

TATTERED TIDBITS

ALPINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 7, Issue 5

Carol Walker, Editor

October 2013

Upcoming events:

- October 20th— Annual Italian Feast
- February 16th— Quarterly Meeting and Potluck Luncheon

Open House at the Museum:

- October 26th & 27th
- November 23rd & 24th
- December 28th & 29^h

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ALPINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 P. O. BOX 382
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Annual Italian Feast—October 20th

Each year in October the Alpine Historical Society schedules its Italian Feast—one of the major fundraisers for the year. This year, after enjoying a delicious dinner, attendees will have the opportunity to hear an informative and helpful presentation.

As fire season approaches, we all are concerned about how to protect irreplaceable photographs and vital documents. To address these worries, the Society has invited Cory Carrier, a computer instructor and photo archivist, to join us and offer a class in preserving and archiving photos and documents. The class will cover how to scan and preserve photographic prints on CDs and to restore photos damaged by light, heat or water

as well as how to organize and archive photos into a digital photo album.

This event will be held on Sunday, October 20th, from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. at the Alpine Woman's Club, 2156 Alpine Boulevard. Dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m. and Mr. Carrier will begin his presentation at 5:45. Plan to attend the dinner and stay for the speaker, or come after dinner for only the presentation.

Our good neighbor, the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians, is once again providing financial support for the dinner. Thank you, Viejas for helping to provide funds that allow the Alpine Historical Society to continue the preservation of Alpine's history for future generations!

The cost for the dinner is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children or students. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by calling Carol Morrison at (619) 445-2544 or e-mailing us at info@alpinehistory.org. Spread the word and invite your friends—all are welcome to attend. ■



Cory Carrier

Witness to Gettysburg Packs the House! (Story on Page 2)



Ms. Hubbell as Hattie Turner



The photo above was taken July 4, 1977 at Gettysburg. This is looking out across the uphill field where Pickett's charge took place. Bill and Joan Waterworth shared the photo, taken when their family was on a five week motor tour of the United States, after Ms. Hubbell's presentation.

Witness to Gettysburg Packs the House! (See Photos, Page 1)

In August, attendees at the quarterly meeting of the Society were presented with a unique perspective of the Historic Battle of Gettysburg, presented by Annette Hubbell.

Ms. Hubbell, dressed in period attire, portrayed a Civil War widow's memories of the battle and its

aftermath.

2013 marks the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, the most famous battle of the War Between the States, the Civil War.

There was standing room only as Hattie Elizabeth Turner, played by Ms. Hubbell, recalled the horror of

the war to a hushed audience during her emotional and realistic performance.

One can find additional information about Ms. Hubbell's historical reenactments on her website, www.annettehubbell.com.

During intermission, attendees were treated to an

outstanding array of tasty desserts and cooling drinks provided by the Society's Board Members.

This was a very worthwhile and informative program with deep meaning. Those in attendance seemed to agree as they gave Annette a resounding standing ovation. ■

Thanks to Donors and New and Renewing Members

Dr. Gage Skinner, noted educator, author, poet and resident of Pine Valley, recently donated a bee hive, research paper and beekeeping books and magazines to the Society's archives. Thank you, once

again, Dr. Skinner, for thinking of the Alpine Historical Society.

Also donated recently was a wooden Lazy A Ranch sign. Thanks to Barbara Hill for this wonderful addi-

tion to our collection.

A monetary donation was received from Gerald Shorter since our last newsletter.

Finally, we would like to

welcome new members Tom and Donna Bolz, Reverend Gay Beauregard, Michael Nelson, Janis Vanderford and Gerald Shorter. Thanks for joining and we hope to see you at an event very soon. ■



Left:
The Nichols House—one of the Society's two pioneer houses.

Right:
Some of items available in the store.



Alpine's Past Comes Alive in the Museum Store

The Alpine Historical Society's Museum Store, located in the Nichols House at 2116 Tavern Road, has a variety of items available for purchase.

Beatrice LaForce's history book—*Alpine—History of a Mountain Settlement*—is available in both paperback and hard cover. An index for the book is also available and is helpful if one is working on a research project.

