

TATTERED TIDBITS

ALPINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 2, Issue 2

April 2008

Upcoming Events:

April 20—Dr. Gail Wilson Guth to Speak at Quarterly Meeting

May and June—Third Grade Essay Contest and School Museum Tours

June 7—Alpine History Day Celebration

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Alpine Historical Society
P. O. Box 382
Alpine, CA 91903

QUARTERLY MEETING STARRING DR. GAIL GUTH

The quarterly potluck luncheon meeting of the Alpine Historical Society will be held on Sunday, April 20, 2008, at 1:00 p.m.

The speakers for this meeting will be Dr. Gail Wilson Guth and some of her family members who will tell of her Alpine memories, including

those of the old Wilson Store. The meeting will be held at the Alpine Woman's Club, 2156 Alpine Boulevard. Come for the luncheon at 1:00 p.m. or just for the speaker at 2:00 p.m.—everyone is welcome to attend.

Please R.S.V.P. to Carol

Morrison at 445-2544 or send an e-mail to us at info@alpinehistory.org.

These meetings provide enjoyment for all who attend. Don't miss this event—it's a wonderful way to catch up with old friends as well as make new ones. Mark your calendar now! ■

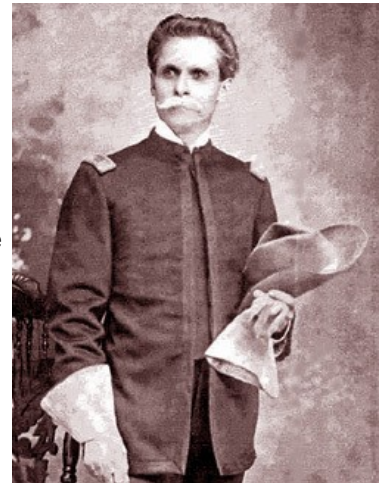
MEMORIES OF ALPINE AND CAPTAIN PARKS

By Vic Head

The Congressional Medal of Honor is the highest military honor awarded by the United States for "uncommon valor" in action above and beyond the call of duty in combat against an armed enemy. As of the end of the Vietnam War, a total of 3,418 such medals had been awarded, nearly half of them during the Civil War. So what makes Captain Parks so special? First, few indeed were personally awarded in a face-to-face ceremony by President Lincoln; second, he was only sixteen years of age when the award was made. I was privileged to be befriended by Captain Parks when I first moved to Alpine, California in January 1926, when I had just turned eight years old and the Captain was a month shy of seventy-eight. He was living in a tiny cottage some called the "Doll House" down the hill

and across a creek from old Highway 80 and behind the famous Log Cabin Café owned by the Foster Family. Captain Parks told me how proud he was that throughout an illustrious army career spanning more than four decades he had never killed a man. As a child I was intrigued by his curved sword, which would slide just as easily into and out of its curved scabbard as would a straight sword with a straight scabbard. He called it a saber. He had a guitar leaning in a corner that he said sometimes gave out spontaneous music in the wee small hours.

My parents were divorced when I was a baby (1918). In 1926 my mother was the third librarian in the new Alpine Library, and Captain Parks befriended her, some-



Captain Harry Jeremiah Parks

times driving her around 30 miles each way into San Diego. She never tired of telling what an expert driver he was. Once when a child dashed into the street, he avoided catastrophe by driving onto the sidewalk. Though he was twice her

Continued on Page 2

Memories of Alpine and Captain Parks *(Continued from Page 1)*

age he, perhaps in fun, proposed marriage.

Editors Note: Vic Head has shared many of his memories of Alpine with the Alpine Historical Society's Barbara Cater. The preceding article is among these memories. Barbara met Vic through Patty Heyser when Patty asked the Historical Society to provide assistance to Vic in his research of Captain Parks. Since that time Barbara and Vic have kept in touch. He continues to send her his wonderful articles about Alpine.

