

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **July 29 & 30:**
Museum Open House
- **August 26 only:**
Museum Open House
- **August 27:** "Has Your Homeowners Insurance Been Canceled?" AHS Program

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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 — SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2023 — 1:00 P.M.

HAS YOUR HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE BEEN CANCELED?

Come learn about the California Fair Plan

Although this may not seem like one of our typical historical programs, it may quickly become an issue of epic proportions in the very near future. You may have already had your homeowner's insurance canceled by a carrier you've been with for years and are now scrambling to find another company that offers coverage in the fire-prone back-country of east county. You are not alone – and helpful information is on the way!!

Bob Soto, a local Alpine resident since 2011, is a Farmers Insurance Agent with years of experience under his belt. In March of 2020 his homeowner's policy was cancelled and he wrote his own CA Fair Plan policy with companion coverage.

He has become the premier seller of the California Fair Plan in San Diego County with over 639 policies written to date.



The anxiety of annual skyrocketing renewal premiums, coupled with the lack of understanding about the mechanics of the California Fair Plan, can leave a homeowner frantically searching for an affordable replacement policy. Many of California's largest carriers (Costco, Allstate, Nationwide, State Farm and Travelers) have stopped writing new policies in California or have

pulled out all together citing the increasing wildfire risk and soaring construction costs. Long-time customers who have "grandfathered" coverages will more than likely continue to see their premiums increase annually by thousands of dollars.

Bob will be giving a very informative talk about the state of homeowner's insurance in our community, state and nationwide. The California Fair Plan, paired with a companion policy, may be our only choice in the near future. Be prepared to make an educated decision when the time comes.

A summary sheet of facts, as well as Bob's contact information will be handed out at the meeting for note taking and future reference.



Program is held at the **Alpine Woman's Club**, 2156 Alpine Blvd., Alpine

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

OUR NEW LIFE MEMBER

As a surprise gift, long time members and avid supporters of the Alpine Historical Society, Mr. & Mrs. George Landt, sponsored a lifetime gift membership for their daughter, **Carylyn Landt**. This is an appropriate gift for Carylyn

who currently lives in Alpine. She earned a BA Degree in History along with a BS Degree in Biological Science at UC Davis. Since her undergraduate college days, Carylyn has worked at UCSD and has also earned her MBA from SDSU.

An interesting fun fact about Carylyn is that she is an excellent ice skater, in fact she is highly sought after for judging events in all corners of the USA. We are delighted to welcome Carylyn as a new lifetime member of the Alpine Historical Society.

Our September-October newsletter will include a write-up on Ann & John Pierce, our other new Life Members.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A Big Welcome to Our New Life Members: Carylyn Landt, Ann & John Pierce

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members: Cherry Diefenbach, April Earickson, Dee Ransom, Colleen White

A Grateful Thank You to Our Renewing Members: Carlyne Allbee, Brenda Clark, Cindy Day, John & Lora Grisafi, Steve & Kim Hales, Chik & Pat Hylton, Anna Knuth, Pam Lawless, Michael Lembeck, John & Corinne Lewis, Marilyn Moore, Jo Moreland, Pam & Pat Price, Max Robinson, Jim & Babs Rosenberg, Nancy & Mark Ross, Scarlett & Gary Spencer, Beverly Stacy, Jim & Sue Whitt

Many thanks of appreciation for renewing their Business Membership for 2023: Barons Market, Jeff Campbell San Diego Estates, Laurie Hallihan—State Farm Insurance

Many thanks to the following for their generous financial donations: Alpine Community Church, Brenda Clark, Laurie Hallihan—State Farm Insurance, Steve & Kim Hales, Pam Lawless, John & Corinne Lewis, Jo Moreland, Pam & Pat Price, Nancy & Mark Ross, Kevin & Alejandra Schumacher, Jim & Sue Whitt

Many thanks to the following for their donations for our Firetruck Garage: John & Corinne Lewis, Joann & Martin Marugg

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 • Ann & John Pierce
 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 ~ 51, Complimentary ~ 39, Current ~ 85, Members up for Renewal ~ 11

ALPINE CELEBRATES A QUARTER CENTURY AS FIRST WILDLIFE HABITAT

On May 1, 1998, Alpine was recognized as the first **Certified Community Wildlife Habitat** in the US by the National Wildlife Federation. One of the key elements in our continuing success is the annual **Alpine Garden Club Festival** held the first Saturday in May. Originally called the **Sage & Songbirds Festival**, this annual

event is now called the **Water-wise & Butterflies Festival** and is held at Christ the King Church.

This festival is a great opportunity to purchase native plants and succulents for your garden and to learn about attracting butterflies to your native habitat while being waterwise at the same time. **The Alpine Garden**

Club also supports the **Alpine Historical Society** by planting and maintaining native gardens at the **John DeWitt Museum**. when you visit the museum you can see how to mix and match different species and colors to beautify your gardens.

The photos here were taken in April at the **DeWitt Museum**, 2116 Tavern Road in Alpine.



DON'T LET OUR FIRETRUCK LOOK LIKE THIS AGAIN!

Our Firetruck needs a **garage!**

Last year we were given a restored firetruck that originally served the **Harbison Canyon Volunteer Fire Department**. It had been comfortably resting under a tree and exhibited the signs of weathering and dis-

use. **Bob Ring** set to work replacing oil seals in the engine and buffing the paint so that it looks freshly restored. Now we need to put it in a garage, so it doesn't resort to its condition of 25 years ago (*see photo*). Please consider sending a tax-deductible contribution to the Alpine Historical Society and designate your donation for the **"Firetruck Garage"**. Contributions of \$500 or more earn recognition in the



Tattered Tidbits newsletter and donations of \$1,000 or more are rewarded with a ride in the firetruck (after we build our garage and get our vehicle insured).

