

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **March 25 & 26:**
Museum Open House
- **April 16:** The History of Alpine Elementary School
- **April 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

ALPINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAM — APRIL 16, 2023 — 1:00 P.M.

THE HISTORY OF ALPINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

By Jennifer Denney

Do you remember Alpine Elementary School? It was the gem of Alpine Blvd. for 66 years. Although the iconic educational home to Alpine may be gone, the memories it created will last a lifetime. The Youth Olympics, the Mosaic Mural, and Fun Runs, just to name a few. How about the amazing class performances like American Pop, Gold Rush, and the Patriotic presentations! Halloween carnivals, Principal for a Day, Annual Gingerbread House Giveaway, Art Show, and Literature Comes to Life were events that created unity and joy to children and adults alike.

Four generations of families have passed through Alpine Elementary and a great number of those families still live in our community. Corinne Lewis retired in 2019 after 30 dedicated years to this school, but her memories are as vivid as if they had happened yesterday.



Corinne Lewis

Since the school closed in 2019, the archives, records and memorabilia from 1953 through 2019 have been lovingly protected by Corinne along with the thousands of personal pictures she shares frequently with friends and classmates and students. Corinne has partnered with Liberty Charter High School to use their beautifully restored auditorium to present “The History of Alpine Elementary School”.

Through social media and word of mouth, a wide-reaching invitation to every family, friend,

and student that ever experienced the magic of Alpine Elementary School is invited to attend. It’s important to keep intact the memories we share in a small town like Alpine.

Please join us on April 16th at 1:00pm in “The Auditorium” to relive some of Alpine’s best memories as Corinne Lewis presents, “The History of Alpine Elementary School.” Come take a stroll down memory lane and connect with old friends, families and teachers. Without our history to share and learn from, what could be more important?

**NEW
LOCATION**

Program held at the **LIBERTY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL**,
1850 Alpine Blvd., Alpine, Sunday April 16th at 1:00 p.m.

Admission is **FREE** (donations appreciated) but seating is limited, so please make a reservation by calling Corinne at (619) 417-1306 or send an email to info@alpinehistory.org

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter declared the week of March 8th 1980, as **National Women's History Week**, and is celebrated every year. President Carter's original proclamation read as follows:

From the first settlers who came to our shores, from the first American Indian families who befriended them, men and women have worked together to build this nation. Too often the women were unsung and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed. But the achievements, leadership, courage, strength, and love of the women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well.

We celebrate the contributions and accomplishments of the **Women of Alpine** in a special exhibit located in the Beaty House. Come and read their biographies and observe the artifacts that depict the household tools and objects that were essential to their work in Alpine from the 1850's to the 1970's.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A Big Welcome to Our New Life Member: Carylyn Landt

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members: Patty & Alex Lopez

A Warm Welcome to Our New Complimentary Business Member: Pine Valley Library

A Grateful Thank You to Our Renewing Members: Dawn & Russ August, Kathy Bartonicek, Bob & Sharon Beale, Suzanne Broderrick, Linda Dean, Pam & Jim Easterling, Kathy Fiedor, Christine & Bob Figari, David & Lori Fountain, George Landt, Judy

Matlock, Joan McCurry, Beverly Ring, Gage Skinner, Dave & Donna Smith, Sandee Smith & Frank Hardt

Many thanks to the following for their generous financial donations: Bob & Sharon Beale, Suzanne Broderrick, Colin & Lisa Campbell, Linda Dean, Kathy Fiedor, George Landt, Sarah Leonard, Beverly Ring, Dave & Donna Smith, Sandee Smith & Frank Hardt

Many thanks of appreciation for renewing their Business Membership for 2023: Hitech Screen Science Co., RPL Electric, West Cal Die

