

TATTERED TIDBITS

ALPINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 7, Issue 2

Carol Walker, Editor

April 2013

Upcoming events:

- April 21st — Celebration for Carmen Lewis
- June 1st — Alpine History Day
- August 18th — Quarterly Meeting

Museum Open House:

- April 27th & 28th
- May 25th & 26th
- June 29th & 30th
- July 27th & 28th

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ALPINE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
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Celebration of Carmen's First 100 Years

On April 21, 2013, the Alpine Historical Society will be hosting a luncheon to celebrate the first 100 years of Carmen Lewis' life. Carmen will reach 100 years of age on April 26th.

Carmen moved to Alpine in 1944 to seek a climate that might help her son Claude's asthma and has been an active and valuable citizen ever since. Her smile is very well known to all of us who look forward to seeing her at community events.

Those who have memories of Carmen's many contributions to the community are encour-



Carmen Lewis

aged to attend and share their stories.

The luncheon will be at 1:00 p.m. at The Alpine Woman's Club, 2156 Alpine Boulevard.

The Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians is catering the luncheon. Thank you, Viejas, our very generous neighbor.

All are invited to attend; however, because of the limited space, reservations are mandatory. Please contact Carol Morrison at (619)445-2544 or send an e-mail to info@alpinehistory.org if you plan to attend. ■

Buggy Fund Drive is More than Successful

In January, 2013, a flyer was sent to members of The Alpine Historical Society requesting donations to purchase a doctor's buggy that was available in the Midwest.

The response was overwhelming. Soon after the flyers were sent, Don Walker came forward and offered to donate an old buggy that had been used at The Willows

Resort in Alpine. Since the buggy was historically significant to both California and Alpine, the Historical Society Board readily accepted Don's (continued on page 2)



Don Walker



The buggy gets ready for the trip to the museum

Buggy Fund Drive is More than Successful *(continued from page 1)*

generous offer.

Subsequently, we learned that the restoration costs will be higher than anticipated and the collected funds will be used to restore The Willows buggy to its former beauty. Any person who made a contribution for the purchase of the buggy may request a refund since the funds will now be used for a slightly different purpose.

Restoration of the wheels began in early March when Bill Waterworth and Norm Kling took them to a wheelwright in Escondido. The rubber will be replaced and the wooden hubs will be repaired. It is estimated the cost for the restoration of the wheels will be \$600. After the wheels are completed, further restoration plans include tightening up the undercarriage, reupholstering the seat and



The buggy at its new home

the folding awning top and painting the wheels the original red color.

The buggy is stored in the barn behind the Dr. Sophronia Nichols House—the barn has been officially renamed “The Carriage House.”

Many thanks to the following donors to our Buggy Fund: Carlette Anderson,

George and Joan Anderson, Franklin Ball, George Barrett, Theodore Bazdorf, Bert Fuller VFW Post 9578, Pat Cannon, David Carey, Barbara Cater, Trisha Cates, Jean Christianson, James and Karen Cleland, Thomas Curtin, Alan Dadisman, Rita and James David, Charles Day, Gerald Dobbs, Shirley Dyer, Katie Ford, David Fountain (Hitech Screen Science),

Mary Fritz, Michael Harris, Lindy Harshberger, Dan and Gretchen Heald, Gina Henke, Fred Higginbotham, Ann Hill, Jim Hinds, Chik Hylton, Ben and Suzy Iwata, Jane Kelso, George Landt, Joan Manuele, Ted and Judy Matlock, Mary McBride, Louis Phipps, Mary Polk, Helen Porter, Robert Ring, Paula Saksa, Donna Sisson, Joseph Sisson, Virginia Sisson, Jack Spaulding, Gary Spencer, Deborah Sweeney, Rhonda Turvey, Don Walker, Paul and Carol Walker, James Whitt, Chris Wiley (Primary Residential Mortgage) and Roy Williams.

The Board is delighted to add this important piece of history to our collection and to be able to share it with the community of Alpine. We hope it will bring joy to all for many years to come. ■

Local Artist’s Work on Display

In the 1950s, the Catholic Church in Alpine commissioned local artist Justin Gruelle, who had a studio in Alpine Heights, to paint almost life-sized depictions of the twelve stations of the cross. These paintings were displayed in Queen of Angels Catholic Church for

many years and have since been replaced.

