

## An Alpine History Mystery:

### Vintage Cameras – Vintage Photos

July 2015

Have you seen the Vintage Camera Exhibit in the Beaty House at the John DeWitt Museum? If not, you should visit at our next Open House, July 25 and 26 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. The cameras on display come from the Fred Bray collection and all were produced between the 1890's and 1950's. Also at the museum you can see many photographs of early Alpine that were taken using cameras similar to the ones on display. As we explored the museum we found four of these vintage photos that have quite a lot in common, including a mysterious connection for you to unravel. Here they are:



The Alpine Hotel once stood at the southwest corner of Tavern Road and Arnold Way. It was built in 1890 when the population of Alpine was only 110 hard-working folks. Later this building became the Alpine Tavern and was much visited by travelers looking for a good meal and a good place to stay. Sadly, the Tavern burned to the ground in 1955. This site is now home to the Alpine Woods Apartments.

Also constructed in 1890 was the Alpine Center School, the last one-room schoolhouse in Alpine. It served as the elementary school until 1953. Hazel Hohenshelt taught in this school from 1928 until 1953, when the new Alpine Elementary School was opened. In 1957, this school was demolished after a private plane crashed into the unoccupied building.



In 1893 a lovely Victorian home was built on the east side of Tavern Road, across from the Alpine Hotel. This house was called the Parsonage and was the home of Alpine's first minister, the Reverend John Rogers. This century old building has seen many owners and renovations over the years but it remains today in its original location and is now a senior living residence called the Kasitz Kastle.

The Alpine Town Hall was built for \$600 in 1899. Located in the center of town this building is now owned and maintained by the Alpine Women's Club. The Town Hall was partially financed by citizens of Alpine who raised enough money to pay half of the cost. The remaining amount was paid for by a wealthy businessman who lived in Alpine from 1889 to 1899. In fact, this business man and his wife also paid for the construction of the other three buildings described here.



The History Mystery question this month is: Do you know the names of the husband and wife who financed these civic structures?