

Upcoming events:

- **November 27 & 28:**
Museum Open House
- **December 25 & 26:**
Closed
- **January 29 & 30:**
Museum Open House

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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

CALIFORNIA POPPY

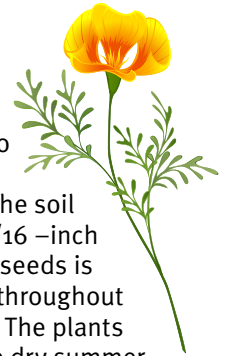
Although the California poppy is our state flower, it was discovered and named by a Russian naturalist, Adelbert von Chamisso, who visited California in 1816. The orange-gold flowers are easy to spot in spring and summer in their natural habitat in the western US from Washington state to Baja California, and they have now also been introduced to most of the other fifty states. The four-petal blooms, which close at night, are solitary on long stems and their color varies from pale yellow through orange and red. Lovely as they are in nature, the flowers are unsuited for indoor bouquets because the petals begin to drop soon after the stem is cut.

The Indigenous people in the west used the leaves from California poppies as food and the roots for medicine, and today poppies are beneficial plants in your wildlife garden. Bumble bees, honey bees, sweat bees and butterflies are attracted to California poppies, but beetles actually do most of the pollination. When the flowers are gone and the long seed pods develop, birds enjoy eating the seeds.

This beautiful wildflower grows well in sun and partial shade and is very drought tolerant, although it benefits from a little watering during prolonged drought. The best bloom in springtime usually follows from winters with plenty of rainfall. Poppies are easy to grow in your garden or along streets and roadways. They will naturally re-seed when

their long seedpods split open, but they can also be propagated by planting seeds either broadcast on the soil surface or planting about 1/16 –inch deep. The best time to sow seeds is after the first fall rains and throughout the winter into early spring. The plants become dormant during the dry summer and rarely regenerate from the rootstock.

Sadly, invasive species such as mustard, African daisy and non-native grasses have displaced large areas of poppies in Southern California. But because the loss of these beautiful natives is unbearable, we have decided it's time to "Make Alpine Golden!" We are encouraging Alpiners to plant California poppy seeds in their gardens, yards, open spaces and along roadsides this autumn after the first rains begin to fall. You can purchase seeds at local garden centers and hardware stores, or you can receive a packet of seeds as a promotional gift when you make a donation to the Alpine Historical Society.



Photos from Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve

Our New Life Member – Hilde Hinchcliff

The Historical Society is glad to welcome our newest Life Member — Hilde Hinchcliff. In May of 2003, Hilde moved from St. Louis, Missouri, to Alpine so that she could be closer to her son and grandchildren.

She is among the founding members of the Alpine Garden Club where she is currently Vice-President after serving for four years as its President. We are grate-

ful to her leadership in the club, inspiring some of their members to plant and maintain the “Waterwise & Butterflies Garden” at the Nichols House on our museum property.

Community service seems to be in her blood as you can tell from her involvement in orchestrating and planning the “Fourth of July” parades in Crown Hills, and later in downtown Alpine, celebrating that historic day.

We asked Hilde what she likes best about Alpine and she replied the small town atmosphere, the climate, and the ocean view that she occasionally gets from her front porch. In addition to the beautiful vistas in Alpine, she enjoys the proximity to the beach.

Hilde has been a member of the Historical Society since 2016 and we are delighted to welcome her now as a life-member.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A Warm Welcome to Our New Life Member: Hilde Hinchcliff

Many thanks to the following for their generous financial donations: Tom & Judy Myers, Pam Ross & Patrick Deaton in memory of Bill Waterworth

RECOGNITION OF OUR CURRENT LIFETIME MEMBERS

Carlette Anderson • Deborah Anderson • George & Joan Anderson • Mark L. Anderson
 Willa Athey • Franklin R. Ball • David Carey • Lisa & Dave Celeste • Ted Christensen
 James H. Cleland • James David • Rita David • Peggy & Jim Easterling • Beverly Falor
 Katie & Brian Ford • Vincent Fritts • Paul Gonya • Gail Wilson Guth • Janet M. Harris
 Linda Harshberger • Ann Hill • Hilde Hinchcliff • 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 • Joan Waterworth

RECOGNITION OF OUR LIFETIME BUSINESS MEMBERS

Brabazon Alpine Paving and Trucking • 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 ~ 50, Current Members ~ 99, Members up for Renewal ~ 5

If you are interested in serving on our Board of Directors, please call Tom Myers at 619-885-8063, or send an email to info@alpinehistory.org.

