

Upcoming events:

- **March 28 & 29:**
Museum Open House
- **April 19:**
“Nature Adventures!”
Program & General
Membership Meeting
- **April 25 & 26:**
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



SUNDAY, APRIL 19 — POTLUCK & PROGRAM

Join us for Nature Adventures!

This is a fun, exciting program for us all — youngsters and those still young-at-heart, from pre-school to post-retirement. Our program speaker, Linda Hawley, is a former elementary classroom teacher and college adjunct professor who has volunteered at Mission Trails Regional Park in San Diego where she taught her “wildly popular” nature classes for nearly 10 years.

She is the author of *Nature Adventures!*, a guidebook for San Diego County, containing hikes, fascinating and helpful nature facts, illustrations, some of her own songs, and information about the life of the Kumeyaay people before 1769.

The book has received high acclaim including from prominent voices in San Diego:

“Linda Hawley’s book about the natural world in San Diego is easy to enthusiastically recommend for parents and even old guys like me.”

—BILL HOWELL, Training Team Leader of Outdoor Docents
at the San Diego Natural History Museum and Mission Trails Regional Park

“Nature Adventures! is a charming mashup—part nature guidebook, part songbook—that brings to life much of the wildlife in San Diego County. A well-researched, fun romp through the animal kingdom, replete with nature tidbits to share with aspiring naturalists.”

—CHRIS REDFERN, Executive Director, San Diego Audubon Society,
Founding Board Member, San Diego Children and Nature

This program and Linda’s book are focused on animal and plant species found in San Diego County. We will learn to develop observation skills, to notice signs of wildlife, to enjoy and connect with the natural world, and to learn the importance of stewardship and our interdependent relationship with nature.

Bring your kids, your grandkids, and your young-at-heart selves, and let’s celebrate nature together!

Please bring a potluck item to share at the luncheon which begins at 1:00 p.m. or arrive by 1:45 p.m. for the Membership Meeting followed immediately by our Program. 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.

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS — PLEASE WELCOME CAITLYN!

Did you ever have a task that you just couldn't get started? You really want to do it, you have all your materials and supplies and tools lined up and ready to go, but for some reason you just can't get going? We understand and sympathize with you. Over the last couple of years the Alpine Historical Society has been planning to start cataloging and archiving items in our collection, but for all our good intentions we just could not break ground on this project. With our SD County Grant, we purchased all the needed computer hardware and software and tags for the objects. We rounded up all the records of donations back to 1998. But, somehow, we just couldn't get going – something was missing. Well, last



month we found what was missing, and her name is Caitlyn. From somewhere in cyberspace, we received an email message from Caitlyn, offering to help with any archival project we might have. Turns out that Caitlyn lives in Alpine and is a recent graduate from the University of Portland. She is pursuing a career in Museums and Library Science and has volunteered her services to help whenever she can. Since receiving her email, we have brought the archives group together to work with Caitlyn one morning a week and to date we have tagged and cataloged almost 200 objects. Caitlyn's great attitude and enthusiasm for this project is infectious and has proved to be just what we needed to move this project forward. Thank you Caitlyn!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members: Barbara Balaban, Elizabeth Love Smith

A Grateful Thank You to Our Renewing Members: Dawn & Russ August, Susan Barker, Theo & Jan Bazdorf, Bob & Sharon Beale, Donna Boyer, Suzanne Broderick, Barbara Cater, Paul & Vikki Coffey, Gerald & Kim

Dobbs, Pat Dolbeck, Kathy Fiedor, Marilyn & Marc Fox, Mary Fritz, Kim & Steve Hales, Richard & Jane Kelso, Joan McCurry, Cheryl & James Minshew, Michael & Lorraine Nelson, Michael Nelson II, Louise Phipps, John & Ann Pierce, Max Robinson, Mark & Nancy Ross, Sandee Smith & Frank Hardt, Ray & Betty Sopfe, Janis Vanderford