Currently residing in Pennsylvania, Mr. Head reports the following regarding his research projects and the photo shown below: "Photo courtesy of Patty Heyser, formerly Patty Foster, whom I worshiped all unbeknownst to her in fifth grade in the one-room school-

house in Alpine. Now that we are both 88 years old, Patty and I are in frequent communication and she and her family have been very helpful in tracing Captain Parks' later life. Another invaluable source has been a search of the National Census records to learn where Harry J. Parks was to be found every ten years. This was conducted by one of Alpine's younger residents, Barbara Cater, who is active in Alpine's Historical Society.

I am also particularly grateful to Roy Williams who provided 16 pages of backhand script in his mother's writing, which Captain Parks had allowed her to copy from his diary and correspondence. Roy was second cousin once removed to our beloved teacher Hazel Hohanshelt and took care of her correspondence in her old age. Hazel died on August 20, 2004, at the age of 98." ■



MCKITRICK HILL PHOTO

The photo on the left shows an Alpine group on McKitrick Hill, behind the Log Cabin Café and behind Captain Parks' "Doll House." Left, seated, is Mrs. McKitrick. Standing, left to right are: Captain Parks, Miss Clara Ives, Marguerite Head (Later Poet Laureate of New Hampshire using the pseudonym Zuella Sterling), Pearl Foss, Muriel Bowlus sitting on the knee of her grandfather, William Spicer. Seated on the ground is Norman Head, who grew up to be a skipper in the famed San Diego tuna fleet. Photo courtesy of Patty Foster Heyser.

Harry J. Parks February 24, 1848—October 19, 1927

Captain Parks served during the Civil War as a Private in Company A, Ninth New York Calvary. He was born and entered service at Orangeville, New York. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor on October 26, 1864 for his bravery at Cedar Creek, Virginia on October 19, 1864. His citation reads: "While alone and in advance of his unit and attempting to cut off the retreat of a supply wagon, he fought and sent to flight a Confederate color bearer. After capturing the color bearer and leaving him in the rear, he returned to the front and captured three more wagons and drivers."



PLEASE HELP KEEP OUR RECORDS UP-TO-DATE

If you have moved, changed your name or had any other changes in your membership status, please let us know so that our records can be updated.

A call to Carol Walker at 741-4629 or an e-mail sent to info@alpinehistory.org is all it takes!

Board Members and Contacts—2008

President	Carol Morrison	445-2544
1st Vice President (Programs)	Vikki Coffey	445-6636
2nd Vice President (Membership)	Carol Walker	741-4629
3rd Vice President (Property Manager)	Bill Waterworth (Interim)	659-3946
Archivist	Jim Hinds	445-2654
Secretary	Don Tarr	659-1378
Treasurer	Bill Waterworth	659-3946
Director	Carlette Anderson	445-5716
Director	Helen Porter	561-8889
Director	Jill Sing	445-9168
Director	Elma Terry	445-0960
Museum Docent	Elma Terry	445-0960
Museum Docent	Vikki Coffey	445-6636
Newsletter and Website	Carol Walker	741-4629
Caretakers	Baltazar and Laura Marquez	659-8902
Museum	2116 Tavern Road	659-8740



January Annual Meeting



Vonnie Sanchez

The January meeting of the Society was the annual meeting and part of the business included electing the 2008 Board of Directors, as shown above. Congratulations to all the new and continuing members!

In addition to wonderful food and camaraderie, those present were treated to a wonderful walk down memory lane by Vonnie Sanchez. Vonnie recalled

her younger days in Alpine with stories that had everyone laughing—this combined with nostalgia was a very worthwhile experience for all in attendance.

Vonnie shared with us some hilarious pranks from teenagers in the 1950's and 1960's—just to prove that nothing really changes. The story about Frank Williams disassembling a buggy and reassembling it

on the roof of the Woman's Club one morning was fantastic.

Next time you visit the Woman's Club, notice the initials carved on the railing right to the left of the double doors—LA and DR. Anyone know who they stand for? We do....but that's for another day!

Thanks, Vonnie. It was terrific! ■

Around the Museum/Spending the Grant Money

If you've driven by the museum lately you may have seen a buzz of activity. All \$5,000 of the 2007 Community Enhancement Grant has been spent with improvements to both houses.