In recognition & celebration of November as Native American Heritage Month, we are reprinting the following article . . .



SACRED MOUNTAIN — VIEJAS MOUNTAIN

Photo by Paul Parks

by Albert Simonson, Local Historian and Life Member of the Alpine Historical Society

Many cultures have observed with ceremony the winter solstice on December 21, and local Indians were no exception. As migratory food gatherers, they needed to know when it was time to migrate to distant places to harvest each resource. It was a matter of life or death. Stone alignments and a dance circle on Viejas Mountain show that the local Kumeyaay people observed the winter solstice. For a local indigenous festival of light, we now reprint an account given by noted Kumeyaay elder Maria Alto in 1914. This is a timeless tale of beauty and wonder.

Long before Kwut'ah Lu' e-ah (Song-Dance, or Viejas, east of El Cajon) mountain fell into the hands of See-i (Evil One), the Indians made a pilgrimage once a year to its very top to watch In'ya (Sun) come out of En-yak' (East), and praise and honor him with song and dance. For In'ya (Sun) was the great Ruler of All Things. He governed the universe; he commanded the earth, nothing grew unless he caused it; he even dominated the bodies of men, some of whom he made energetic and strong, others weak and lazy. When he disappeared at night he cast a drowsiness o'er the world, so that everything slept until it was time for him to come again in the morning. Such a great ruler as he, received due reverence and worship.

For many preceding moons the young Braves prepared themselves for the race which began the celebration of Kwut'ah Lu' e-ah (Song-Dance). They ate no meat while in training for this event, and daily they bathed and rubbed their bodies with Cha-hoor' (Clear Rock). This crystal made them light on their feet like animals, so they could jump over high boulders and run with the swiftness of deer.

When the time came, everything was in readiness. The big circle on top of the mountain had been freshly prepared and cleared for the dancers and singers. The aged and feeble, with the small children of the village, had been carefully carried up there the previous afternoon, that they might be on hand to take part in the ceremonies.

Then, in that mystic hour which is neither night nor day, the able-bodied ones made the ascent. Last of all, after the others had reached the top, the runners came; swiftly they vied with each other over the steep trails – some so fleet they seemed to fly like birds over the course.

When all had reached the summit, the ritualistic ceremonies began. With song and dance in the blushing dawn, they watched for In'ya (Sun), Ruler of All. Opalescent streamers of golden radiance and flaming banners of crimson flaunting across the pearly tints of the receding night, heralded his arrival; while the people chanted songs of praise in honor of his wonderful light, and made obeisance in the dance in homage of his great power over all things.

Year after year this celebration took place till See'i (Evil One) grew envious, and cast a spell over the mountain; then the Indians feared to make the ascent any more.

One or two foolhardy ones made the attempt, but they found the trails tedious and wearisome. The springs of water by the pathway were poisonous, and frightful noises like the hissing and rattle of snakes pursued their footsteps, and they gave up in despair.

So, though the old trails are faintly discernible and traces of the ring where they danced and sang still remain, no more does the red man swiftly ascend Kwut'ah Lu'e-ah (Song-Dance) mountain to watch In'-ya (Sun) come out of En-yak' (East) in all his glory.

RECORDING OUR COLLECTIONS

Our Archive Committee, comprised of Carol Morrison, Barbara McCurtis, and Judy Myers, has been quite busy since September sorting through artifacts on display and in storage to properly document the items in our collections management software system. The team is also overseeing the project to scan printed copies of the *Alpine Sun* so that digitized copies can be made available on our website for your research, curiosity, or enjoyment. Currently, issues of the *Alpine Sun* from February 1952 through December 1970 are

scanned and are available on the AHS website. To access these issues of the *Sun* go to www.alpinehistory.org and click on “Historical Research”, this takes you to a menu that includes “Newspaper Articles” where you will find a menu of scanned papers.

One hazard of this work is that we sometimes get sidetracked by a particularly intriguing headline – we start reading, get immersed in the article and forget about the archiving project. The following is that kind of story, written by Bea La Force for the February 26, 1992 edition.

THE QUEEN OF THE ROAD

An old lady lives on top of the hill on the north shoulder of Alpine. Some people call her the first lady of the town because she has been here longer than anyone now living.



Queen Victoria's Statue

No one knows what she is like for in all the years she has never spoken to a soul or even nodded to a neighbor. Aloof, she keeps silent, seeming to observe the goings on in the town below and the passing to and fro of the populace as if nothing whatever could upset her.

Folks have become accustomed to her and would miss her. She's something solid to count on when the Santa Ana Winds toss everything moveable about and when days get so hot the brush crackles in the sun and the whole town turns cranky. She never complains. This old dame would stand like a rock no matter what happened.