At the request of parishioner and Alpine Historical Board Member, Katie Ford, the church loaned these original paintings to The Alpine Historical Society. Three of them are dis-

played in The Beaty House and it is planned to rotate the paintings in three month intervals until all have had the opportunity to view them. Katie and Carol Morrison also created a wonderful display of other works of Justin Gruelle and his brother Johnny, creator of Raggedy Ann and Andy, in the old Foss hutch.

His mural Early Birds once hung in the Smithsonian. Then it disappeared. When Justin Gruelle passed away in 1978, it was his dying wish that the mural be located and placed on exhibit.

His nephew, Bill Smart, was able to solve the decades long mystery when he located the 18’ by 7’ mural at the Dorchester Heritage Museum in Maryland. He arranged to have it returned to Justin’s home town.

The Early Birds mural has been restored and is now on display at the Indiana Historical Museum in Indianapolis, Indiana, thanks to the dedication of a nephew who never gave up on his promise to honor his uncle’s dying wish. ■



The Beaty House Display

Carmen Gonzalez Bailey Hoistad Lewis—A Bundle of Energy

In her 100 years, Carmen Lewis has gone by many names. Born in Mexico and named Carmen Gonzalez, she was 18 years old when she arrived in San Diego. At age 21, she married Bob Bailey and became Carmen Gonzalez Bailey. Carmen and Bob had two sons—Claude and Paul.

The Baileys owned a restaurant in San Diego. When Claude was diagnosed with asthma, the doctors said the only thing that would improve his health was a move to the mountains. In 1944, the Bailey family relocated to Alpine, sold their San Diego business and bought a restaurant on Alpine Boulevard.

Carmen and Bob became an integral part of life in Alpine, volunteering for anything and everything that was needed in the community. Bob was instrumental in ensuring that a viable Boy Scouting Program was offered and Carmen was very active in the Alpine Woman's Club.

Soon, they noticed there was no place for the youth of Alpine to gather, so they began closing their restaurant, Bailey's Café, early on Friday night and turning it over to the teenagers. Ta-

and married Jack Hoistad. Mr. Hoistad, who owned Alpine Trucking, assisted Carmen in running Bailey's Café until its sale in 1969. Jack passed away in 1971.

Carmen loves to sing and dance. She often sang at church—her favorite hymn is Ave Maria. She could be found dancing for all sorts of fundraisers—in groups or solo performances, she was a delight for all who watched. A few years ago, well into her 90s, Carmen was front and center dancing to the music at an Alpine History Day Celebration.

In 2007, Vikki Coffey did an interview with Carmen and Claude for the Voices of Alpine series. In the interview, Carmen tells many entertaining stories about the Alpine of old.

Carmen lives with her son Claude in Alpine. Her son Paul and his wife Joan have given Carmen three granddaughters—Deborah, Denise and Alana.

If you plan to attend the luncheon in honor of Carmen's first 100 years—be sure to R.S.V.P. to Carol Morrison at 619-445-2544 as seating is limited. ■



Bailey's Café in the 1950s

bles were moved to provide a dance floor and Carmen and Bob brought their Victrola and records down so the youngsters could listen to music and dance. Many local residents played musical instruments for the enjoyment of all.

Following Mr. Bailey's death in 1956, Carmen met

Jim Lewis retired from his business machine repair shop in the East and moved to Alpine where he met and married Carmen. They lived in Alpine until Jim's death in 2003.

So...this feisty, energetic lady is Carmen Gonzalez Bailey Hoistad Lewis—what a mouthful!



Carmen Bailey performing the Mexican Hat Dance for an Alpine Fundraiser



Sergeant Major Betty Noble and Carmen Lewis at the event celebrating the 90th anniversary of the Alpine Woman's Club

Thanks to Members and Donors

The Historical Society has a myriad of things on its “to do” list. All of these things come to fruition through the contributions of members—through donations and through membership dues.

