

Upcoming events:

- **September 23 & 24:**
Museum Open House
- **October 15:** “Tea with Mrs. Roosevelt”
- **October 28 & 29:**
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

Sunday, October 15, 2017

Join Eleanor and her best friend, Lorena Hickok, as they reminisce over an afternoon cup of tea. Lorena, a well-known journalist, was assigned to cover FDR when he became governor of New York.

Eleanor and Lorena became friends for life; Lorena actually lived in the White House for a time, and the two women corresponded with over 3,000 letters. This delightful interview—part serious, part humorous—is a wonderful insight into one of America’s best known and loved First Ladies.

The interplay between the two illustrates their deep friendship as they explore Eleanor’s life as a child, Franklin’s courtship and their relationship with Franklin’s mother, Sara, who ruled the household with an iron hand. It’s an account, too, of the times in which they lived: Franklin Roosevelt’s Presidency. This three-term president led the country through the Great Depression and the World War II—one of the most dramatic and historically important eras in our history.



Some said “Eleanor was the greatest president we ever had!” This is a rare opportunity to take a trip into America’s past and to encounter a woman who helped shape the history of this country.

2:00 pm Doors Open & Refreshments Served • Program Starts 2:30 pm

Location: Alpine Woman’s Club, 2156 Alpine Blvd., Alpine

Reservations: Tom Myers at (619)885-8063 or info@alpinehistory.org

Donations \$10.00

Tea with Mrs. Roosevelt is a one-act play written by Sherrie Colbourn, starring Annette Hubbell as *Eleanor Roosevelt* and Connie Cragel Le Pere as *Lorena Hickok*.

Annette Hubbell began writing and acting in 2007 after retiring as General Manager of a water district. What started as a desire to infuse stories of real life drama into children’s history lessons has grown into a production company performing all over San Diego County. Having performed for BSPAC last year in her play *Witness to Gettysburg*, Annette is excited to be back with Connie in *Tea with Mrs. Roosevelt*.

Connie Cragel Le Pere is from Livonia, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit. Bitten by the theatre-bug in her mid-teens, she focused on vocal training and performance before pursuing roles in musical and non-musical theatre. In the early 1990s, Lamb’s Players Touring Company in San Diego hired Connie to perform throughout California. She has been in national and regional television commercials, print ads and video games. She is thrilled to act alongside Annette Hubbell in *Tea with Mrs. Roosevelt*.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A Warm Welcome to New Members:

Gay Beauregard, Betty McMillen,
Adam & Linda Whitlock

A Warm Welcome to Alpine Newcomers:

Ken & Tracy Colman, Daniel & Joy
Copenhaver, Bob & Linda Cunningham

A Grateful Thank You to Renewing

Members: Michael Harris, Pam
Lawless, Pene & George Manale,
Max Robinson, Jim & Babs
Rosenburg

Many Thanks to the following for their generous financial donations:

Gay Beauregard, Michael Harris,
Adam & Linda Whitlock

Still searching for . . .

The Alpine Historical Society is still searching for a volunteer to join our Board of Directors as its *Secretary*. Duties would include taking minutes at our monthly meetings, held the 2nd Thursday of each month from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Alpine Sheriff's Community Room. Other duties would involve helping with our quarterly meetings, and participating in our History Day Celebration on the first Saturday in June. Please contact Tom Myers at 619-885-8063 to volunteer, or for additional information.

A very Special Thank You to Laurie Hallihan, State Farm Insurance for renewing her business membership for 2017.

