center on Alpine Boulevard

Rorie Back in Perch

In the October, 2010 issue of *Tattered Tidbits* the story of how Alpine's gorilla, Rorie, was repaired following a bee infestation in his foot was reported. One more obstacle faced the Society at that time—getting Rorie back up to his perch in a tall Eucalyptus tree adjacent to the Nichols house.

Once again, Don Parent of San Diego Gas and Electric Company and his crew came to the rescue. With great equipment and

lots of enthusiasm, the crew prepared Rorie for the ride and the forklift raised him back up to his perch.

Many people were involved in Rorie's rehabilitation and in getting him back up to the spot where he belongs.

The Historical Society's property manager, Bill Waterworth, coordinated the effort. Bill spends many hours in helping the Historical Society maintain

its two pioneer houses and the adjacent carriage house. He never dreamed, when taking over the position several years ago, that this would become an almost full time job.

In addition to Bill, a debt of gratitude goes to Don Parent and his entire crew from SDG&E, Bill Henselmeir of Harbor Pest Control for his expertise and time and Baltazar Marquez and his father-in-

law for their dedication in making Rorie whole once again.

Rorie began his life in Alpine as a fixture in the famous Log Cabin Café where he resided for many years before becoming a part of the Historical Society's display. As you drive down Tavern Road, take a moment to wave to Rorie as he sits high in his Eucalyptus tree overlooking (and many feel guarding) the Society's pioneer houses. ■



The San Diego Gas and Electric Company crew works to hoist Rorie up while Alpine Historical Society's Bill Waterworth checks out the process.



Third Graders Ride Parade Float

Some of the winners of last year's Alpine History Day Third Grade Essay Contest boarded the Historical Society's float to ride in the Viejas Days parade. They were joined by the Society's President, Carol Morrison and Don Walker.

What a change for Don this year! After pulling the float with his tractor for many, many years, he took time off to enjoy the ride and to wave to the crowd along the parade route. Driving the tractor this year was Don's second cousin, Sam Walker.

Both the tractor and the trailer belong to Don and have been fixtures in Alpine forever.

The third graders dressed in period costumes and were a joy to behold. Their enthusiasm is contagious!

Historical Society members sometimes forget to thank Don and the entire Walker clan for their continuing contributions to Alpine's history. They so enrich our community.

Our thanks to Carol, Don, Sam and all the third grade students who participated in this event. ■



Above: President Carol Morrison and Don Walker wave to the crowd. Below left: Third grade essay contest winners, dressed in historic garb, enjoy the ride. Bottom right: Don Walker's tractor pulls the Society's float.



Application Submitted to DAR to Honor Dr. Nichols

Over the past several months, representatives of the Alpine Historical Society and the De Anza Chapter of The National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution have been working together on a project to honor Dr. Sophronia Nichols.

As granddaughter of Reverend Joseph Thaxter, Chaplain of the American Revolution Army, Dr. Nichols is eligible for recognition as a person of histori-

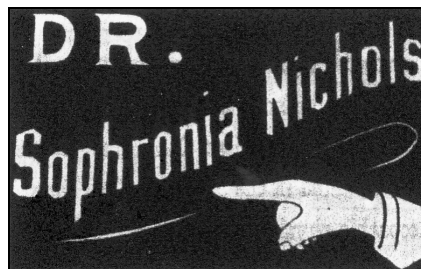
cal significance. This recognition, if approved, will include a marker being placed on the Dr. Nichols house.

Nancy Eggert-Boone, a

member of the Historical Society and the DAR, is the Chairman of the Marker Committee. Carol Morrison, Barbara Cater and Carol Walker worked with Nancy to gather

needed data and prepare the lengthy document that has now been submitted to the DAR for consideration.

A decision is expected from the DAR in Washington, D.C. within the next six months. If approved, a dedication ceremony will be planned and the marker will be placed at the front entry to the Nichols house. This will be a significant event in the Alpine community. ■



The Battle of the Bulge

The photo on page one of this newsletter shows Alpine's Frank Williams at Alpine's Honor Roll seven months before his death at The Battle of the Bulge. Every citizen needs to remember such sacrifices—in years past as well as in current times.

The battle where young Frank lost his life has become known as the greatest land battle ever fought and won by the United States Army. It took place from December 16, 1944 until January 25, 1945 through the densely forested Ardennes Mountains region of Wallonia in

Belgium and France and Luxembourg on the Western Front.

The U. S. Army performance was outstanding under extremely difficult circumstances. During the four weeks of the battle, more than one million soldiers were engaged. Although exact numbers are not known, there were approximately 500,000 Americans, 600,000 Germans and 55,000 British soldiers in action. Each side lost more than 800 tanks, and the Germans lost 1,000 aircraft. About 19,000 U. S. soldiers were killed and 47,500

wounded. The British bore 1,400 casualties with 200 killed. German units had over 100,000 killed, wounded or captured.

The top right hand photo, below, shows U. S. Army 289th Infantry Regiment soldiers marching through the snow-covered Ardennes on their way to cut off the Saint Vith-Houffalize Road in Belgium during the last days of the battle.

By the first of January, with the German offensive halted and contained, the Germans were in an impossible position; however, Hitler poured more divisions into the battle.

He launched a plan to eliminate Allied air power. The raids destroyed 206 aircraft and many base facilities. The Germans were never able to recover from the losses of over 300 planes and their pilots.

All Hitler gained from The Battle of the Bulge was a little time. The Allies were forced to abandon their attacks on the Roer dams and the Saar, and to delay their final offensive toward the Rhine River, but only for two months.

Survivors called the battle "The Longest Winter." ■



These photos show clearly what American soldiers endured during the Battle of the Bulge. Frigid temperatures and horrific conditions made their objective seemingly impossible.

Below, left is the 101st Airborne Aid Station in Foy, January, 1945. Below, right, is a statue of an American GI which honors those killed and those who survived the battle. It is located near the border of Belgium and Luxembourg



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Areas of Interest for Volunteers:

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

ALPINE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

2116 Tavern Road
P. O. Box 382
Alpine, CA 91903-0382

Phone: 619-659-8740
E-mail: info@alpinehistory.org

We're on the Web!
www.alpinehistory.org