

## Upcoming Events

For the safety of our visitors and volunteers, the museum is temporarily closed, and sponsored events will be rescheduled when it is safe to do so.

## Inside this issue:

- The Mountain Man is Coming to Alpine, page 2
- Membership Update, page 2
- Alpine Resorts, 1890–1950, page 3
- Tax Day, page 4
- Best Climate in the USA, page 4
- Board of Directors, Mission Statement, page 4
- Timeline: 1890–1955, Alpine Hotel, Ye Alpine Tavern, page 5
- Membership Application, page 6



**JOHN DEWITT  
MUSEUM**

2116 TAVERN ROAD  
ALPINE, CA 91901

Open 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
last weekend of each month

Tom & Judy Myers, Editors  
619-885-8063

## COVID-19 & POLIO

On March 4, 2020, the California Governor declared a state of emergency due to COVID-19. A year later, on March 7, 2021, the California Department of Public Health reported over 3.5 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 54,224 deaths in the state. On the same date, there were 1,217 confirmed cases in Alpine, about 8% of its population. With vaccines now available, there is hope for a return to normal.

In the early days of COVID-19, reporters compared the disease to the 1918-1920 “Spanish Flu” pandemic, which killed 50 million people worldwide. We couldn’t find any articles or stories of the Spanish Flu in Alpine, but we did find information about another epidemic called “Polio”.



*Representation of a Polio victim, Egypt 18th Dynasty. [Wikimedia Commons]*

The polio virus appears to have existed before humans began writing, and it has continued to affect humans throughout recorded history. In 1894 the first major U.S. polio epidemic occurred in Vermont. Later, in 1916, New York City experienced a polio epidemic. By the late 1940’s increased in frequency and size, disabling a yearly average of 35,000 people and causing nearly 15,000 cases of paralysis annually—most often in children. In 1952 the number of polio cases in the U.S. peaked at nearly 60,000. Parents feared that their children would get polio just from going to school or playing outside. Travel and commerce between impacted cities were restricted and public



*Dr. Jonas Salk, the developer of the polio vaccine, is seen in the Virus Research Lab at the University of Pittsburgh, 1954. [March of Dimes]*

health officials imposed quarantines on homes and towns where polio cases were found. (*Does this sound familiar?*)

The big break-through came in 1953 when Dr. Jonas Salk successfully developed a vaccine against polio. Another year was spent on clinical trials and in April 1955, nationwide inoculation began. By 1960 the vaccines were widely available and all were encouraged to get them, which lowered the number of polio cases to less than 100. Following is an article that appeared in the Alpine Echo newspaper on October 27, 1960:

### **POLIO CLINIC SHOTS \$ 1.00**

You can get the next in your series of polio shots or your booster on Monday, November 7, from 6 to 8 P.M. in the El Capitan High School band room. Cost is only \$1.00 a shot. You

*(continued on page 4)*



*Sign barring children under sixteen from entering town, posted on a tree during the 1916 Polio epidemic in New York City. [March of Dimes]*

## THE MOUNTAIN MAN IS COMING TO ALPINE!

**W**e are excited to welcome G. Gage Skinner as our guest speaker on Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 p.m.

He will share with us stories of his beekeeping escapades, and “wow” us with tales of the Mountain Men of 1825–1840.

Gage has written many articles and books on beekeeping and the relationship between bees and the Mountain Men. In “Tales of Mountain Men and The Honey Bee” he writes: “*Still, the magic of the honey bee, with all of its attendant associations—candle making, lost-wax casting, pharmacopoeia, bee tree hunting, wine-making, frontier*

*commerce and more—have assured this humble insect an important and natural place in the overall scheme of things.*”

And, he further writes “*the mountain man is viewed as ‘untamed’, wild, preferring wilderness and woods to the sanctuary and edifices of civilization, willing to succumb to confinement and urbanity only when faced with terminal illness and dissolution, and then only reluctantly. The honey bee, meanwhile, is ever poised for spring warming, ready to*

*spread to new abodes and virgin pastures, much as the mountain man might eagerly seek out unexplored lands and untapped beaver streams.*”

And, if we are lucky, he may share some of his haiku poetry with us too.



### THE CELEBRATION

In the nectar flow,  
Inside the fragrant blossoms,  
Honeybees rejoice.

### WINTER HIVE

Snow blanketing skeps  
The nectar gathering done  
Bees slumber in gold.