This year's grant money was used mostly for repairs on the Nichols House. New flooring was installed in the

kitchen and office, extensive painting was completed, sixteen new foundation support beams were installed and repairs were made to the outside foundation.

Because we were not successful in obtaining a Landscaping Grant, Bill Waterworth has begun ac-

tively planting shrubs, many from his own yard, around the two pioneer houses. Bill has a real green thumb and has planted wild lilac bushes and rosemary and has plans for additional beautification as well as a sprinkler system. It's looking wonderful. Keep Bill in mind if you have plants that could use a new home! ■



Bill Waterworth

Membership Drive Update

Sincere thanks to the following persons and businesses who have renewed their Historical Society memberships for 2008: Liar's Club Tavern and Grill, Alpine Chamber of Commerce, Helen and Nathan Astleford, Olive Ball, Franklin Ball, Sharon and Robert Beale, John and Donna Boyer, Suzanne Broderick, Sally Carlisle Brown, Virginia Carlen, Barbara Cater, Jean Christianson, James and Karen Cleland, Vikki Coffey, Charles and Charlene Day, David and Lori Fountain, Mary Fritz, Gail Guth, Lisa Herman, Fred and Roberta Higginbotham, Richard and Darlene Jackson, Ruth Jellison, Joel Jette, Richard and Jane Kelso, George Landt, Joan Manuele, Judy Matlock, James and Cheryl Minshew, Rolin Newton, Jack and Lynne Nichols, Muriel Pappin, John and Ann Pierce, Bob and Beverly Ring, Frank and Katherine Robles, Jill Sing, Joseph Sisson, Margaret Smith, Carol Sta-

cey, Don and Anne Tarr, Elma Terry, Susan Walter, Elmer and Mary Ellen Werner, Jim and Sue Whitt, Stanley Wilson and Genna Yoder.

A huge thank you also goes out to Jack Wilson who became a Life Member in January.

Because of the high costs of printing and mailings, a newsletter will no longer be sent to members who have not paid their dues. A notice will be sent with this newsletter to those impacted. We sincerely appreciate their past support and regret that this action is necessary.

So...if you haven't mailed your dues payment, do so today and continue your affiliation with this wonderful organization!■

Recent Donations

This past year has been a time of change and progress for the Alpine Historical Society. Because the Society depends solely upon donations and grants, donations from individuals are very much appreciated—as well as vital to the preservation of Alpine's history.

We'd like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the following for their recent monetary contributions: David Carey, Vikki Coffey, Lisa Herman, Patricia Heyser, Gail Guth, Tom and Ann Hill, George

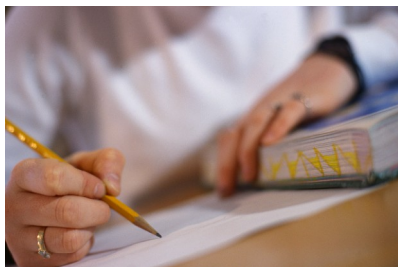


Landt, Joan Manuele, Carol and Ed Morrison, Helen Porter, Albert Simonson and Elmer and Mary Ellen Werner.

A special thank you also goes to Cheryl Minshew for the donation of a lovely treadle sewing machine.

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Without you our museum would not be what it has become today and because of you our future is limitless. The Heritage Park can and will become a reality.■

Third Grade Essay Contest Coming Soon



All Alpine third graders are invited to participate in the annual Alpine History Essay Contest sponsored

by the Alpine Historical Society. The third grade curriculum includes a unit on local history and it has become a tradition for local schools to participate in this event.

All third graders participate in a tour of local historical sites, including our pioneer houses. They write of local historical figures, events or places in their essays. The winners are recog-

nized at the annual Alpine History Day Celebration which will be held this year on June 7 at the museum. Winners also ride on the Historical Society's float in the Viejas Days Parade.

If you know a third grader, encourage their participation! If you have questions regarding the contest, please contact Essay Contest Chairperson Vikki Coffey at 445-6636.■

Our Dedicated Volunteers: Barbara Cater

Barbara Cater, with her dedication to genealogy and dedicated persistence in researching the past, has been a major contributor to the Alpine Historical Society's archives.