Many thanks to the following donors who made recent monetary contributions to the Society: George Barnett, Suzanne Broderick, David Carey, Sharon Coop, Shirley Dyer, Michael Harris, Ann Hill, Eileen and Art Hults, Chik Hylton, Ruth Jellison, Jane and Richard Kelso, Martin and Joanne Marugg, Mary Polk, Natalie SanSoucie and Scarlett Spencer.

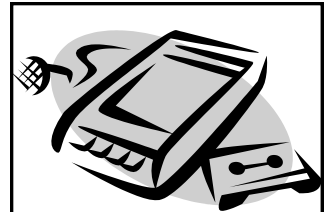
Virginia Sisson, a descendant of Dr. Nichols, recently became a Life Member of the Society. Thank you, Virginia.

We welcome the following members who recently joined the Society: Alpine Country Inn, Inc., California Options Real Estate, Tom Curtin, Tom and Judy Myers and Debbie and Bruce VanHyfte..

In response to the membership drive conducted in January, 2013, the following members renewed their memberships: George and Joan Anderson, George Barnett, Bob and Sharon Beale, John and Donna Boyer, Suzanne Broderick, Barbara Cater, Jean Christianson, Paul and Vikki Coffey, Iz Crain, Alan Dadisman, Rita David, Charlene and Charles Day, Jim and Karen Donoghue, Shirley Dyer, David Fountain, Greg and Patti Fox, Janet Gastil, Michael Harris, Gretchen Calabrese

Heald, Fred Higginbotham, Bernice Horan, Eileen and Art Hults, Chik Hylton, Ruth Jellison, Jane and Richard Kelso, Norman and Dolores Kling, George Landt, George and Pene Manale, James and Cheryl Minshew, Jack and Judy Nichols, Richard Rabell, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ring, Max Robinson, Natalie SanSoucie, Jill Sing, Joseph Sisson, Margaret Smith, Scarlett Spencer, Anne Tarr, VFW Post 9578, Jim and Sue Whitt, Stan Wilson and Genna Yoder.

Thanks to all members for supporting the Alpine Historical Society. You make a difference and allow us to continue to expand and refine our collections. If you haven't paid your dues, please send your check today. ■



Needed!

The Alpine Historical Society is planning to expand the Voices of Alpine series—oral interviews of long-time Alpine residents.

We are looking for a system that will allow us to record these interviews and transcribe them easily. Ideally, we would have a recorder, headphones and a foot pedal to control playback.

If you can help, please contact Carol Walker at 619-467-7766 or cwalker@alpinehistory.org

Welcome New Historical Society Board Members

Carol Morrison, President of The Alpine Historical Society, is happy to announce that four members have recently agreed to serve on the Historical Society's Board of Directors.

Katie Ford, well known in Alpine for being instrumental, along with her husband, in bringing the summer Concerts in the Park program to Alpine, will serve as a director.

Norm Kling has also joined the Board. Norm, a former president of the Model T Club in San Diego, and his wife Delores delight members by bringing one of their historic cars to the Alpine History Day celebration each year.

Tom and Judy Myers also joined the Board. Judy will

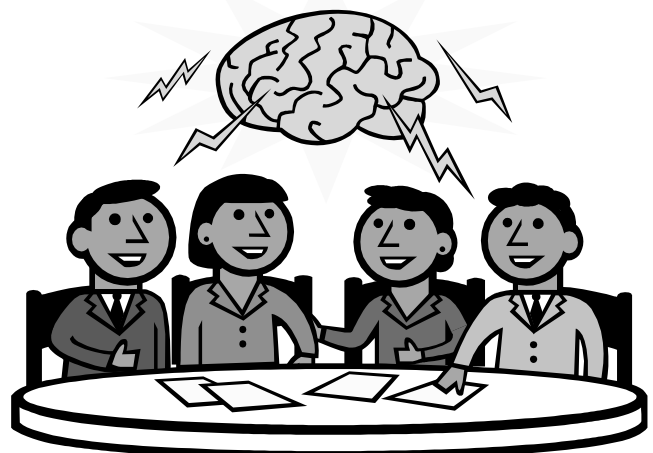
assume the role of Second Vice President, Membership and Tom the role of Third Vice President, Property Manager. Sincere thanks to Carol Walker and Bill Waterworth, respectively, who have been filling in to perform the duties of these positions.

