

THE ALPINE SUN SHOPPER – April 5, 2007
Tattered Tidbits: Alpine Historical Society

JULIAN FIELD TRIP IS A HUGE SUCCESS!

On February 25, a group of approximately 25 folks interested in local history headed to Julian. This field trip was coordinated by Don Tarr, a Board member of the Alpine Historical Society. Don worked long and hard to work out all the details of the trip, and to ensure interaction with Julian Historical Society members. His hard work paid off—it was an enjoyable, informative learning experience and a wonderful day for all in attendance.

The group first stopped at the old Stonewall Mine in Cuyamaca. There they toured the little green museum and learned about gold mining activities in the 1870's. The next stop was the old Santa Ysabel Schoolhouse, which was relocated and is now the property of the Julian Historical Society. History of the schoolhouse, which until recently served as the Julian Library, was detailed by Bob Adams who recently appeared on Huell Howser's "California's Gold" television show. The highlight of the trip for most of those in attendance, especially the male-types, was the 1909 Motor Stage which has three rows that can seat two or three people and another row for the driver and a passenger or two. The Motor Stage, which has been beautifully restored by Julian's Society, used to run from the Lakeside Railroad to Julian. An entire room has been built to house this vehicle. The Julian Pioneer Museum, which is a marvelous place full of interesting artifacts, was then visited.

Everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch at the Julian Grille where an historical reenactment took place in the courtyard. After lunch, the weather grew gloomy, the clouds rolled in, the temperature dropped and the wind came up. Those who dressed for snow were very happy about their decision!

Next everyone climbed up the very long stairway to the Julian Cemetery. David Lewis, a fourth-generation resident of Julian, provided attendees with interesting historical facts about the cemetery and its occupants. A beautiful, peaceful place, the cemetery has a large plot where the founders of the community are buried.

Leaving Julian, the group wound its way down to Santa Ysabel where it was met by another local historian, Albert Simonson. Albert led a tour of the beautiful Santa Ysabel Mission and entertained all with his wonderful stories of the past. The original tile floor, from the early 1800's, still exists in the mission. The mission, and its adjacent Indian Museum, would by themselves make a trip to the area memorable!

As this field trip unfolded, Alpine Historical Society members began thinking about how we can learn from those in the Julian Historical Society. One of the things that immediately came to mind is the extensive work Julian has done in documenting the history of their cemetery. So, as with everything that produces good things, we see work ahead of us. Barbara Cater has graciously agreed to document those buried in the Alpine Cemetery. Their names and the date of their death will be put on our website to assist families doing genealogical research. In addition, there will be a concerted effort to document families who have been in the area for a number of generations. This would be valuable for anyone who is interested in local history.

Any information you may have concerning multi-generational families living in Alpine would be helpful. Please contact us at info@alpinehistory.org or 445-4024, if you can help. We look forward to providing more information on local families in future articles. Your input is vital and will be very much appreciated. If you haven't already joined the Alpine Historical Society, you are encouraged to do so—we do so many wonderful things while helping preserve the history of our community. All are welcome!

Carol Walker and her husband Paul have lived in Alpine since 1988. Carol is the Membership Chairman of the Alpine Historical Society. She can be reached at cwalker@alpinehistory.org or 445-4024.

Alpine Historical Society members and enthusiasts recently visited the historical town of Julian:

