

THE ALPINE SUN SPOT SHOPPER – May 1, 2014
Tattered Tidbits: Alpine Historical Society

HISTORIC EAST COUNTY LANDMARK

Alpine is the home of one of East County’s most long-standing landmarks—Victoria Rock. Situated on what is now West Victoria Drive, it could be readily seen over a hundred years ago—before trees and brush covered it almost completely. Paul and I recently watched an episode, originally aired on September 30, 2010, of Ken Kramer’s *About San Diego* on KPBS which told of this landmark and how it has endured over time.

As old timers passed the rock, they couldn’t help but notice how much the towering bit of nature resembled Queen Victoria and soon it became known as Victoria Rock—a name that has stuck throughout the years. Notice the resemblance in the two photos—can you see her head, her arms coming down and the veils flowing down her back? When you stand on the road in just the right place and look at just the right angle, you can still see her.



Historic photo of Victoria Rock in Alpine



Statue of Queen Victoria – England

The rock was so well-known in days gone by that the surrounding areas were named to honor it. In fact, the Thomas Brother’s map book labels the area right above Alpine as “Victoria” and many Alpine streets are named after the landmark—among them, Victoria Drive, Victoria Circle, Victoria Place and so on.

Time and traffic, however, have taken a toll on this historic East County landmark. The rumbling vibrations from hundreds of passing cars have shaken it apart. A crack toward the bottom of the rock continues to get bigger and bigger—Ken reported the crack widened by two inches in ten years. Many current residents are unaware of the significance of the rock in days gone by and may wonder how the name “Victoria” was given to so many streets in our town. Now we all know. If you’d like to find the rock, when looking for it remember it is now almost completely covered with brush. It is located between Coyote and Earnhardt on West Victoria Drive.



2010 Photo of Victoria Rock with its large crack

Thanks to Ken Kramer and his show for doing this interesting piece. *About San Diego* is a wonderful way to learn about little known facts about San Diego county. We always gain valuable information when we watch it.

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