Barbara's mother, a Roman Catholic, was taken from Poland at the age of 15 and deported to Germany where she served in forced labor. Barbara was born in 1947 in a Displaced Person's Camp in Bayreuth, Germany. Her mother applied for the Australia Resettlement Work Scheme and agreed to work for the Australian Government for two years. They were accepted into the program and arrived in New South Wales, Australia, in 1950. In Bonegilla, a resettlement camp, her mother married, gave birth to another daughter and died of cancer at age 26.

In 1962, Barbara's stepfather decided to come to America. The family arrived in Long Beach in 1962. Later that year, Barbara moved to Alpine and lived with the Avery family. In 1967, she met her future

husband, Keith Cater, at Bob Wilson's Texaco Station, his place of employment. They married the following year. Keith's family had moved to Alpine in the early 1950's. In 1969, Keith joined the San Diego Police Department and they were forced to move to within 20 miles of San Diego. Settling in a home they purchased in El Cajon, they had two children, Paul and Amy.

In 1990, they moved back to Alpine. Barbara worked for several years as a secretary for the Viejas Indian School and then accepted a position at SCAIR in Alpine. While working at SCAIR she became involved in genealogy and began doing research for the Alpine Historical Society. She has completed research projects on the Foss Family, Dr. Sophronia Nichols, Adam Beaty, Emma Everhart and Benjamin Arnold. Barbara reports that she very much enjoys doing these research projects and learning about our early settlers.

In 2004, after Keith had

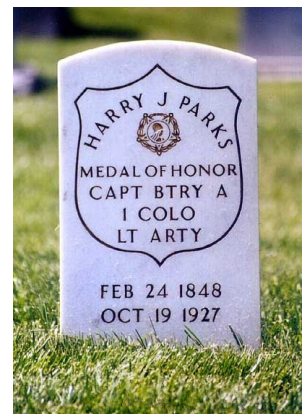
several strokes, Barbara retired to stay home with him. Keith passed away in 2006 after serving 37 years in law enforcement—a vocation he loved. Barbara keeps busy with her three grandchildren and genealogy research. Last year she visited Australia with two friends—travel is another of her loves. She hopes to go to Poland one day and visit the villages where her mother and father lived. She continues to research her mother's family's roots—thus far to no avail; however, she will not give up. She did find her natural father's family and discovered they are now living in Ohio. Although her father passed away before she met him, she hopes to meet her new-found brothers and sister this year.

Barbara loves Alpine and has seen it grow from a small village into what it is today. We are so fortunate to have her as one of our very dedicated volunteers. Her contributions are significant!■



Barbara Cater

In her correspondence with Vic Head, Barbara Cater came up with the wonderful information about Alpine's Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient, Harry J. Parks



Parks' Tombstone in Arlington National Cemetery

Museums Open Last Saturday and Sunday of Month

The next time you're out and about on the last Saturday or Sunday of the month, make a point to stop at the museum for a visit. We are constantly updating displays and renovating the houses—it's worth even a special trip!

Our pioneer houses are located at 2116 Tavern Road and are open from 2:00—4:00 p.m. the last Saturday and Sunday of each month.

If this time is not convenient for you, a call to Carol

Morrison at 445-2544 will allow you to set up a time for a private tour at your convenience.

Don't put off a visit—the history can be felt in these buildings and you may catch the history bug!■

Alpine Historical Society

2116 Tavern Road
P. O. Box 382
Alpine, CA 91903

Phone: 619-659-8740
E-mail:
info@alpinehistory.org



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address/City/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Send notices via: E-mail: _____ Fax: _____ U.S. Mail: _____

Membership Category (please check one):

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

Amount Enclosed:

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

Areas of Interest for Volunteers:

<input type="checkbox"/> Building Preservation
<input type="checkbox"/> Technical/Clerical
<input type="checkbox"/> 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
P. O. Box 382
Alpine, CA 91903-0382

«Organization»
«First Name» «Last Name»
«Address Line 1»
«City», «State» «ZIP»

Thank you for helping to preserve Alpine's history!