A collection of newspaper articles, *Echoes of the Past, the Old Timer*, written in

the 1950s, by Neil Gallo-way, can also be purchased. The articles were compiled by Jim Hinds, typed by Carol Walker and printed in book format in order to make them more readable.

Among other publications are Vic Head's *Meandering Through the Journey of Life*, an eclectic collection of writings including interesting new facts about Alpine's past, *Campo: The Forgotten Gunfight*, by Byron Harrington, and *My Alpine*, by Carlette Anderson and *Mother Goose*

Parade by Justin Gruelle. Coffee mugs, note cards and postcards are also available.

All are welcome to the free brochures dealing with different aspects of Alpine's past. They include: 150 Years of Viejas Days, The Beatsy—A Pioneer Family of Alpine, Alpine Historical Society, Benjamin Rice Arnold, Chronology of Homestead Period, The Foss Family—Alpine Pioneers, John Stewart Harbison, Alpine's Man of Many Faces—Julian Eltinge,

Justin Gruelle—An Alpine Artist, The Schools of Alpine, Alpine's First Woman Doctor—Sophronia Nichols, George Washington Webb and What's in a Name?

A two-volume collection of photographs from the 2003 Cedar Fire, a collection of photographs of Highway 90 through the years and the reproduction of the Alpine Library's Artist Exhibit Scrapbook are also at the museum for visitors to peruse.

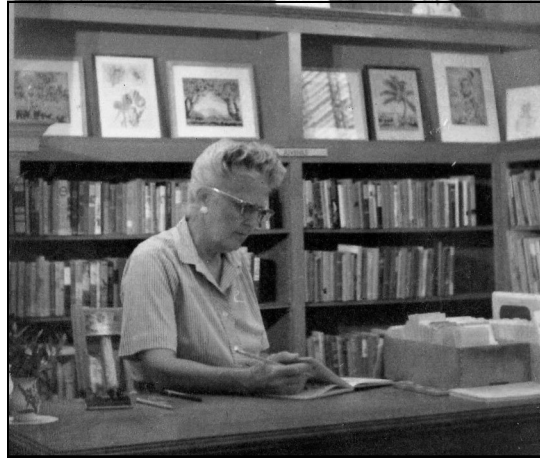
If you haven't visited lately, be sure to stop by for the next open house. ■

Alpine Library Artists' Displays—June 1966 through August 1969

In 1966, the Alpine Library was located in the Alpine Woman's Club Building at the center of the town. The room that was the library is now Gordon Mize's State Farm Insurance Office. Many of the original library shelves still exist.

Librarian Elizabeth West, knowing there were many talented and versatile artists in Alpine, began to offer the library to these artists to display their work. The first exhibit was that of artist Erna Earle in June, 1966, and each month—through August, 1969, another artist displayed his work.

The displays included many different mediums—from charcoal and pencil drawings to displays of beautiful



Librarian Elizabeth West, circa 1966

mineral deposits. Many artists displayed their art while others took the opportunity to display their unique collections of artifacts from around the world.

The art exhibits were covered extensively in local papers—many even drew the attention of the *San Diego Union*.

Ms. West diligently kept a

scrapbook documenting the exhibits. Recently, the Alpine Library Friends Association loaned this scrapbook to the Historical Society. Because of its fragile state, all the documents and photographs were scanned and preserved and Carol Walker typed the news articles in order to make them easier to read. A binder was prepared that contains all the information included in the scrapbook and it is available for viewing at the museum. It is also on the Historical Society's website.

