

Upcoming events:

- **January 28 & 29:**
Museum Open House
- **February 19:**
Walking the Pacific Crest Trail & Potluck Luncheon
- **February 25 & 26:**
Museum Open House

Inside this issue:

- Membership Update, page 2
- New Lifetime Members: Janet Marie Harris and J. Clayburn La Force, page 3
- In Memoriam: Donald Walker and Edward Morrison, page 3
- Oh, Those Beautiful Dolls, page 4
- Timeline Alpine: 1857-1860, page 5
- Pop Quiz, page 5
- AH&CS Board of Directors, Mission Statement, page 5
- Membership Application, page 6

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

Walking the Pacific Crest Trail

“TRAIL TO A CURE” • Al O’Neal

Potluck Luncheon & Presentation, Sunday, February 19, 2017

The guest speaker for our February General Membership meeting is **Al O’Neal**, long-distance hiker and long-time Alpine resident, who will share his experiences hiking the *Pacific Crest Trail* in 2016. This will be an opportunity for us all to experience the awe-inspiring beauty of this majestic mountain trail through the eyes and camera of one who has walked there.

Al is a retired contractor and business man who has always been an avid camper and backpacker. He married DeeAnn in 1975 at Yosemite Valley, CA, and in 1980 they moved to Alpine. Here they raised two sons, Jordan

and Galen, and they now have two grandchildren with number three on the way.

Al was scoutmaster of Alpine’ Boy Scout Troop 105 from 1996 to 2001, and while leading the scouts on a campout in the High Sierra he had his first serious thoughts about attempting a through-hike of the Pacific Crest Trail.

The Pacific Crest Trail is a long-distance and mostly natural wilderness path covering approximately 2,650 miles from the U.S. Mexican border near Campo, California to Manning Park, British Columbia, just about eight miles north of the U.S. Canadian Border. Few people attempt a through-hike on this trail, and even fewer succeed.



Al began his hike April 9, 2016 and pressed on until October 16 when blizzard conditions stopped him just short of the Canadian Border. He will complete the final 30-mile segment in 2017.

Why is it a “Trail to a Cure”? Al’s granddaughter, 9-year-old Kalista, was diagnosed 3 years ago with Histiocytosis, a rare blood disease. Al’s journey is not just a personal goal, but also a fundraising effort for the HistoCure Foundation, honoring Kalista’s continuing battle against this disease.



*Please bring a potluck item to share for the luncheon which begins at 1:00 p.m. or arrive by 1:45 p.m. for the brief General Membership meeting followed immediately by Al’s presentation. Admission is **FREE**, but your donation helps to support and maintain the museum facilities. Location: Alpine Town Hall (Alpine Woman’s Club), located at 2156 Alpine Boulevard. Seating is limited, so please make your reservations early by calling Tom Myers at (619) 885-8063 or send an email request to info@alpinehistory.org.*



New exhibit now on display . . .

Oh, Those Beautiful Dolls!

. . . see page 4



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A Special Thank You to Our New Life Members:

Janet M. Harris • J. Clayburn La Force

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members:

Victoria Bickford, Kim & Steve Hales, Wendell Maize, Jill Reeve, Nancy & Mark Ross, Alpine Library Friends Association, and the South Bay Historical Society

A Grateful Thank You to Our Renewing Members:

Russ & Dawn August, Cathie & Wayne Aymar, Fred & Susan Barker, Kathy Bartonicek, Donna Boyer, Suzanne Broderick, Roger & Bonnie Brown, Gretchen Calabrese, Colin & Janice Campbell, Barbara Cater, Trisha Cates, Vikki & Paul Coffey, James & Rita David, Kathleen & Richard Fiedor, Marc & Marilyn Fox, Mary Fritz, Lisa Herman, Hilde Hinchcliff, Chik & Patricia Hylton, Ruth Jellison, Richard & Jane Kelso, Norman & Delores Kling, George Landt, Judy Matlock, James & Cheryl Minshew, Louise Phipps, John & Ann Pierce, Andy Reynolds, Robert & Beverly Ring, Louis & Lydia & Sean & Bella Russo, Kevin & Alejandra Schumacher, Jill Sing, Bill & Diane Smart, Ray & Betty Sopfe, Scarlett Spencer, Bruce & Debbie

Van Hyfte, Deborah & Joseph Verfaillie, Susan D. Walter, Mary Welch, Jim & Sue Whitt, and Pat & Brent Wolf

Many thanks to the following for making generous financial donations to the Historical Society:

