

TATTERED TIDBITS

ALPINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 5, Issue 2

Carol Walker, Editor

April 2011

Upcoming events:

April 17th—
Quarterly Meeting

April 23rd and 24th—
Museum Open
House

May 28th and 29th—
Museum Open
House

June 4th—Alpine His-
tory Day Celebra-
tion

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ALPINE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
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APRIL QUARTERLY MEETING

The next quarterly meeting of the Alpine Historical Society will feature Trooper Robert Joyce, Jr., who, after graduation from high school in 1947, joined the United States Army. Trooper Joyce is a life member of the Buffalo Soldiers, San Diego Chapter and will speak on the history of the Buffalo Soldiers.

Trooper Rachel Hillard will present a skit on the first female Buffalo Soldier and Trooper John Roper will talk of the first black graduate of

West Point.

The meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 17th, at the Alpine Woman's Club, 2156 Alpine Boulevard. The meeting will begin with a potluck luncheon and the program will start at 2:00 p.m.

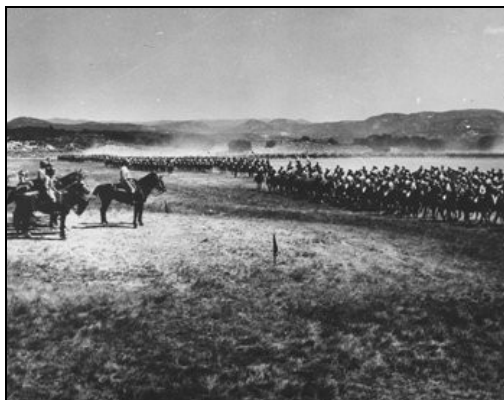
Everyone may attend the luncheon or come just for the speakers. Please R.S.V.P. to Carol Morrison at 619-445-2544 or e-mail info@alpinehistory.org. We look forward to seeing you! ■



CAMP LOCKETT— CAMPO

On October 30, 2009, the state Historical Resources Commission in Sacramento voted unanimously to declare Camp Lockett, the World War II Army base in Campo, a California historical landmark. Camp Lockett was the last home of the famed Buffalo Soldiers.

Local history buffs, including our own Jim Hinds, Archivist of the Alpine Historical Soci-



The Buffalo Soldiers' 10th and 28th regiments, some of the more than 3,500 black cavalrymen stationed at Camp Lockett, paraded in 1944.

(Mountain Empire Historical Society Photo)

ety, are passionate about preserving the story of Camp Lockett.

The Army camp opened just days before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December, 1941, and at one time had over 500 buildings. It housed a cavalry unit of white soldiers until 1942. After they left, it became the home of the Buffalo Soldiers, assigned to patrol the border and protect the area's water supply and railroad line.

More than 3,500 black cavalrymen were stationed at Camp Lockett, along with 300 white officers and soldiers. In 1944, the regiments were broken up when the Army decided that it no longer needed soldiers on horseback.

Camp Lockett was converted into a prisoner-of-war camp for 400 Italian and 100 German soldiers. Later it was used as a convalescent hospital until it closed in 1946.

Since then, the stable buildings have been used as a school and later a vehicle repair shop. Former camp buildings have served as Campo's fire station, sheriff's office and the Rancho del Campo juvenile facility. ■

Thank You to Donors and Renewing Members

The Alpine Historical Society continues to enlarge its collection of artifacts and recently items were donated by Ann Hill, Barbara Howell and Grace Long. Monetary donations were made by Carlette Anderson, George Barnett, John and Donna Boyer, David Carey, Barbara Cater, Jean Christianson, Paul and Vikki Coffey, John and Sharon Coop, David Galloway, Mike Harris, Jane Kelso, Joan Manuele, Mary McBride, Mary Polk, Katherine Robles, Paul

Rohal, William SanSoucie, Albert Simonson and Joanne and John Talamantes. Sincere thanks to all our donors for their contributions.

Welcome to new members Theo Bazdorf and Todd Voorees. Todd is a representative of SDG&E.