Tom and Judy, who moved to Alpine six years ago, are actively involved in the community. They both are working on the Sage and Songbirds Festival and Tom serves on The Alpine Planning Group and as Chairman of the Circulation Committee.

Tom is retired from the Smithsonian Institution where he worked as an engineer. Judy is employed as a graphics designer.

A big welcome to all four new board members. They join the following current board members: Carol Morrison, President; Vikki Coffey, First Vice President, Programs; Jim Hinds, Archivist; Bill Waterworth, Treasurer and Directors Jill Sing, Anne Tarr and Elma Terry.

These hard working people spend many hours in their quest to preserve the history of the community of Alpine. Remember to give them a thumbs up next time you see one of them—they certainly deserve our appreciation and thanks for a job well done and dedication beyond compare. ■



Two Buggies at The Willows

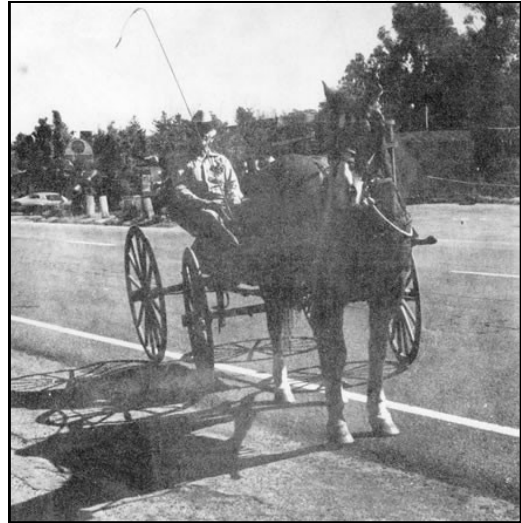


Photo on left: Fred and Marie Walker and their horse, Chita. Written on the back of the photo: “The old grey mare, she ain’t what she used to be, but she’s good enough to win a trophy in the Days of ‘49 Parade.”

Photo on left: Doug Walker “Just Cruising” from an *Alpine Sun* article published in February 1981.

One of these buggies is most likely the one that now calls Dr. Nichols’ Carriage House home.

Don Walker’s grandparents, the F. B. Walkers, arrived in Alpine in 1894 and purchased land on which they created a berry farm. Over time, the berry farm developed into a famous resort, known as The Willows. The resort was located on Willows Road and operated until 1969 when Interstate 8 was constructed through the property.

The Walker family owned two buggies—one with wooden hubs, the other with metal hubs. It is be-

lieved the one recently donated to the Historical Society by Don Walker was the one that took resort visitors to and fro—it is the one with wooden hubs. The other buggy was used at the dairy in Santee owned by Doug Walker. Through the years, the two buggies were passed down to several members of the Walker family.

Our “new” buggy contains a plaque that reads, in part: “Larkins and Company, 634 -638 Howard Street, San

Francisco.” Research into Larkins and Company history shows that the company operated at the Howard Street address until the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire. After the fire, the company moved to another location; therefore, this indicates that our buggy was constructed at least 107 years ago.

The Larkins company changed as the years went on. It began by making “fine carriages,” however, with the advent of the

horseless carriage, they began manufacturing automobiles and continued carriage making and repairs during the transition. The company still exists in San Francisco and today manufactures automobile tires.

Be sure to visit the museum soon to see this historical piece and to watch its restoration unfold. Sincere thanks to Don Walker and to Bill Waterworth, Norm Kling and Carol and Ed Morrison for coordinating the project. ■



Left: William Larkins, Carriage Maker, at work in San Francisco.

Right: The company expands its product line to meet changing needs.

LARKINS & COMPANY

BUILDERS OF

FINE CARRIAGES



RUBBER TIRES,
REPAIRING AND PAINTING

PERSONAL ATTENTION GIVEN
TO ALL WORK

AUTOMOBILE REPAIRING
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Membership Category (Please check one):

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