RECOGNITION OF OUR CURRENT LIFETIME MEMBERS

Carlette Anderson • Deborah Anderson • George & Joan Anderson • Mark L. Anderson • Roy & Willa Athey
Claude Bailey • Franklin R. Ball • Pat & Joe Brunold • David Carey • 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 Killon • John Krempp • J. Clayburn LaForce • Joanne & Martin Marugg
Carol Morrison • Tom & Judy Myers • Helen Porter • Paul & Paula Saks • Kurt Scherbaum
Pauline Silver • Albert Simonson • Donna Sisson • Joseph Sisson • Virginia Sisson • Anne Tarr
Elma Terry • Rodney & Guille Tuttle • Paul & Carol Walker • William & Joan Waterworth • Stanley Wilson

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 • Tuttle Charitable Trust

CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS: Life Members ~ 52, Supporting Members ~ 96, Members up for renewal ~ 25

POP QUIZ: Answers can be found in articles in this newsletter.

- Every autumn Monarchs migrate to over-wintering sites in:
 - Mexico
 - The California Coast
 - San Diego
 - All of the above
- Who built the toll road from Alpine to Julian in 1872?
 - President George Washington
 - Television star Jack Webb
 - George Washington Webb
- The Historical Society Program in October will feature:
 - Coffee with Mrs. Washington
 - Tea with Mrs. Roosevelt
 - "Arnold Palmer" iced tea with Arnold Palmer

Note from the Editors: We found the following poem, written by Jack Gould of Hobby Horse Ranch in Alpine, printed in the El Cajon Valley Newspaper on February 1, 1951, and thought how appropriate it still is today!

WHAT MAKES ALPINE SO FINE?

So many people ask me why I drive seventy miles, round trip, each day to my work in San Diego, being away from home from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m., or later. There are many folks here in Alpine who do the same thing. What does Alpine have that we are so willing to give this extra time and transportation money to be able to live here? Well—one day, I tried to figure it all out:

While most of the countryside was still asleep,
I was thinking thoughts, pretty deep.
As I rode down the highway, at six a.m.
I thought to myself how lucky I am
To live in Alpine, high in the mountain
Where Ponce De Leon could have found his Fountain.

But what is it that makes Alpine so fine?
Is it the scenery? the people? or is it the clime?
That is the question that comes to us all,
Rich man or poor man, great or small.
I thought to myself why do I ride so far,
And spend so much time sitting in a car?

Is it the sunshine up there away from the cloud?
Is it the beauty of Viejas that stands so proud?
What has Alpine that it so rates?
Is it the cozy homes, the lovely estates?
As I rode out of the sunshine and into the fog,
I thought it's because we're out of the smog.

Is it the water we have that comes from above?
That's so very good but not much of!
Or is it the Log Cabin Café in the center of town?
Or the horseshoe court where the "boys" hang round?
Is it the school with its very fine teachers?
Or the Community Church where Larson is Preacher?

I thought of my family, one by one,
How glad I am to get home when my day is done.
How I'd like to just stay there with them in that lovely
fresh air,
Without a worry in the world, and never a care.
I thought how the people should band into one
And make it a heaven, second to none.

I thought and I thought from morning till night
But the question that haunted me wouldn't come right.
So I stopped in front of the General Store,
For this elusive answer I'd search some more.

At last my heart was filled with joy,
The riddle was solved by a littly boy.
"Why do you live in Alpine?" I asked, "Tell me, Sport."
"It's the best climate in the United States,
by Government report!"



"MODEL A" MANIA

On August 12, we were delighted to welcome the *San Diego Model A Club* to tour the John DeWitt Museum. It was a real treat to have nearly twenty beautifully restored and

maintained **Model A Fords** in our parking lot at one time, and the museum docents were just as interested in the cars as the drivers were in seeing the museum. The sight was also a big hit with passers-by,



some of whom stopped to see the cars and visit with the owners.

If your club or organization would like to have a private tour of the Alpine Historical Society's *John DeWitt Museum*, please send a request to info@alpinehistory.org, or call Carol at 619-445-2544 or Tom at 619-885-8063.

