

*THE ALPINE SUN SHOPPER – February 2, 2012*  
*Tattered Tidbits: Alpine Historical Society*

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY REACHES A MILESTONE**

April 8, 2012, marks the fiftieth anniversary of The Alpine Historical Society. Beatrice LaForce wrote, in the book *Alpine: History of a Mountain Settlement*: “It was agreed that this area could support a society dedicated to preserving its history and a date was set for a meeting to form the organization. On April 8, 1962, 22 people met at Sky Mesa Ranch, the LaForce home on South Grade Road, where officers of the Alpine Historical Society were elected. Ralph Walker, President; Lenore Oakliegh Lusk, Vice-President; Bea LaForce, Secretary and Treasurer. Mr. Walker appointed E. L. Freeland and Hazel Hohanshelt as a committee to draw up By-laws for the new society to be presented for vote at the next meeting, May 6, 1962, at Sky Mesa Ranch. An invitation to all interested people was published in the Alpine Echo and the Alpine Sun....Under the enthusiastic guidance of President Ralph Walker, real old time Alpiners, the Historical Society flourished, holding regular monthly meetings, soon moving to the Woman’s Club auditorium since private homes could no longer accommodate the crowd.”

It was not all smooth sailing for the fledgling society. Community interest soared, then waned, then picked up once again. As with all non-profit organizations, the success of the endeavors rests in the hands of dedicated and willing volunteers. Throughout the years, the society has been fortunate in having many local residents who share information and give freely of their time. Financial donations as well as donations of valuable artifacts also contribute to the ongoing success of the organization.

John DeWitt, a long time land owner in Alpine, made a condition of the sale, to a developer, of a portion of his property contingent upon the donation of the historic home and carriage house once owned by Dr. Sophronia Nichols and an acre of land surrounding it to the Alpine Historical Society. Years later, Ted Christianson donated the Captain Adam Beatty house to the Society and it was moved from its original location and placed adjacent to the Dr. Nichols home. One wonders how Mr. Walker and his group would feel if they could see how their organization has evolved over the years. From its humble beginnings, a few people interested in the history of their community meeting in a neighbor’s living room, to the present ownership of land, two pioneer houses and a carriage house and active involvement in community events as well as the preservation of the history of Alpine, the society has met the daunting goals established by its founders.

As the fiftieth anniversary approaches, all residents of Alpine—current and former—are encouraged to think about becoming more active in group activities and assisting in the important work of preserving the history of our community. Carol Morrison, the current president of the Alpine Historical Society, has worked tirelessly for over twelve years to promote the society within the community, handle administrative tasks, prepare applications for grant monies, prepare and update displays, coordinate with volunteers and perform anything else that needs to be done. All types of volunteer opportunities are available. To name just a few: helping to set up the quarterly meetings, enhancing the landscaping around the pioneer buildings, cataloging artifacts, enhancing displays, assisting with third grade school tours, representing the society at community events, serving on the board of directors, grant writing, document preservation, website enhancement, newsletter preparation, gathering data, and a myriad of other tasks. All who are integrally involved in the work of The Alpine Historical Society look forward to the next fifty years with anticipation—everyone is invited to get involved—call Carol Morrison today, at 619-445-2544, if you’d like to join the group!

*Carol Walker and her husband Paul lived in Alpine for 19 years. Carol is the webmaster and newsletter editor for the Alpine Historical Society. She can be reached at [cwalker@alpinehistory.org](mailto:cwalker@alpinehistory.org) or 619-467-7766.*



*Organizational Meeting*