Program will be on ZOOM at 1:00 pm on April 25. Please send an email to [info@alpinehistory.org](mailto:info@alpinehistory.org) to request the ZOOM link.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

**A Warm Welcome to Our New Member:**  
G. Gage Skinner

**A Grateful Thank You to Our Renewing Members:** Barbara Balaban, Susan Barker, Kathy Bartonicek, Donna Boyer, Suzanne Broderick, Linda Dean, Pat Dolbeck, George Landt, Judy Matlock, Joan

McCurry, Andy Reynolds, Max Robinson, and Beverly Stacy

**Many thanks to the following for their generous financial donations:** Susan Barker, Suzanne Broderick, Linda Dean, Pat Dolbeck, George Landt, G. Gage Skinner, and Beverly Stacy

**Special Thanks of Appreciation for renewing their Business Membership for 2021:**  
Alpine Woman’s Club

## RECOGNITION OF OUR CURRENT LIFETIME MEMBERS

Carlette Anderson • Deborah Anderson • George & Joan Anderson • Mark L. Anderson  
Roy & Willa Athey • Franklin R. Ball • Pat & Joe Brunold • David Carey • Lisa & Dave Celeste  
Ted Christensen • James H. Cleland • Peggy & Jim Easterling • Beverly Falor • Katie & Brian Ford  
Vincent Fritts • Paul Gonya • Gail Wilson Guth • Janet M. Harris • Linda Harshberger • Ann Hill  
Leslie Holben • Ken & Denise Hujing • Ben Johnson • Bill & Diane Keltner • Jill & Shawn Killion  
John Krempp • Barbara Lea LaForce • J. Clayburn LaForce • Joanne & Martin Marugg • Carol Morrison  
Tom & Judy Myers • Helen Porter • Kurt Scherbaum • Albert Simonson • Donna Sisson • Virginia Sisson  
Anne Tarr • Elma Terry • Rodney & Guille Tuttle • Paul & Carol Walker • William & Joan Waterworth

## RECOGNITION OF OUR LIFETIME BUSINESS MEMBERS

Brabazon Alpine Paving and Trucking • John Garbaczewski Family Foundation  
Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians • Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians • RGT Charitable Trust  
Rock Canyon Animal Rescue Foundation • Turvey Granite Pit • Chris Wiley—Primary Residential Mortgage

**CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS:** Life Members ~ 49, Current Members ~ 79, Members up for Renewal ~ 28

## ALPINE RESORTS, 1890-1950

The first Caucasian settlers in Alpine were farmers, ranchers, and beekeepers. By the 1890's, Alpine began to see travelers from coastal cities come to visit for a few days or weeks to experience the clean clear air of the Cuyamaca foothills. What followed was a shift in the economy from purely agricultural based to a blend of agriculture and vacation resorts. A promotional brochure developed by F.B. Walker in 1898 titled *Alpine, Its Resorts and Resources*, gives nearly equal treatment to Alpine's agricultural and resort opportunities. Boasting of Alpine as a great place to grow olives, citrus, pit fruits and berries, the brochure also praised the emerging resort industry.

Perhaps the earliest "health resort" in Alpine was *The Oaks*, operated by J.A. Love, at the northwest corner of Tavern Road and South Grade Road. Walker's resort brochure states: "...one finds here freedom from those enemies of the health-seeker as well as to the pleasure-seeker and upon

these facts was based the idea of making 'The Oaks' a health resort. Here in this delightfully sheltered spot flourish the orange, the grapefruit, the lemon and all the products of Southern California. Guests can gather ripe fruit from the trees every day in the year."

*Villa Viejas*, owned by Silas Mauzy, was described by Walker as: "A summer resort in the mountains, overlooking the Viejas Valley. On the place is a 20-acre orchard, producing an abundance of all kinds of fruit and berries in their season."

The *Alpine Hotel*, renamed *Ye Alpine Tavern* in 1910, was a favorite resort for many visitors from 1890 to 1953. In her book, *Alpine, History of a Mountain Settlement*, Beatrice La Force describes the cuisine this way: "The Tavern's table was recommended fare from the very first, most of the food being home grown or locally produced. The Campbells, as did all the later Tavern hosts, kept cows and served fresh milk, butter and cream. All Tavern owners raised their own

vegetables, purchasing fresh fruit in seasons from their neighbors. No one dreamed of buying 'store' bread or pastry."