We could not continue our work without the support of our loyal members. Renewing members include Alpine Chamber of Commerce, Alpine Woman's Club, Franklin

and Josephine Ball, George Barnett, Sharon and Robert Beale, John and Donna Boyer, Suzanne Broderick, Colin and Janice Campbell, Pat Cannon, Barbara Cater, Jean Christianson, Karen and Jamie Cleland, Paul and Vikki Coffey, Iz Crain, Alan Dadisman, Charles and Charlene Day, Linda Dean, Mary Fritz, David Galloway, Katherine Garrard, Laurie Hallihan, Mike Harris, Lisa Herman, Fred Higginbotham, Jim Hinds, Ruth Jellison, Jane Kelso, Norm and Dolores

Kling, Joan Manuele, Judy Matlock, Ron and Carol Matzenauer, Peggy Miller, Jim and Cheryl Minshew, Jack and Judy Nichols, Ila Oker, Dick Rabell, Robert and Beverly Ring, Max Robinson, Katherine Robles, Paul Rohal, William SanSoucie, Kenneth Schulte, Jill Sing, Joseph Sisson, Jack Spaulding, Deborah Sweeney, Joanne and John Talamantes, Anne Tarr, Elma Terry, Mark Turvey and Susan Walter.

Sincere thanks to all! ■

Alpine History Day/Essay Contest

The Alpine Historical Society volunteers are abuzz with activities in preparation for the annual Alpine History Day Celebration, this year scheduled for Saturday, June 4, 2011.

Vikki Coffey, Chair of the Third Grade Essay Contest, reports that all three Alpine Elementary Schools will participate in the essay contest this year. This is the first time in several years that we have 100% participation and everyone involved is very excited about this.

School tours of the museum houses will be offered and, if funds are available for buses, the third graders will visit us once again. The essay contest and the school tours are part of the third graders' social studies local history project.

The awards for the winners of the essay contest,



Third Graders throughout Alpine are getting out their notebooks in anticipation of the upcoming essay contest!

including students recognized for their artistic abilities, will be presented on Alpine History Day.

This year a new feature is being prepared for our early farming display that emphasizes the role of the pioneer woman in the lives of our early settlers.

The celebration is one of the Historical Society's

major fundraisers and you are encouraged to mark your calendar and attend this event.

Lunch will be served and consists of homemade chili, hot bread, a variety of salads, drinks and wonderful ice cream sundaes for dessert. It is delicious as well as a marvelous way for you to contribute to the Historical Society's

endeavors.

If you have a third grader at Shadow Hills Elementary, Boulder Oaks Elementary or Alpine Elementary School, encourage them to participate in the contest and to learn more about the rich history of Alpine.

We look forward to the school tours and to seeing you at the celebration of our local history—June 4th at the museum on Tavern Road! ■



History of the Buffalo Soldiers from the website www.sandiegobuffalosoldiers.org

Nearly sixteen months after the end of the Civil War, Section III of an Act of Congress entitled "An Act to Increase and Fix the Military Peace Establishment of the United States," authorized the formation of two cavalry regiments composed of "colored" men. The Act was approved on 28 July 1866. On September 21, 1866, the 9th Cavalry Regiment was activated at Greenville, Louisiana and the 10th Cavalry Regiment was activated at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Under the leadership of Colonels Edward Hatch and Benjamin Grierson, First Regimental Commanders of the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments respectively, both regiments were trained and equipped and began a long and proud history.

Throughout the era of the Indian Wars, approximately twenty percent of the U. S. Cavalry troopers were Black. They fought in over 177 engagements. The

combat prowess, bravery, tenaciousness, and looks on the battlefield, inspired the Indians to call them "Buffalo Soldiers." Many Indians believed the name symbolized the Native American's respect for the Buffalo Soldiers' bravery and valor. Another view is that the Indians saw a resemblance between the black man's hair and the mane of the buffalo. Yet another view is that when a buffalo was wounded or cornered, it fought ferociously, displaying unusual stamina and courage. This was the same fighting spirit Indians saw in combat with black cavalymen. Since Indians held the buffalo in such high regard, it was felt that the name was not given in contempt. Buffalo Soldiers have worn the name with pride down through the years.

Buffalo Soldiers participated in many other military campaigns: The Spanish American War, The Philippine Insurrection, The

Mexican Expedition, World War I, World War II, and the Korean Police Action. For over two decades, the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments conducted campaigns against American Indian tribes on a western frontier that extended from Montana in the Northwest, to Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona in the Southwest. They engaged in several skirmishes against such great Indian Chiefs as Victorio, Geronimo, and Nan.