ALPINE RETAINS “FIRST IN THE NATION” STATUS

On May 1, 1998, Alpine became the first **Certified Community Wildlife Habitat** in the USA. This distinction was awarded because our community was the very first to complete the requirements set forth by the **National Wildlife Federation**, which include establishing certified habitat gardens in both public and private spaces, promoting wildlife conservation activities, and maintaining educational programs to protect wildlife habitats within the community. Thanks to the efforts and programs of the **Alpine Garden Club**, the **Back Country Land Trust**, the **Alpine Historical and Conservation Society**, and all the volunteers, homeowners, apartment dwellers and businesses who worked to create and protect wildlife habitats,

Alpine has retained its **“First in the Nation”** status by being recertified for the 19th time as a Community Wildlife Habitat. As we now enter our 20th year in this program, we want to double our efforts to create new wildlife habitats within our community.

Here’s how you can help. In your yard, or on your patio or balcony, no matter how large or small, you can create a wildlife habitat by providing **Food, Water, Shelter**, and a **Place to Raise Young**. The final step is to complete the simple self-assessment form and submit it to the National Wildlife Federation for certification.

Information is available online at www.nwf.org, or you can get tips, advice, brochures and application forms at the **Alpine Historical Soci-**

Monarch enjoying a Habitat Garden



ety’s John DeWitt Museum, or send an email to info@alpinehistory.org. When you certify your wildlife habitat, you can enjoy the intricate cycle of nature in your own living space and share your love of nature with your children and your neighbors, all the while helping Alpine retain its status as the foremost Community Wildlife Habitat in the USA.

ANNUAL MIGRATION OF MONARCH BUTTERFLIES BEGINS

Every autumn **Monarch Butterflies** begin their migration from the U.S. and Canada to their wintering sites in Central America and along the California Coast.

Butterflies whose summer range is east of the Rocky Mountains will travel up to 3,000 miles at altitudes as high as 10,000 feet to reach their winter perches in the mountains of central Mexico. The Monarchs from west of the Rockies will make a shorter flight to winter in groves of **Monterey pine**, **Tasmanian bluegum eucalyptus**, and **Monterey cypress** found along the coast from southern to northern California.

Their journey begins when the Monarchs

sense environmental changes, such as cooler temperatures and shorter daylight hours. Along the way the position of the sun in the sky helps them navigate back to the same grove of trees where their ancestors perched in previous years.

Monarchs have been known to travel 50 to 100 miles a day, and since they only travel during daylight hours, they must find shelter for feeding and roosting each night of their journey. This is why it is so important to plant autumn-blooming native plants to produce nectar for these visitors to your wildlife habitat garden.

These intrepid butterflies begin to reach their wintering roosts about

mid-October where they will cluster together to keep warm. At this time, they are mostly inactive as they live off of their fat reserves. But occasionally, on warm sunny days, they will flutter about to find that perfect spot to bask in the sun.

San Diego County has three over-wintering sites: **Presidio Park**, the **eucalyptus groves** near the Mandeville Performing Arts Center on the UCSD LaJolla campus,

and **The Hosp Grove** in Carlsbad.

Where to See the Monarchs in California, published by California Monarch Studies, Inc., identifies nearly two dozen sites along the California coast where you can see clusters of hibernating monarchs. You can download a copy of this publication by going to this website: <http://www.monarcwatch.org/download/pdf/where.pdf>.



Monarch Butterfly cluster at Pacific Grove, CA

TIMELINE: ALPINE 1869–1873

The dawn of the 1870's brought the first wave of settlers from the eastern and southern U.S. to the Alpine area, which at that time was still known as *Valle de las Viejas y Mesa del Arroz*. Perhaps they moved in search of adventure or opportunity, to escape the memories or ruins of the U.S. Civil War, or to claim land under the Homestead Act. Each settler had their own motivation for leaving behind a life that offered more comfort than the rugged and challenging life of a backcountry homesteader.

When **Adam and Caroline Beaty** moved here in 1869 it is said that their nearest neighbor was five miles away. The following year **Joseph Harden**, a fellow Texan and a friend of Adam Beaty, settled on land behind the present day Post Office (at Arnold Way and Olivewood Lane).