We wish to thank Joanne and Martin Marugg for their generous donation that

earns them a ride in the firetruck. And we thank John and Corinne Lewis for their generous contribution for building the garage. So far we have received \$2,751.50 for the Firetruck Garage. Add your name to this list by sending your

donation ("Firetruck Garage") to The Alpine Historical Society, P.O. 382, Alpine, CA 91903. THANKS!

VISITORS COME BEARING GIFTS

Earlier this year we welcomed some very distinguished visitors to the John DeWitt Museum. Each brought with them a valuable connection to important women of early Alpine.

Athearn Photo Album

In January, Karen Fogg visited the museum along with her friend Sheri Naragon. Karen is a

descendent of Charles Grandison Athearn, the brother of Dr. Sophronia Athearn Nichols. During her

visit, Karen donated a family photo album to the Alpine Historical Society.

This album is a wonderful addition to our collection and will help us more fully understand the three sisters, Annie Athearn, Dr. Sophronia Athearn Nichols and Caroline Athearn Foss who were born and raised in Massachusetts, but all settled in Alpine in the late 19th century. Here are a few photos from the album.



Caroline Athearn Foss



Sophronia Athearn Nichols



Karen Fogg and Sheri Naragon



Athearn Family Album

Harriet Arnold Genealogy

In February we were visited by Sarah Leonard, her husband Glenn Maggiola, son Thomas Maggiola, and friend Jenny Chang. Sara and her son Thomas are descendants of the Leonard family from Massachusetts. Their connection to Alpine is that Benjamin Arnold

married Harriet Leonard. Benjamin and Harriet are well known for their philanthropy while they lived in Alpine and are credited as the stimulus that developed Alpine from a community of backcountry settlers into a village with a new school, parsonage, stage line,

hotel, town hall and cemetery. Harriet is featured in our Alpine Women exhibit in the East Gallery of the Beaty House. Sarah shared her extensive genealogical research into the Leonard family giving us a much more complete understanding of Harriet Leonard Arnold.



Sarah and her son, Thomas

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

Treasurer: Lisa Celeste

Director, Archivist: Carol Morrison

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.

RECENT DONATIONS

George Skinner is well-known throughout the western states as a mountain man, beekeeper, historian, and college professor. He is also an artistic cartographer as can be seen from this map depicting the most travelled Mountain Man Trails to Old San Diego in the 1820's to 1840's.

Recently, Skinner donated this map to the Alpine Historical Society. The Map is drawn on a piece of tanned hide made by Mr. Skinner

and stretched on a branch frame also crafted by Skinner. Alpine does not appear on this map. Instead, the map suggests that the trails from Arizona to San Diego avoided crossing the Laguna Mountains, preferring a longer route to the north through Santa Ysabel or south through Baja, Mexico. The map serves to remind us that the trek to San Diego was not always a graded highway through the mountains. Old Highway 80 was to be built a century in the future.



Although this Northland Gurney Ice Box was not used in Alpine, it is typical of boxes that were likely used here in the early 1900's. Try to imagine life today without your electric refrigerator and you will understand why an ice box like this would have quickly become an essential ele-



ment of early Alpine homes and resorts. Of course, you would need a source for ice. We are grateful to Dudley Oatman of Pine

Valley for this donation, which they purchased from an antique store many years ago. This North-

land Gurney ice box was built in Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin in the early 20th century and has travelled the USA

from coast to coast. We are happy it now has a home with us.



YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU

By Albert Simonson

There are still some old-timers who can tell you about low prices back in the Great Depression. How about a new 1935 Buick Straight-Eight Sport Coupe for \$855? With the Turret Top feature and Synchro-Mesh at no added cost!

If you want to know how prices were a hundred years before that, you can find out from handwritten interviews of California old-timers, preserved at U.C. Berkeley.

Good land was worth about 1000 dollars or pesos a league, which works out to 23 cents an acre. Cockney Bill bought Viejas Valley for less than half that. Dollars and pesos were equivalent, as the new dollar was based on the universal peso of world trade.

You could put some tame mares on the land for \$2 a head. Or maybe a choice stallion for \$5 to \$10. Cattle varied from \$2 to \$5 a head. Bull calves brought \$1.50. Hogs went for 50 cents. Unbranded cattle belonged to whichever ranch they were found upon. Bronco horses were worthless and roamed at will. If you had a saddle, you could always find a horse, but staying on him was another matter.

A barrel of brandy set you back \$50. People paid mostly in hides and tallow or otter skins to the ships in the port, because pesos were scarce. You could get about \$2 for a good cowhide or 25 pounds of tallow. Wine was less costly at \$16-\$25 a barrel. These barrels were small wooden ones of 18 ½ gallons.

All of San Bernardino sold for \$1,000 and was considered a frontier rancho of Christian civilization.

Everlasting life would be a good thing if you could still pick up good deals like San Bernardino and keep it as a long-term investment and not get murdered. But, as the renowned economist Keynes said, in the long term we are all dead, so forget the long term.

And, as my mom said, you won't take it with you when you go.

(This article in it's full version can be found on our website: www.alpinehistory.org under the Tales of Alpine page.)

Alpine Historical & Conservation Society
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Address Service Requested

ALPINE
HISTORICAL &
CONSERVATION
SOCIETY

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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.