That's because she is a rock named Victoria.

The name was bestowed upon her approximately 100 years ago by a new arrival to this mountain settlement.

In 1894 an English gentleman, F.B. Walker, was the first to recognize the striking profile resembling Britain's reigning Queen, Victoria. He promptly named the rock for her, and very soon the road that passes her became Victoria Drive.

Legend says the rock influenced his settling in Alpine. Her place is on the south side of the 2700 block of Victoria Drive near the top of the hill. A little larger than life size, it is a remarkable natural statue.

Somewhat obscured by native brush now, she still stands proud above

the town. You can see her best from the east side. She has often been visited and does not mind being stared at or photographed. All that could upset her would be to be dethroned.



Victoria Rock

ALPINE HISTORICAL & CONSERVATION SOCIETY

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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.

TIMELINE 1914-2021: THE ABC'S OF ALPINE

The year was 1914, World War I was in its early stages, E.R. Burroughs penned *Tarzan of the Apes*, Pope Pius X died, and the ABC's were organized right here in Alpine, CA. You may already know that the ABC's is the shortened version of the name *Alpine Boosters Club*, formed October 20, 1914, for the betterment of Alpine. Charter members of the club were Mary K. Marshall, Bernice Myers, Anna M.S. Wright, Belle E. Sheppard, Ettie Frazee, Rhena J. Flegal, and Adele A. McKay. Minutes of the first meeting, recorded by Anna Wright, were brief and to the point.

The A.B. Club was organized Tuesday, Oct. 20th, 1914 & the first meeting was held at Mrs. Marshall's. The object of the society is to improve & beautify Alpine & to provide entertainments from time to time through the year. It was decided to meet twice a month, the second and fourth Tuesday – and to serve light refreshments. The membership fee was placed at 25 cents – each one present to pay 10 cents dues & a fine of 10 cents to be levied in case of absence – Also it was decided to have each member serve in alphabetical order. (Editor's Note: 10 cents in 1914 is the equivalent of \$3.00 in 2021.)

*The following officers were elected:
President: Mrs. Marshall
Vice-President: Mrs. Myers
Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. Wright*

Mrs. Frazee was appointed a committee to interview Mrs. McNett about renting the room over the Library.

The first meeting proved very successful – Mrs. Marshall serving dainty refreshments.

The meeting adjourned to meet Oct. 27th at Mrs. Flegal's.

The first "entertainment" sponsored by the ABC's was held on November 7 and was called a "Poverty Ice Cream Social". Admission fee was 10 cents, and ice cream & cake 10 cents. Children under ten years of age were admitted for half price.

The ABC's met in member's homes before renting the upstairs room at the Town Hall for \$10 a year.



One of the projects of particular importance undertaken by the ABC's was the construction of Alpine's first "Comfort Station." As automobile traffic increased, bringing more visitors to Alpine, the necessity of a comfort station became more evident. The title, Rest Room, was not in use at the time and gasoline stations were

only equipped to sell fuel and attend to the needs of automobiles. There were no public facilities for urgent personal relief after the long drive to Alpine. These were the days before indoor plumbing, so the ABC's took on the project to erect a public "Comfort Station" to be located at the rear of the Town Hall property. The women of the community asked the County Board of Supervisors for assistance and received a truckload of new redwood lumber. Men of the community gathered to do the necessary excavation and construction of the building, a two-room outhouse with one side marked MEN and the other marked WOMEN. Lath screens provided privacy for the users and the building served the community and visitors for many years.

In the 1920's the club voted to change their name to *Monte Viejas Club*. Then in 1932, the women purchased all shares of the Town Hall Corporation so that they held full ownership of the Town Hall, later adding a fully equipped kitchen for use by the Monte Viejas Club as well as the Ladies Aid Committee of the Community Church. The Town Hall remained the center of the community, where public meetings and entertainments were hosted, church services were held, and private events were scheduled.

The group of women and their successors who first organized as the Alpine Boosters Club and changed their name to the Monte Viejas Club continued to serve the Alpine Community as hard-working and

faithful stewards of the historic Town Hall, providing staging areas for community parades and hosting community events and entertainments for more than a century. You may not know them as the ABC's or as the Monte Viejas Club because they changed their name once more in 1932 – they are now known as the *Alpine Woman's Club*.



Alpine Historical & Conservation Society
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Address Service Requested

**ALPINE
HISTORICAL &
CONSERVATION
SOCIETY**

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

619-485-0625

E-mail: info@alpinehistory.org

We're on the Web!
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.