The *Alpine Berry Fields* located among the willow trees alongside the Viejas Creek, started as a summer resort. Lodging was provided in white canvas tents with board floors, and the guests shared family meals at the Walker home. As the business grew, cabins replaced the tents and the name changed to *The Willows Resort*. A 1920's brochure titled: *San Diego Mountain Resorts*, described *The Willows* this way: "It is named from the lovely grove of willow trees which line the tinkling stream a short distance from the door of the big lounging room with its book-lined walls and enormous stone fireplace. For many years Mrs. Walker has kept open house for the traveler and resident of the southland, developing her resort from her own home, which has been constantly enlarged



*Villa Viejas, from resort brochure*

to meet the demands of more and more guests as its fame has spread. *The Willows* now has a large number of guest cottages besides the main building and the fame of its delicious home-cooked meals has made it a mecca for recreationists who enjoy the fresh milk, newly garnered vegetables, fruits, homemade jellies and jams and the dainty service of which this resort makes a point." The Walker family operated *The Willows Resort* from 1898 to 1950. The main house and seven cabins were demolished in 1966 to make way for the new Interstate 8 freeway.

Today, the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians owns and operates the *Viejas Casino and Resort* not far from where *The Willows Resort* first drew visitors from all over the USA to relax and dine at "The Place of Good Eats".



*The Oaks*

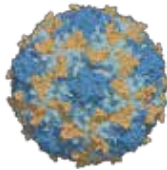


*The Willows Main Building*

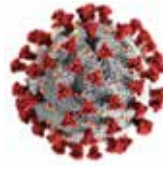
(COVID-19 & Polio, continued from page 1)

are protecting yourself, saving money, and helping boost the funds available for welfare projects through the El Capitan P. T. A., according to Health Chairman Vera Herzog. All persons should avail themselves of the full three shots as follows: An initial injection, an injection four to six weeks after the first, and a third injection seven to 12 months after the second, according to Arthur Hunt, chairman of the San Diego Chapter of the March of Dimes. A fourth or booster shot is advised for all persons in or entering into areas where polio incidence is high; for pre-school children about to enter school; for pregnant women, before the polio season starts. The Salk Vaccine has been given to more than 80,000,000 persons with a perfect safety record.

By the 1970's there were fewer than 10 cases. By 1994, polio was eliminated from the Western Hemisphere. Researchers tell us that the world will never be free from viruses. Perhaps the lesson we can learn from Polio is that vaccinations work and we should all get COVID-19 vaccinations as soon as possible.



Polio



COVID-19

## BEST CLIMATE IN THE USA

The United States entered World War I as an Allied power in 1917. During the war, both sides used

chemical/gas warfare as weapons. After the war, the US Government searched the USA for areas that had

the best climate for rehabilitation of soldiers who suffered lung injuries. A government report identified Alpine, CA, as the area that had the *Best Climate in the USA*. This slogan was proudly displayed on billboards at each end of Highway 80 entering and leaving Alpine during the period following WWI until the late 1950's, when the weather-beaten signs were removed.



## ALPINE HISTORICAL & CONSERVATION SOCIETY

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:** Tom Myers  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President,**  
**Programs:** Corinne Lewis  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President,**  
**Membership:** Judy Myers  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President,**  
**Property:** Dave Smith  
**Secretary:** Janet Harris  
**Treasurer:** Lisa Celeste

**Director, Archivist:** Carol Morrison  
**Director, Social Media:** Jennifer Tschida  
**Director-at-Large:** Norm Kling  
**Director-at-Large:** Vikki Coffey  
**Director-at-Large:** Barbara McCurtis  
**Lifetime Director:** Elma Terry  


---

**Webmaster:** Pene Manale  
**Caretakers:** Baltazar & Laura Marquez

### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the *Alpine Historical & Conservation Society* is to encourage the community in an effort to retain structures and sites of historical significance, conserve natural resources and parkland, make available the visible evidence of the history of our community, and develop historical programs which emphasize the contributions of the various cultural, ethnic, religious and social groups that comprise the Alpine area.

## TAX DAY

April 15 is Tax Day in the USA and this year we don't get a COVID-19 reprieve. So while you grin & bear it, here are some historical quotes to help get through the tax season.

- ★ The income tax has made more liars out of the American people than golf has. —Will Rogers
- ★ There is some talk of lowering (the income tax), and they will have to. People are not making enough to pay it. —Will Rogers
- ★ A tax is a fine for doing well, a fine is a tax for doing wrong. —Mark Twain
- ★ I shall never use profanity except in discussing house rent and taxes. —Mark Twain
- ★ If Patrick Henry thought that taxation without representation was bad, he should see how bad it is with representation. —Farmer's Almanac
- ★ A person doesn't know how much he has to be thankful for until he has to pay taxes on it. —Ann Landers
- ★ Why does a slight tax increase cost you two hundred dollars and a substantial tax cut save you thirty cents? —Peg Bracken

## TIMELINE: 1890–1955, ALPINE HOTEL, YE ALPINE TAVERN

**B**enjamin Arnold who moved to Alpine in 1888, funded numerous community development projects. Among the earliest of such projects was construction of the *Alpine Hotel* on a hilltop at the southwest corner of Tavern Road and Arnold Way. In those days, Arnold Way was the primary road into Alpine. After a long and bumpy stagecoach ride up from Lakeside or El Cajon, the new hotel was a welcome sight to weary travelers.