Here he built a house and corral and he cultivated four to five acres of land. In 1871 Harden established a *Preemption Claim** to the land which gave him the right to purchase the land at a federally set minimum price.

Then, in 1872, after just two years on the site, Joseph Harden sold the property to newcomer **Nelson Overmier**. Nelson and his wife **Lucy J. Overmier** established their homestead on this site and named it *Cove Ranch*. Here they built barns, corrals, and a rabbit-proof fence to enclose 60 acres of fruit trees. They also planted Zinfandel grapes on the hill south of Olivewood, and the vineyard continued to be an important venture under successive owners of the property. In total, Overmier cultivated nearly 90 acres at Cove Ranch. Overmier was also a

road contractor and later took over maintenance of Webb's toll road to Julian.

Previously, in the winter of 1871, **George Washington Webb** of Julian, CA, and his son, **Sam**, along with 18 workers and an 8-mule team began to carve out what would become a toll road from Valle de las Viejas to the gold mines in Julian. The road, known as the *San Diego – Julian Toll Road*, was completed in 1872 and two years later was sold to the County of San Diego and renamed *Public Road Number 10*. Also in 1872, Webb moved his family to an area called Oak Grove, now called Harbison Canyon, where he built his *Alpine Ranch* and in 1875, with County approval, established the *Alpine School District*.

The first school teacher, **Miss Emma Everhart**, was given lodging on the second floor of the school building

constructed on the ranch. A year later George Webb moved to the Sweetwater Valley and Alpine's first school was discontinued. Miss Everhart moved on to become the school teacher in Dehesa.

Other settlers in the early 1870's included **Royal Barton** (who purchased a 160-acre Preemption Claim in Viejas Valley from Cayetano Cota), **Pedro Perez** (who found a place by the small lake in the area now called Palo Verde Ranch), and **James Green** (who lived on Midway Drive).

During the 1870's Alpine became a way-station for the horse-drawn wagons serving the Julian mines. Drivers would haul supplies to the mines and return with gold to San Diego, stopping in Alpine to rest and water their horses at the creek near the corner of Alpine Boulevard and Marshall Road.

** Preemption Claims were usually conferred to male heads of households who developed public lands into a farm. If he was a citizen or was taking steps to become one and he and his family developed the land with buildings, fields, and fences, he had the right to then buy that land for the minimum price.*

ALPINE HISTORICAL AND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Tom Myers
1st Vice President,
Programs: Vikki Coffey
2nd Vice President,
Membership: Judy Myers
3rd Vice President,
Property: [position open]
Secretary: [position open]
Treasurer: Fred Barker
Archivist: Carol Morrison

Director, Gift Shop
Coordinator: Anne Tarr
Director: Janet Harris
Director: Norm Kling
Director, [open position]
Director, [open position]
Lifetime Director: Elma Terry
Webmaster: Pene Manale
Caretakers: Baltazar & Laura Marquez

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the *Alpine Historical & Conservation Society* is to encourage the community in an effort to retain structures and sites of historical significance, conserve natural resources and parkland, make available the visible evidence of the history of our community, and develop historical programs which emphasize the contributions of the various cultural, ethnic, religious and social groups that comprise the Alpine area.

ANSWERS TO POP QUIZ: 1–d. All of the Above. (page 4); 2–c. George Washington Webb (page 5); 3–b. Tea with Mrs. Roosevelt (page 1)

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

Address Service Requested

**ALPINE
HISTORICAL &
CONSERVATION
SOCIETY**

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

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):

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (1) \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit Life \$600 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Life \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (2) \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life \$500 | | |

Amount Enclosed:

Membership \$ _____
Donation \$ _____
TOTAL \$ _____

Volunteer Opportunities:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Museum Open Houses | <input type="checkbox"/> History Day |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Programs & Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Oral Histories |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibit Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Archival Data Entry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

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