RECOGNITION OF OUR CURRENT LIFETIME MEMBERS

Carlette Anderson • Deborah Anderson • George 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 • Janet M. Harris • Lindy Harshberger • Ann Hill • Hilde Hinchcliff
 Leslie Holben • Ken & Denise Hujing • Ben Johnson • Bill & Diane Keltner • Jill & Shawn Killion
 John Krempp • Carylyn Landt • Barbara Lea LaForce • J. Clayburn LaForce
 Joanne & Martin Marugg • Cheryl Minshew • Carol Morrison • Tom & Judy Myers
 Bob & Carmen Ring • Kurt Scherbaum • Kevin & Alejandra Schumacher • Albert Simonson
 Donna Sisson • Virginia Sisson • 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 ~ 50, Complimentary ~ 38, Current ~ 98, Members up for Renewal ~ 27

APRIL APOLOGY

Your *Tattered Tidbits* editors wish to apologize for the tardiness of the March-April newsletter, but we offer a brief explanation. We've been busy gathering information to prepare our Income Tax forms. Is it just us or is the Tax Code getting more complicated every year? We did a little research into the history of the Income Tax and it is much too involved for this newsletter. Instead, we offer a few quotations by famous Americans for your enjoyment.

"The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax."

—Albert Einstein

"It takes more brains and effort to make out the income-tax form than it does to make the income."

—Alfred E. Neuman

"They can't collect legal taxes from illegal money."

—Al Capone

"What is the difference between a taxidermist and a tax collector? The taxidermist takes only your skin."

—Mark Twain

"Dear IRS, I am writing to you to cancel my subscription. Please remove my name from your mailing list."

—Snoopy

"Be thankful we're not getting all the government we're paying for."

—Will Rogers

OUR FIRETRUCK NEEDS A GARAGE!



In the Autumn of 2022, Elisabeth Ellen Prettyman donated a 1942 GMC firetruck to the Alpine Historical Society. Not just any firetruck, this classic was lovingly restored by her father from a rusty hunk of metal found on a parcel of land in Alpine. The firetruck was originally owned by the Harbison Canyon Volunteer Fire Department.

We were delighted to receive this donation and began making plans for showing it off to the community. First, Bob Ring replaced some seals and buffed the paint – normal wear and tear items due to an extended period of parking under a shade tree. Bob single-handedly restored the firetruck and acquired classic license plates so we could use it in future parades. Then the insurance company got involved. They told us we could only get liability insurance if the vehicle is parked in a "garage". But we have no garage that will contain a full-sized firetruck. So for now, the firetruck is being kept under a fabric covered canopy at the John DeWitt Museum. When we can build a garage big enough to store the firetruck, we will be able to get a liability policy and we'll be able to display it at community events or enter it in Alpine parades.

Please consider donating to this project. Contributions of any amount are welcome, but if you donate at least \$500 your name will be listed in the *Tattered Tidbits* newsletter. A donation of at least \$1,000 will also earn a ride in the firetruck – after we get our insurance.

Please send your tax-deductible gifts to Alpine Historical Society, PO Box 382, Alpine, CA 91903, with a note or memo indicating firetruck garage.

PLANT MILKWEED AND CERTIFY YOUR GARDEN

Did you know that Alpine was designated as our Nation's **First Certified Community Wildlife Habitat** by NWF on May 1, 1998? Our goal this year is to have at least 300 gardens certified by the end of 2023. When Alpine residents certify their gardens, we receive points for each garden.

You just need to have the four elements: food, water, a place to raise young, and shelter. For water you can have a bird bath or put out a large bowl. Even a small patio garden can be certified.

Unfortunately, the Monarch butterflies declined by **90%** in 2022. With your help we can ensure the Monarchs thrive. The plant needed in your garden is milkweed: *Asclepias fascicularis*, *A. californica*, *A. sublata* or *A. eriocarpa*. This is the only plant

where the Monarch will lay her eggs. Later in the year, in the autumn, Monarchs need nectar to fuel their migration to their west coast sanctuaries. These nectar plants are California Aster, California Goldenrod, Coyote Bush, and Cleveland Sage.

To certify your garden go to www.NWF.org and fill out the application. The fee is only \$20. Please email me to let me know that your garden is certified and I can add your name to our master list.

When we each do our small part, Alpine will become a haven for Monarch butterflies and other little critters.