A lovely veranda surrounded three sides of the two story wooden building where the interior was described as clean, simple and comfortable with wooden floors and hand-crafted rag rugs in the lobby, by the parlor fireplace, and besides the beds upstairs. White cotton cloths covered the tables in the hotel dining room accompanied by cloth napkins and china dishes. The hotel meals featured good home cooking using mostly garden and farm products raised in Alpine. In 1898, room rates were \$1.50 per day and the Hotel boasted a telephone connection. Mrs. Rose Campbell was the first manager of the hotel. When Mr. Arnold died in 1899, he willed the *Alpine Hotel* to Mrs. Campbell and she continued to run the hotel with her husband for ten more years before selling it to Mr. and Mrs. Clark McKee.

The McKee's redecorated and enlarged the hotel giving it a new look and painting it brown with white trim. A large, commercial



*Ye Alpine Tavern Lobby*

kitchen was added and food was prepared by a professional cook. Patrons could choose to sleep in a tent on the second-story deck if they wished to enjoy the fresh Alpine mountain air. The rag rugs were replaced with gorgeous thick rugs and plush furniture. Fancy kerosene lamps hung from the ceiling to light the wood-paneled interior. To complete the renovation, the McKee's renamed the hotel *Ye Alpine Tavern*.

George Milner bought the Tavern from the McKee's about 1920 and hired Miss Katherine Dowd to manage the operation. While necessary improvements and conveniences, such as electricity, were welcomed to *Ye Alpine Tavern*, the character and charm of the place remained about the same for the next 30 years. By the early 1950's, however, Miss Dowd's health began to

deteriorate and so did the physical condition of *Ye Alpine Tavern*. Locals began to say that when she died, the Tavern would fall down. Was it a premonition?

Miss Dowd passed away on May 23, 1953, and *Ye Alpine Tavern* was then leased to William Lethbridge and Les Ramsey who operated it as a restaurant with a gift shop selling hand-made jewelry items. In January 1954, an *Alpine Sun* headline stated "TAVERN IN GRAND COMEBACK". The article praised the renovations along with the new luncheon and dinner service (dinners starting at \$1.65), the gift shop, and the Art Gallery with works from local artists on sale. The *Sun* editor added: "*We are mighty happy to report that the place is living up to our expectations with its excellent cuisine and splendid service, just what Alpine has been missing for a long time.*"

Then on September 23, 1955, came this article in *The Sun*:

**FIRE TAKES HISTORIC TAVERN.**  
*A fast, hot fire at 5:15 am Saturday completely destroyed the famous old Alpine Tavern landmark which has stood since 1890 at the corner of Tavern Road and Arnold Way, which was the old Highway 80 where the stages stopped for noon dinner.*

The site of the former *Alpine Hotel*, later known as *Ye Alpine Tavern* is now occupied by the Alpine Woods Apartments.



*Alpine Hotel*



*Ye Alpine Tavern*

Alpine Historical & Conservation Society  
P. O. Box 382  
Alpine, CA 91903-0382

*Address Service Requested*

**ALPINE  
HISTORICAL &  
CONSERVATION  
SOCIETY**

P. O. Box 382  
Alpine, CA 91903-0382

**619-485-0625**

E-mail: [info@alpinehistory.org](mailto:info@alpinehistory.org)

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.alpinehistory.org](http://www.alpinehistory.org)

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address/P.O. Box: \_\_\_\_\_

City/ST/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Send Newsletters via:  E-mail  U.S. Mail

**Membership Category** (Please check one):

- Student \$5     Individual \$25     Nonprofit \$30     Business \$50  
 Senior (1) \$15     Family \$35     Nonprofit Life \$600     Business Life \$1,000  
 Senior (2) \$20     Life \$500

**Amount Enclosed:**

Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteer Opportunities:**

- Museum Open Houses     History Day  
 Programs & Events     Oral Histories  
 Exhibit Development     Archival Data Entry  
 Garden Maintenance     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form and include your check made payable to the Alpine Historical Society, a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.