

### Upcoming events:

- **September 29 & 30:** Museum Open House
- **October 21:** Potluck Luncheon & Presentation by Susan Walter; “Bill Dalton & Julian Eltinge”
- **October 27 & 28:** 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



## Bill Dalton & Julian Eltinge

POTLUCK LUNCHEON & PRESENTATION—SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21

Our potluck luncheon and program on October 21, 2018, will explore Alpine’s most famous characters of the 1920’s, **Bill Dalton** and **Julian Eltinge**. Early stars of vaudeville stage and later the silver screen, they lived in Alpine for a time during the Roaring Twenties, before the Great Depression destroyed their fortune.

Our guest speaker, **Susan D. Walter**, will guide us through the stories and history of Dalton and Eltinge – focusing on their fascinating life during and after their years in Alpine.

Susan describes her introduction and addiction to the work of Dalton and Eltinge this way: As her husband Stephen perused information about a new project in 1999, to assess whether Eltinge’s Alpine house was a significant historical resource, he turned to her, saying “Here – you do the research; this is right up your alley.”

Susan was smitten. She needed to know who this fellow was. Julian Eltinge, aka Bill Dalton, turned out to be the world’s most famous female impersonator! His career spanned several decades, with plays and movies written just for him. He performed in vaudeville, headlined on both national and worldwide tours, and set new attendance records everywhere. He hobnobbed with celebrities of every ilk including actors, authors, artists, and politicians.

Julian Eltinge’s story appealed to Susan. She was piqued by his unusual line of work, his phenomenal success, the current lack of public knowledge of him, and

what seems to be his basically good humanity. Eltinge was a good neighbor and ardent supporter of San Diego and – significantly – Alpine.

Susan’s talk will focus on Julian’s effect upon the small community of Alpine from the mid-1920s until his death in 1941. Details about his life in Alpine, the construction of his adobe home here, his grandiose plans for a destination hotel, and some of the many glamorous actors and celebrities he attracted will be described. Susan will also reveal several glaring pieces of misinformation uncovered during her research.

Susan has had a long career in historic archaeology in San Diego County, and has been a long-time friend and member of the Alpine Historical Society. She is married to historian Stephen R. Van Wormer, and is mother to actress Rachael VanWormer and auto body specialist Aaron Van Wormer.



*Please bring a potluck item to share for the luncheon which begins at 1:00 p.m. or arrive by 1:45 p.m. for the brief general membership meeting followed immediately by Susan’s presentation. Admission is **FREE**, but your donation helps to defray the cost of programs. **Location:** The Woman’s Club, 2156 Alpine Blvd. Seating is limited, so **please make reservations early** by calling Tom at **(619) 885-8063** or send an email request to **info@alpinehistory.org**.*

## AHS WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER

We are delighted to welcome **Jennifer Tschida** to the Alpine Historical Society Board of Directors, filling the role of *Director of Social Media*. Jennifer grew up in Alpine, where her mother worked at the newspaper, and she recalls a time when with her grandmother invited her to tea with the much loved local historian, Bea LaForce. Her enthusiasm for Alpine is evident when she says: *“My roots are in Alpine and this is where I want to raise my kids and settle my family. Alpine is where my heart is.”*

Jennifer studied history at SDSU, and describes herself as a “history nerd”. After college she worked as a freelance writer for *The Alpine Sun* and later became the Account Executive. Then, in April 2018, she was named the Associate Publisher of *The Alpine Sun*. Jennifer’s husband, Pete, and her two kids will attest that she is a bundle of energy and ideas. In addition to the Historical Society, Jennifer volunteers with the *Mitochondrial Disease Research Fund* where she is the Assistant Director, and she is a member of the *Alpine Chamber of Commerce*. Please offer a warm welcome to our newest Board Member, Jennifer Tschida.



## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

*A Warm Welcome to our New Member:* Stephanie Giuffre

*A Grateful Thank You to our Renewing Members:* Judy Matlock, Louis & Lydia Russo

*Many thanks to the following for his generous historical book donations:* Mark Turvey

## 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 • 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 & Kirby Johnson • Bill & Diane Keltner • Jill & Shawn Killon • John Krempp • J. Clayburn LaForce  
Joanne & Martin Marugg • Carol Morrison • Tom & Judy Myers • Helen Porter • Paula Saksa  
Kurt Scherbaum • Albert Simonson • Donna Sisson • Joseph Sisson • Virginia Sisson • Anne Tarr • Elma Terry  
Rodney & Guille Tuttle • Paul & Carol Walker • William & Joan Waterworth • Stanley Wilson

## RECOGNITION OF OUR LIFETIME BUSINESS MEMBERS

Brabazon Alpine Paving and Trucking  
Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians • Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians  
Tom Dyke Drilling • John Garbaczewski Family Foundation  
Chris Wiley—Primary Residential Mortgage • Turvey Granite Pit • Tuttle Charitable Trust

**CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS:** Life Members ~ 50, Supporting Members ~ 97, Members up for renewal ~ 1

**POP QUIZ:** Answers can be found in articles in this newsletter.

- Bill Dalton and Julian Eltinge were . . .
  - Vaudeville stage and movie stars
  - Alpine residents during the Roaring Twenties
  - One and the same person
  - All of the above
- Which of the following is true
  - Roslin Pennoyer came to Alpine in 1883
  - Esther Wood was Roslin’s sister
  - Calvin Maples Wood was a stonemason and lectured on metaphysical topics
  - All of the above
- Our newest Director, Jennifer Tschida is . . .
  - AHS Director for Social Media
  - Associate Publisher of the Alpine SUN
  - A history nerd
  - All of the above

## DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN?

**T**wice in the last four years the 122-year old home of Alpine's first doctor, Sophronia Nichols, survived sudden and unexpected damage during storms from tree limbs ripped off the towering eucalyptus trees in the adjacent parking lot. Given the age, location, and physical characteristics of these trees, it is entirely possible that during another storm event, one of the trees could fall on both the Nichols House and

the 119-year old Beaty House, causing permanent damage to the buildings as well as to 95% of museum collections stored and exhibited there. To avoid such a calamity, the Historical Society Board of Directors voted to have the trees removed, and requested the necessary funding from San Diego County.

We are fortunate that the San Diego County Board of Supervisors approved our 2018 Commu-

nity Enhancement Grant request for these funds. The grant will also provide funds to replace the deteriorated concrete floor of the Carriage House, and to provide an on-site storage facility to relieve the overcrowding of the attic space in the Beaty House.

We offer our heartfelt thanks to Chairman Diane Jacob and the entire San Diego County Board of Supervisors for approving our request for grant funds.



## DID YOU EVER WONDER: *WHY ARE MUSEUMS IMPORTANT?*

**W**ell, The *American Alliance of Museums* has asked the same question. They have reviewed many studies done by independent universities and community groups and they have paid pollsters to conduct surveys to help answer the question. Here are some of the results of these studies.

- **Museums are popular sites to visit.** Museums welcome more than 850 million visitors annually, much more than the attendance for all major league sporting events and theme parks combined (483 million in 2011).
- **Museums are educational.** Museums help teach state, local or core curriculum to local students. In Alpine, the number of school children who visit annually is nearly equal to the adult visits. And museum websites serve a diverse online community, including teachers, parents, and students (including those who are home schooled).
- **Museums are trustworthy.** Americans view museums as one of the most trustworthy sources of objective information. Museums are considered a more reliable source of historical information than books, teachers or even personal accounts by relatives.
- **Museums serve every community.** Museums are committed to ensuring that Americans of all backgrounds have access to high-quality museum experiences, regardless of an individual's ability to pay. In 2012, 37% of museums were free at all times and nearly all of the other museums offer discounted admission or free days during the year. About 26% of museums are located in rural areas such as Alpine.
- **Museums help the economy.** Museums employ more than 400,000 Americans and directly contribute \$21 billion to the U.S. economy each year and billions more through indirect spending by their visitors.

*If you want to learn more or want to know the source of these statistics, please send a note by email to [info@alpinehistory.org](mailto:info@alpinehistory.org).*



## TURN YOUR GARDEN INTO A CERTIFIED WILDLIFE HABITAT

**D**id you know that Alpine is the nation's first Certified Community Wildlife Habitat, designated on May 1, 1998 by the National Wildlife Federation? There are now over 100 Certified Community Wildlife Habitat towns in the USA, and Alpine has over 200 certified gardens.

AHS member Carlette Anderson is the Director of Alpine's Community Wildlife Habitat Program. Please join her on Saturday, October 20th at 2:00 pm at the Alpine Library to find out how to create

a Wildlife Habitat in your back yard. She will also be giving away free milkweed seeds to help you get started.

Certifying your garden earns points for Alpine and helps us maintain our distinction as the nation's first Community Wildlife Habitat. Using sustainable gardening practices helps wildlife thrive and stay in your garden. When your neighbors do the same, you create a neighborhood-friendly environment for all kinds of

wildlife to thrive and raise their young.

Ms. Anderson says, "You only have to register your garden once. Most Alpine residents probably already have the basic requirements to have a certified garden: **1-food, 2-water, 3-cover, 4-a place for critters and birds to raise their young and, 5-sustainable practices.**

You can turn your back yard, balcony container garden, school yard, work landscape or roadside

green space into a Certified Wildlife Habitat."

For those of you who already have these five elements in your back yard, please go to [www.NWF.org/certify](http://www.NWF.org/certify), fill out the application form and send \$20 to NWF to register your habitat. Then, also email Ms. Anderson at [WildlifeHabitats@aol.com](mailto:WildlifeHabitats@aol.com) and let her know you have certified your garden so she can include your garden on Alpine's master list. Please include your name, address, telephone number and the date when you registered your garden to be certified.