—Carlette Anderson
Director, Alpine's Community
Wildlife Habitat Program
WildlifeHabitats@aol.com

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

The Alpine Historical Society wants to hear from anyone who has a story to tell about their time living in Alpine. It can be a long family biography featuring multiple generations, a story about a particular episode of life in Alpine or anything in between. Your story will be added to our growing list of tidbits and tales to help paint a picture of our town from it's beginning to the present. What follows now is a story describing your newsletter editors experience during the pandemic of the 2020's.

OUR COVID-19 EXPERIENCE

Three years ago, in March 2020, your Tattered Tidbits newsletter editors were visiting family in San Francisco when the State of California issued an order for travelers to return home to avoid spreading COVID-19. We cut short our visit and returned promptly. Our refrigerator and pantry were empty, so we stopped at the grocery to restock for the uncertain future. It was a big surprise to find so many empty shelves! Bread and bakery items were gone. Baking supplies and staples were gone. Long shelves of paper products were empty. Canned soup and such products – gone. Aisle after aisle of empty shelves! Restaurants, businesses, museums and even churches were closed. We were instructed to “go home and stay home”. We had never seen the likes of this before.

We wondered if there were any historically similar times. Perhaps we could find information on how Alpine dealt with other pandemics. The Spanish Flu in 1918 was a similar circumstance, but surprisingly our archives had no information about how that may have impacted the local economy or daily lives of our residents. Is that because folks in the foothills didn't mingle with the big city folks? Did the Spanish Flu have no impact on Alpine? We don't know because we have no stories, diaries, or oral history archives to tell us. Now, nearly three years after the first COVID-19 shut down, we feel compelled to record how this event impacted our lives.

One thing we remember is the early confusion among world health leaders about how to respond to the disease. First advice was that it spreads by touch not by breathing, so don't bother with masks but stock up on and frequently use sanitizers. That advice was later reversed and we were advised to wear facemasks. Because the highly effective N-95 masks were in short supply, everyone was making cloth masks at home, although they were not as effective. After two years of research, the FDA approved emergency use of two vaccines that offered protection from the COVID virus. This ignited debates and disagreements between those who trusted the vaccines and those who refused to be vaccinated. In the meantime, thousands of people in San Diego County and millions nationwide became infected, many were hospitalized and some died of COVID-19, while others developed a lingering problem called Long COVID where the disease is gone but the symptoms persist for months or even years.

Eventually enough people developed immunity through the vaccines and/or having survived an infection, that we could feel safe not wearing masks in public settings. The re-opening of our favorite businesses, restaurants, shops, and schools was welcomed by all. And now, in March 2023, we are learning of the uncanny ability of this virus to mutate into multiple variants to evade our immune system,



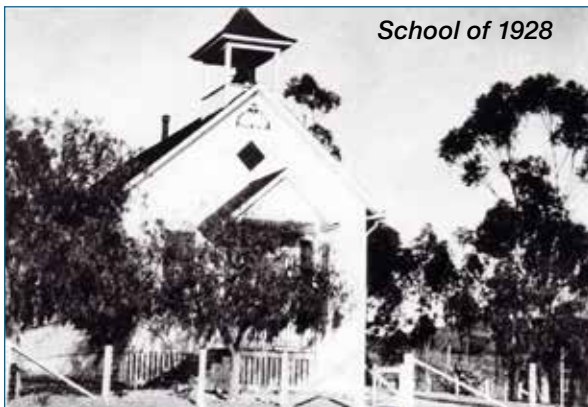
dodging the anti-bodies we developed from the vaccinations and prior infections. For now, the new variants are not as deadly as the original virus. On the economic side, there has been a big change in the workforce, with a loss of workers fueling a supply and demand conundrum. Competition for workers helped drive wages higher and the higher wages caused price inflation to rapidly rise to levels not seen in this century. We just returned from the grocery store where we still find some products in short supply and empty shelves here and there.