Many thanks to the Library Friends Association for sharing this valuable part of Alpine History. ■



**Watercolor by Erna Earle—
June 1966**



Sculptor Holger Nicolaisen and his student Stan Harper, age 10, show some of Stan's work—November 1967



Jean McCullough and one of her paintings—January 1969

CHECK OUT OUR RECENT WEBSITE ADDITIONS

Website address: www.alpinehistory.org

Historical Research Page—Alpine People and Places:

- Artists—Library Arts Exhibits 1966—1969 (a collection of news articles and photographs)
- The Family of Marguerite Borden Head and Robert Head, by Kenneth Schulte
- Highway 80 Through Alpine (a collection of photographs)
- Voices of Alpine—Transcripts of oral interviews with Tom Hill, Jr., Carmen Lewis and Betty Noble
- Artist Leonard Lester, by Kenneth Schulte
- The Schulte Family of Alpine, by Kenneth Schulte
- Firestorm 2003 (a collection of photographs and stories)

Historical Research Page—News Articles:

- Alpine History Mysteries—The Alpine Sun—May 2013—present
- Tattered Tidbits—The Alpine Sun Shopper—2006—present

(NOTE: Some files are very large and take longer to load—please be patient!)

Suggestions for the website are welcomed and may be sent to webmaster Carol Walker at cwalker@alpinehistory.org.

The Cedar Fire—A Look Back *by Carol Walker*

October 25, 2003 is a date many Alpine residents will never forget. This month marks the tenth anniversary of the Cedar Fire—the worst wildfire in California’s history. Images of the fire and its terrible aftermath will be with those of us who lived through it forever.

Before dawn on October 26th, looking toward the

freeway from Alpine Heights, it appeared the entire horizon was ablaze. Unfortunately, this was only the beginning.

Later it was found that the monstrous fire was caused by a lost hunter, Sergio Martinez, who lit a fire

which then burned out-of-control.

As my husband and I drove out of Alpine to safety, we wondered if we would ever see the historic buildings again—the museum houses, the old Town Hall, the old store. Thankfully,

they all survived.

The Cedar Fire was one of fifteen wildfires throughout Southern California that month, which became known as the 2003 Fire-storm. Driven by Santa Ana Winds, the Cedar Fire burned 280,278 acres, 2,820 buildings (including 2,232 homes) and killed 15 people *(continued on page 5)*



Above left and center: Vehicles stream from the Alpine area as evacuees flee the fire. Above right: A lone helicopter fights the flames with buckets of water in the Descanso area.



A firefighter fights the flames in Alpine.



Law enforcement risking everything to protect citizens—I8.



Tent city set up for weary firefighters.



Firefighters fight the flames west of Alpine on Interstate 8.



Harbison Canyon sign lays on the ground in the midst of the devastation.

The Cedar Fire—A Look Back *(continued from page 4)*

before being contained on November 3.

This made it the largest fire in recorded California history and, at the time, the deadliest single wildfire event in the United States since the 1991 Oakland firestorm. The loss of pets, wild creatures and natural habitat is immeasurable.

For days the air was heavy with smoke and Alpine was covered in ash. Power was out to the entire area for several days and many residents were evacuated.

Driving down South Grade Road on the 26th, the sight of the smoldering remnants of peoples' lives was a grim reminder to those of us who were lucky enough not to have lost our homes. It was an eerie feeling to see a mass of rubble with a fully intact home right next door—who knows what determined which homes burned and which homes survived.

Since power to the area was out and the air quality was bad, many Alpine residents stayed away until the

air cleared and power was restored. The community, however, went into action mode. Churches opened their doors and served as donation centers for all the clothing, food, and basic necessities needed by those who had lost so much. It was heartwarming to see the outpouring of love and assistance from friends and neighbors.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) set up locations to assist those who had lost their homes.

On November 4, Marine One, the presidential helicopter, landed in Harbison Canyon and President George W. Bush toured the devastation, consoling those who had lost so much. We could see the helicopter hovering and landing—and felt an overwhelming sense of pride in our nation for this caring gesture.

Ten years have passed, and many who suffered loss have recovered, but few have forgotten the vivid images of the Cedar Fire. ■



Left: Marine One lands at Harbison Canyon with President George W. Bush on board.



Right: The President speaks with a family by the rubble that was their home.



Left: President Bush and Supervisor Dianne Jacob survey the damage.



Bottom Right: The President thanks one of the many fire-



Help and love poured out of the Alpine Community with thanks to the firefighters and many, many donations to help friends and neighbors who had lost so much. Center photo is an impromptu donation center at a church.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life \$500 | |

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Areas of Interest for Volunteers:

Building Preservation
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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
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