### 5 ELEMENTS FOR A CERTIFIED GARDEN

#### 1 FOOD

No need to purchase expensive feeders or packaged foods, a better way to provide food is to plant the food sources that wildlife love the most: native plants. Plants provide food in many forms, such as nectar, pollen, flower buds, berries, and seeds. Plants also attract insects, which are a primary food source for many birds and lizards.

#### 2 WATER

All creatures need clean drinking water to survive. Birds need a water bath to keep their feathers in good condition, and other species, including some amphibians, insects and other wildlife live in the water.

You can provide water in your habitat garden in a variety of ways, from a simple birdbath or shallow dish of water to a water garden or pond. But, be aware that standing water can become a breeding place for mosquitos, so try to keep the water moving and keep it clean with wildlife friendly products and practices.

#### 3 COVER

All wildlife need places to find shelter while they sleep, from extreme weather conditions such as heavy rain or Santa Anna winds, and to hide from predators. Shrubs, thickets and brush piles provide good hiding places for wildlife, but be sure to manage these

elements in your garden to avoid creating a wild-fire risk to your home.

#### 4 YOUNG

Wildlife need sheltered places to raise their young. Many places for cover can also double as locations where wildlife can raise their offspring. Additionally, many butterflies and moths are attracted to plants where they can lay their eggs; when their caterpillars emerge, they eat the leaves of the host plant for nourishment. Many species of native bees carve thin tubes into dead wood to shelter their eggs. These bees may also deposit their eggs in a bee house you install in your garden. Native bees do not pro-

duce honey, but they are great pollinators and they rarely sting.

#### 5 SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

Maintaining your landscape in a sustainable, environmentally-friendly way ensures that the soil, air, and water that native wildlife need will stay clean and healthy. Some sustainable practices include rainwater capture, water-wise native plants, drip irrigation, and mulching. It is also important to reduce lawn areas, eliminate chemical pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. Instead, use organic compounds or composting of kitchen and garden waste.

*For more information, please visit [www.NWF.org/certify](http://www.NWF.org/certify).*

## TIMELINE: ALPINE 1882-1886

From 1882 to 1886, the **Wood** and **Pennoyer** families moved to Alpine, staking out three homesteads that covered 360 acres in the area now called Alpine Heights. **Esther Pennoyer Wood, Roslin G. Pennoyer** and **Sherwood Pennoyer** were siblings, descended from French immigrants who settled in Wisconsin in 1840 upon their arrival in the United States.

In 1882, Esther, her husband **Calvin Maples Wood**, and their four children **Rollo Mort, Percy** (not pictured), **Mabel**, and **Grace** came



*Wood Family: top left is mother Esther Pennoyer Wood, top right is father Calvin Maples Wood, lower left is son Rollo Mort, lower right are daughters Mabel and Grace*

to Alpine seeking a cure for Mrs. Wood's seemingly incurable chest infections. The Wood family staked out their 160-acre homestead in the shape of the numeral "7". The property was roughly bounded by current day landmarks: South Grade Road to the north and east, Alpine Heights Road to the south, and Rockcrest Road to the west.

Calvin Wood was a popular and frequent lecturer on metaphysical topics, and he often traveled to major cities in the eastern and western U.S. to deliver his talks. When not traveling, he kept busy around town as a stonemason, and along with youngest son, Percy, built foundations for many local buildings including the Alpine Store and the Town Hall.

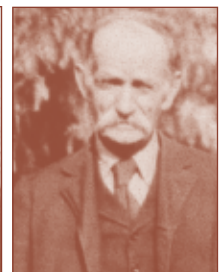
As Esther's health improved, she extolled the virtues of the Alpine climate to her brothers in Wisconsin. The following year brother **Roslin G. Pennoyer**, along with his wife, **Lua**, and two sons, **Charles** and **Roslin**, established a 160-acre homestead, which they called "Sleepy Hollow", about a quarter mile west of the Wood's homestead in the area that later would be known as the Sky Mesa Ranch. In addition to homesteading, R.G. Pennoyer took up business interests in San Diego and was the builder of the Bayview Hotel where he kept an apartment for the family when they were not in Alpine. Then

in 1886, Esther's brother **Sherwood G. Pennoyer**, moved with his wife **Fanny** and daughters **Bessie** and **Adelia** from Wisconsin to establish a smaller, 40-acre homestead in the space between Calvin Wood and brother Roslin.

Descendants of the Woods and Pennoyers remained in Alpine for many generations and contributed much to the Alpine community.



*Lua Pennoyer*



*R.G. "Rose" Pennoyer*



*Fanny Pennoyer, Bessie and Adelia, and S.G. "Sher" Pennoyer*



*Wood's home in Alpine, later destroyed by fire*



*"Rose" Pennoyer's last Alpine home*

Alpine Historical & Conservation Society  
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*Address Service Requested*

**ALPINE  
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**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.