African-Americans have fought with distinction in all of this country's military engagements. However, some of their most notable contributions and sacrifices came during the Civil War. During that conflict, more than 180,000 African-Americans wore the Union Army blue. Another 30,000 served in the Navy, and 200,000 served as workers on labor, engineering, hospital and other military support projects. More than 33,000 of these gallant soldiers gave their lives for

the sake of freedom and their country. At least 18 Medals of Honor were presented to Buffalo Soldiers during the Western Campaigns. Similarly, 23 African-Americans received the nation's highest military award during the Civil War.

Shortly after the Civil War, Congress authorized the formation of the 9th and 10th Cavalry and the 38th, 39th, 40th, and 41st Infantry Regiments, six all Black peacetime units. Later the four infantry regiments were merged into the 24th and 25th Infantries. In 1941, the two infantry regiments formed the 4th Cavalry Brigade, commanded by General Benjamin O. Davis, Sr., at Camp Funston, Kansas.

When not engaged in combat, Buffalo Soldiers built forts and roads, installed telegraph lines, located water holes, escorted wagon trains and cattle drives, rode shot-gun" (continued on page 5)

"African-Americans answered the country's every call from its infancy. Yet, for the Buffalo Soldiers, the fame and fortune that were their just due never came. For their blood spent, lives lost, and battles won, they received nothing. They went



back to slavery, real or economic, consigned there by hate, prejudice, bigotry, and intolerance. I am deeply mindful of the debt I owe to those who went before me. I climbed on their backs. I challenge every young person here today; don't forget their service and their sacrifice; and don't forget our service and sacrifice, and climb on our backs." —Colin Powell, "My American Journey"



Our Dedicated Volunteers—Carmen Lewis

One of the Society's most enthusiastic volunteers has roots deep within the Alpine community. Carmen Bailey Hoistad Lewis came to Alpine in 1944 in hopes of finding a climate suitable for her son Claude's asthma problems. It worked—Claude and Carmen attend every meeting of the Historical Society and can always be counted on for help and support.

Carmen and her husband ran Bailey's Café, known for the prominently displayed sign "Best Climate AND food

in the U.S.A.", for 26 years.

The Café was originally a fountain lunch serving sandwiches and hamburgers; however, the menu was expanded to add regular meals and Carmen's specialty, Mexican food. Carmen never measures things—she says, "I have my own way of cooking."

Always contributing to the community, Carmen and her husband allowed their café to become the first youth center in Alpine. They closed the café early every Friday evening and invited Alpine's



*Carmen Bailey (Lewis) dances the Mexican Hat Dance —
The Good Old Days!*



*Bailey's Café was located on Alpine Boulevard where
Al Pancho's Mexican Restaurant is today*

youth in to play games, dance to the music of the juke box or a record player and enjoy soda pop or lemonade.

Before the Forest Service set up their own camp kitchens, Bailey's had the contract to feed fire fighters in the area. Carmen remembers many times getting a call at 3 a.m. alerting her to have breakfast ready by 7 a.m.—for as many as 100 men. Calling local butchers and other suppliers, she was always ready to meet the needs of the men and not only had breakfast ready, but also had lunches packed and ready to go.

This energetic little lady is an integral part of Alpine—both yesterday and today. Her enthusiasm and dedication is admired by all who know her. ■

Bryon Harrington Entertained Audience at the February Quarterly Meeting

Bryon Harrington, author of a new book, *Campo, The Forgotten Gunfight*, was the guest speaker at the February, 2011, quarterly meeting of the Alpine Historical Society.

Bryon came dressed for the part of a gunfighter from the past and kept the entire audience entertained with his stories of the exciting gunfight that ranks up there with the age old story of the Gunfight at the OK Corral.

Members were especially pleased to be entertained by Bryon as he is a loyal and dedicated member of the Alpine Historical Society. Bryon,



along with Gary Gorecki, have done a great deal of the restoration of the two museum pioneer houses—the Beaty House and the Dr. Sophronia Nichols house. Their contributions are greatly appreciated.

Sometimes, following a delicious and bountiful pot luck lunch, attendees find themselves dozing—however, at the February meeting all eyes were open as Bryon weaved his tales.

The new book is available in the museum's library, located in the Dr. Nichols house. Stop by and pick one up—it is well worth the read! ■

History of the Buffalo Soldiers *(continued from page 3)*

on stagecoach and mail runs and protected settlers from renegade Indians, outlaws, and Mexican revolutionaries. Elements of both infantry regiments fought in Cuba during the War with Spain and partici-

pated in the famous charge on San Juan Hill. Troopers of the 10th Cavalry Regiment rode with General John J. Pershing during the punitive Expedition in Mexico in search of the outlaw Pancho Villa.

