

THE ALPINE SUN SHOPPER – September 3, 2009
Tattered Tidbits: Alpine Historical Society

ALPINE'S FIRST SCHOOLTEACHER

Miss Emma A. Everhart was the first school teacher in Alpine. We do not have any pictures of her but she was known to be a fashionable and independent young schoolmarm. She was hired by Mr. Webb and her salary was \$60 a month. Miss Everhart set up school in a two-story building just 40 feet east of the Webb's "Alpine Ranch" house. She had rooms upstairs in the schoolhouse, but took her meals and slept in the ranch house next to the Webb's house. The schoolhouse also had two rooms downstairs and was located between present day Harbison Canyon and Interstate 8. On the night of November 16, 1875, Mr. Webb's son, Warren, shot and killed a sheepherder. He thought the sheepherder was bothering Miss Everhart.

This is the first recorded murder in Alpine. Warren tried to escape on a coastal steamer. He was later caught and charged with murder. Eventually he was exonerated.

Miss Everhart stayed on as a teacher for awhile. Then she moved on to Sweetwater to teach. Eventually she moved to Encinitas where she taught in the newly established school house. The Encinitas school house has been restored and is open to the public.

When Miss Everhart retired from teaching she became a successful business woman. In downtown San Diego she opened two hat shops and used her profits to buy property in San Diego County.

By Carlette Anderson