Alpine Woman's Club, George & Joan Anderson, Cathie & Wayne Aymar, Fred & Susan Barker, Victoria Bickford, Suzanne Broderick, James & Rita David, Robert & Diana Holverson, Vikki & Paul Coffey, Shirley Dyer, Kathleen & Richard Fiedor, Mary Fritz, Lisa Herman, Ann Hill, Richard & Jane Kelso, Carol & Thomas Kuhn, George Landt, Paul & Lenora Lee, Sandra & Richard Luebben, Wendell Maize (*Habitat Garden*), Martin & Joanne Marugg, Mary McBride, Louise Phipps, John & Ann Pierce, Nancy & Mark Ross, Robert & Carleen Tuark, Kevin & Alejandra Schumacher, Linda B. Stewart, Elma Terry, Jacque Tucker, William & Frances Tumlin, Bruce & Debbie Van Hyfte, Deborah & Joseph Verfaillie, Carol & Paul Walker, Susan D. Walter, Bill & Amber Wilson, and Jack Winans

Special Thanks of Appreciation to the following businesses

who renewed their annual membership in the Historical Society for 2017:

Accurate Land Surveys • Alpine Rance Chiropractic • Barons Market
Bert Fuller VFW Post No. 9578 • On Line Bookkeeping & Tax Service

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
Sharon J. Coop • 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 La Force
Joanne & Martin Marugg • Mary McBride • Chris McCoy • Carol Morrison • Tom & Judy Myers • Helen Porter
Mark & Pattie & Haley Price • 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 • Sam Webb • 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 ~ 57, Current Members ~ 54, Members up for renewal ~ 61

NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS: JANET MARIE HARRIS ~ J. CLAYBURN LA FORCE

Janet Marie Harris has been a longtime resident of East County since 1955. She has held a wide variety of administrative and leadership careers, ranging from the nursing home industry, to the manufacturing industry, to the community college arena. Holding a degree in American Sign Language Interpreting, she worked at San Diego Mesa College in the



Disability Services and Programs department. Currently she is a member of our Board of Directors and belongs to the Alpine Woman's Club, the Sunshine Quilters of San Diego, the Pieceful Stitchers, and the Wool Club. She has also held memberships with the Old Town Historical Quilters, the San Diego Genealogist Society and the San Diego Quilt Show production team.

J. Clayburn La Force received his A.B. degree in Economics at San Diego State College, and followed that with an M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics at UCLA. He became a faculty member in the UCLA Department of Economics in 1962 and later served as the department chairman. He served as Dean of the John E. Anderson Graduate School of Management at



the University of California and in 1993 was named Dean Emeritus. His interests include Microeconomics and History and he has been a member of the Alpine Historical Society for many years and has generously donated artifacts and papers from his mother, Beatrice LaForce, as well as permission to reprint her book, *Alpine, History of a Mountain Settlement*.

IN MEMORIAM . . . THE PASSING OF TWO OF OUR LIFE MEMBERS



DONALD WALKER

The Alpine Historical Society and the Alpine Community lost a good friend and longtime Life Member on October 7, 2016 when Don Walker passed away at the age of 91. Don was a grandson of Fredrick B. and Bevie Walker who, in 1894, purchased 160 acres of land in the Viejas valley and soon thereafter established The Willows resort. Don was born at the Willows Ranch in 1925 and was preceded in death by his wife Maxine whom he called "The Love of my Life".

Don will always be remembered as a great story teller, and also for his generous nature. For many years he pulled the Society's float in Alpine parades with his Farmall Regular tractor. Over the years he donated many historical items to the Society, including the antique farm equipment which has been the centerpiece of our outdoor exhibits for as long as anyone can remember. In 2013 Don gave the Historical Society a pre-1906 "Doctor's Buggy" that was used at the



Willows Resort, making regular trips to the museum to check on the progress of our restoration efforts. On one of his trips, we were able to recruit him to help with sanding parts of the buggy.



EDWARD E. MORRISON

Edward, a Life Member and longtime resident of Alpine and San Diego, passed away on December 16, 2016 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Although Ed's career as a CPA and computer consultant spanned 38 years of working for large accounting and real estate companies, his passion was always building, fixing, or repairing something for his friends in his woodworking shop. He spent many hours volunteering for the Alpine Historical Society, restoring the Doctor's Buggy and the historic buildings, as well as volunteering for the Alpine Stagecoach Lions Club, working on their parades and dog shows.

He was an avid supporter of all the Society's events, providing the audio visual backup for our Quarterly Meetings, and lending two helping hands wherever needed. He and his wife Carol, married during their junior year at San Diego State, enjoyed traveling, desert camping, water skiing, dance lessons, playing bridge, family and friends and the quiet life in Alpine. His life was one of sharing and giving to all he met. We will miss him.