Finally, in 1944, the end came to the cavalry regiments and the curtain was lowered on the long and glorious past of the Buffalo Soldiers. Much has changed since the days of the Buffalo Soldiers, includ-

ing the integration of all military servicemen and women. The story of the Buffalo Soldier remains one of unsurpassed courage and patriotism, and will be forever a significant part of the history of America. ■

Timeline of Significant Events

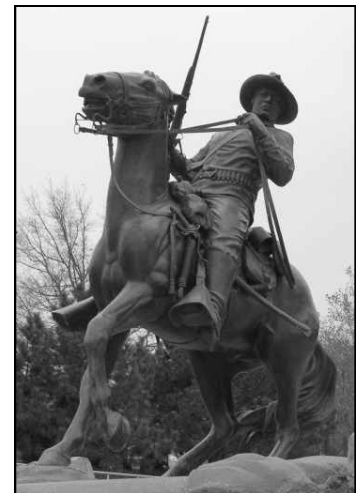
- 1776 The Continental Congress agrees to enlist free blacks, allowing 7,000 African-American volunteer soldiers and sailors to take part in the Revolutionary War.
- 1812-1815 African-American volunteer soldiers and sailors fight against the British in the War of 1812 at such critical battles as Lake Erie and New Orleans.
- 1862 President Abraham Lincoln signs the Emancipation Proclamation.
- 1862-1865 During the Civil War, 180,000 African-American soldiers serve in Union Army volunteer regiments.
- 1865 The Confederate States of America begins to accept black recruits.
- 1866 Congress passes a bill increasing the size of the army and establishing African-American regiments. Black men may now enlist in the Regular U. S. Army.
- 1866-1890 Eighteen African-Americans earn the Medal of Honor during the frontier Indian Wars.
- 1877 Henry O. Flipper becomes the first African-American to graduate from the United States Military Academy.
- 1898 All four of the African-American regiments participate in the Spanish-American War, serving in Cuba and the Philippines.
- 1914-1918 More than 400,000 African-Americans serve in the U. S. Armed Forces during World War I.
- 1940 Benjamin O. Davis, Sr. becomes the first African-American general in the Regular Army.
- 1941 The Army Air Corps forms the first black aviation unit, the 99th Pursuit Squadron. These pilots become known as the Tuskegee Airmen.
- 1941-1945 American forces in World War II include more than a million African-American men and women.
- 1948 President Harry S. Truman signs Executive Order 9981 ordering an end to segregation in the U. S. Armed Forces.
- 1950-1953 Black and white soldiers fight side by side in Korea as separate African-American fighting units are disbanded.
- 1965-1973 Twenty African-American soldiers receive the Medal of Honor for service during the Vietnam War.
- 1971 Samuel L. Gravely becomes the first African-American admiral in the history of the U. S. Navy.
- 1975 U. S. Air Force officer Daniel "Chappie" James becomes the first African-American to achieve the rank of four-star general.
- 1989 Colin Powell becomes the first African-American Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- 1990-1991 During the Persian Gulf conflict, 100,000 African-American men and women are sent to the Middle East.
- 1992 The Buffalo Soldier Monument is dedicated at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

The name is still applied today to U. S. Army units that are linear descendants of the original Buffalo Soldiers.



Left:
Artist's depiction of
a Buffalo Soldier
unit galloping for-
ward in battle.

Right:
The Buffalo Soldier
Monument
Fort Leavenworth,
Kansas



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Your Will Can Make a Difference

Including the Alpine Historical Society in your will can be a convenient way to leave a lasting legacy to your community. The development of Heritage Park, educational programs and preservation of the history of Alpine will be made possible by people who had the foresight to include the Alpine Historical Society in their estate plan.

After providing for loved ones, your will can carry out your wishes by directing that a gift be made in one, or a combination of, the following ways: a specific dollar amount, a percentage of an estate, the remainder of an estate.

Bequests should read as follows: "I bequeath to the Alpine Historical and Conservation Society (our legal name), _____, to be used for the support of the Society's programs."

The Society is available to consult with your attorney about the best way to use your will, living will, trust, insurance policy or other estate plan to help develop and maintain the historic resources in Alpine. Your attorney can provide you with details about the estate benefits that can result from your bequest.

If you have already included the Society in your estate plan, please let us know so that we may thank you. Your gift will make a difference to your community!■

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