Historians of the future may look back to the 2020's for insight on how to deal with the next pandemic. We would like to know how COVID-19 impacted you and your family. Did you keep a diary, do you have photos of empty shelves or recollections of events as they unfolded? If you are willing to be interviewed, please let us know—this is an ideal topic for our project called “What's Your Story”. If you can help with any of these ideas, please mail us at PO Box 382, Alpine 91903, or email us at info@alpinehistory.org. You too can become part of our archive of this incredible experience.

TIMELINE 1928-1954: ALPINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Twenty-five years is far enough for anyone to cast that “backward glance”. Alpine school, twenty-five years ago, wasn’t very large. There were twenty children attending the little one-room school. There were all eight grades and one teacher. It took the whole school to make up a good soft-ball team and we had one, too.

Every morning at exactly half-past eight we rang the big bell in the steeple. One of the boys turned on the windmill so we would be sure to have plenty of water in the tank. In the winter the boys carried in the wood, built the fire, carried out the ashes. They helped me do the janitor work after school. Sometimes we’d put a “boiling hen” on to cook in the morning so we could have chicken soup by lunchtime. In the warm weather we all took our lunches down by the Tavern Creek, and ate in the shade of the big trees down there.



School of 1928

Every spring, linnets would come in the transom windows and build nests in our big supply cupboard in the front of the room and on top of the big clock over the door. We watched them hatch their babies and teach them to fly.

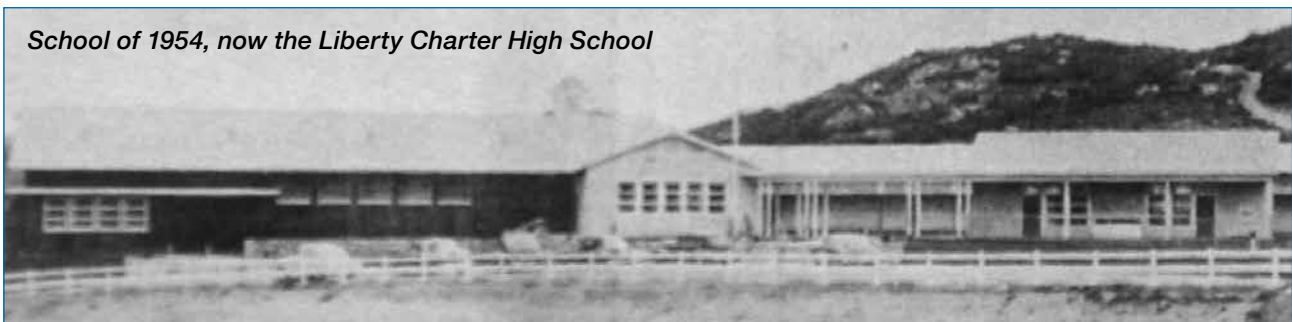
Every spring we’d get “garden fever”, too and all the children would bring vegetable and flower seeds and we’d dig and plant and hoe our gardens. The wild rabbits never had it so good. They were generous, though, and always left us the radishes and California poppies.

Yes, in twenty-five years the Alpine School has changed. It has grown from the “little red school house” to this beautiful building that graces the countryside. We are proud of our fine school. Children have always been proud of Alpine School. I think that pride is summed up in this poem written in 1930 by Dorothy Marie Lamb, one of my seventh graders.

ALPINE

*Surrounded by hills and trees so cool,
Stands Alpine's little old country school.
There's an old windmill in the corner of the yard
That pumps and squeaks when the wind blows hard.
There are old-fashioned desks and an organ inside,
But for all the old things they're our love and our pride.*

—Hazel Hohenshelt



School of 1954, now the Liberty Charter High School

ALPINE HISTORICAL & CONSERVATION SOCIETY

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Bob Ring
1st Vice President, Programs: Corinne Lewis
2nd Vice President, Membership: Carmen Ring
3rd Vice President, Property: Marty Cochran
Secretary: Barbara McCurtis
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Director, Archivist: Carol Morrison

Director, Social Media: Jennifer Tschida
Director, Vintage Autos: Norm Kling
Director: Janet Harris
Newsletter Co-Editors: Tom & Judy Myers
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.

Alpine Historical & Conservation Society
PO 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

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.