Oh, Those Beautiful Dolls!

From china dolls to rag dolls, miniature to life size, victorian to mountain man, you will find them all at the Alpine Historical Society's John DeWitt Museum in a special exhibit made possible by the San Diego Chapter of the National Doll Club. The ladies at the **San Diego Doll Club** are serious collectors of antique and vintage dolls and their passion shows in the wonderful variety of dolls from all around the world that are on display now through the end of April.

Check out the *Little House on the Prairie* collection complete with wagon and horse, or the *Little Women* display with doll size household furniture. And don't miss the *American Girl*, *WWI Dough Boy*, the four-foot-tall *Barbie*, *Indian Girl*, *Mountain Man*, and of course, *Raggedy Ann & Andy*.

It is a very special treat to have this exhibit of dolls from several collectors and members of the San Diego Doll Club, whose motto is "*All Dolls Are Collectable*".



The **San Diego Doll Club** meets on the second Friday of each month at 10 a.m. at the City View Church Fellowship Hall, 8404 Phyllis Place in San Diego. For more information about the club, contact Jill Reeve at jillieca@hotmail.com.

The **John DeWitt Museum** is open the last Saturday and Sunday of each month from 2 to 4 pm, or by appointment. For more information, call 619-885-8063.

TIMELINE ALPINE 1857-1860



James Birch

In 1829, 21 year-old **James Birch**, a stage-coach driver from Providence, Rhode Island, moved to Sacramento to make his fortune in the California Gold Rush. But when he found that the cost of gold prospecting was much higher than he expected he put his skills to use by operating a stage line to transport passengers and supplies to the California gold mining sites. Within five years, his **California Stage Company** became the biggest and most far-reaching stage line in the state, serving every

part of northern California and extending as far south as Los Angeles.

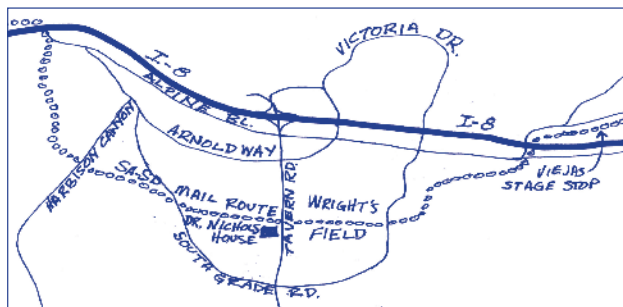
In 1857, the US Post Office awarded Birch the first contract to deliver mail by an overland route to California. The new company, called the **San Antonio & San Diego Mail**, also transported passengers and baggage on their twice monthly service between San Antonio and San Diego. That same year Birch advanced funds to **Cockney Bill Williams** to create the **Viejas Stage Stop**, where the stage could be provisioned with fresh horses and mules, feed for the animals and some limited food and beverages for weary travelers. This earliest form of public transportation passed through the area that would eventually be called Alpine, crossing

the future site of Wright's Field and passing north of where the John DeWitt Museum currently stands, on its way down to Los Coches and San Diego.

Over the next three years a series of misfortunes fell upon Birch's **SA&SD Mail**. During its first month of operations, James Birch died on a steamer ship that ran aground during a vicious storm. His partner took over operation of the line, but expenses far outpaced income. So, piece by piece, the Postal

Service cancelled his contracts and gave them to a competitor, the **Overland Stage Company**.

The **SA&SD Mail** sued Cockney Bill for settlement of his debts, which he was unable to pay due to loss of revenue from the stage line and from falling livestock prices. In 1860 the **SA&SD Mail** ceased operations in San Diego County and it would be nine more years before the first permanent settlers discovered this place we now call Alpine.



POP QUIZ (see answers below):

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>1. Who was Alpine's first Doctor?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sophronia Nichols b. Nicholas Peutz c. F.B. Walker | <p>2. In what year was the Alpine Post Office established?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 1785 b. 1885 c. 1985 | <p>3. Who established bee keeping in Alpine?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Joan McQueen b. Carol Morrison c. John Harbison |
|--|--|---|

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: Allen Earley
Secretary: Vikki Coffey
Treasurer: Fred Barker
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Director, Gift Shop Coordinator: Anne Tarr
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Director: Norm Kling
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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.

1-a. Sophronia Nichols established the first medical office in Alpine in 1896, and held license #26 in California.
 1-b. On Nov. 11, 1885, the Postal Service established the Alpine Post Office, setting the official name for Alpine.
 1-c. John Harbison established bee keeping in Alpine and by 1874 had two thousand hives in production.

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
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We're on the Web!
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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.