Many thanks to the following for their generous financial donations: Susan Barker, Theo & Jan Bazdorf, Suzanne Broderick, Barbara Cater, Paul & Vikki Coffey, Gerald & Kim Dobbs, Kathy Fiedor, Mary Fritz, Kim & Steve Hales, Richard & Jane Kelso, Louise Phipps, John & Ann Pierce, Mark & Nancy Ross, Sandee Smith & Frank Hardt, Ray & Betty Sopfe, Janis Vanderford

Special Thanks of Appreciation to the following businesses

who renewed their annual membership in the Historical Society for 2020:

Alpine Woman's Club • Barons Market • Laurie Hallihan, State Farm Insurance • Postal Annex • RPL Electric

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 & Kirby 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 • Turvey Granite Pit • Chris Wiley—Primary Residential Mortgage

CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS: Life Members ~ 48, Supporting Members ~ 98, Members up for renewal ~ 17

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AND MORE...

This month we continue our series describing selected objects from the collection at the John De Witt Museum that are a century or more old. Some of these objects may be seen by visiting the museum during our regularly scheduled open house from 2:00 to 4:00 pm on the last Saturday and Sunday of each month.

SINGER TREADLE SEWING MACHINE

Our Singer Treadle Sewing Machine, patented on June 16, 1910, was manufactured in 1917 in Elizabeth, New Jersey. The Singer Corporation, established in 1851, gets credit for designing the first practical sewing machine for general domestic use. By 1860, Singer was the largest

maker of sewing machines in the world.

Delores "Maw Dee" Baker of Dehesa acquired this machine after she lost her home in the 1970 Laguna Fire. Her new home did not have water, plumbing or electrical service, so she needed a sewing machine powered by a

foot treadle. Delores used this machine to make curtains and furniture coverings, as well as to mend her clothes.

The accompanying fold out box of attachments is rare and also over a century old. It was patented February 19, 1889.



BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG COMMEMORATIVE PLATE

The John DeWitt Museum collection includes this decorative plate commemorating the fiftieth Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg.

The plate was made in 1913, fifty years after the battle, which occurred July 1 to 4 in 1863. Although Civil War artifacts and memorabilia generally have little to do with Alpine's history, they serve to remind us of our nation's history.

Following the Civil War there was much devastation to eastern communities, particularly in the southern states. To escape the devastation as well as the memories of the war, many of the soldiers, both Union and Confederate, moved west to establish homesteads in the new state of California or in other US territories. Both Edward Foss, held by the South as a Prisoner of War, and Captain Harry Jeremiah Parks, who received a Medal of Honor from Abraham Lincoln, made Alpine their home after the Civil War.

ALPINE WINE

Anyone care to taste a 106-year old Port Type Wine from Alpine? Well, looks like someone beat you to it because this bottle is empty. In 1914, Harold & Rhena Flegal moved to Alpine, purchasing the Brabazon Vineyard and Winery. Fearing that the talk of prohibition would put them out of business, the Flegals also took over the Alpine Store and Harold became the Postmaster as well. By 1916, they gave up the store and changed the winery over to the production of exceptional quality grape juice, which people would drive out all the way from San Diego to purchase. Although the grapevines are now long gone, we still have a bottle with label intact to show that Harold Flegal produced a naturally fermented Port Style wine right here in Alpine.



SOME CHILDHOOD MEMORIES OF LIFE IN THE WILLOWS — *by Bob Budz*

I was 5 years old when my family moved to the Willows from U.S. Navy housing in Linda Vista. At the Willows I got to wander and explore the wilds of the near-wilderness area two miles east of Alpine. It was 1950 and I loved that place at first sight. Soon my parents relented to my constant requests for a dog to join me in my explorations. The discovery of mountains, creeks, animals, washes and gullies, plants and bugs, rocks and mud, marked my time in the little place called *The Willows*.

We lived in the western most and smallest cabin, and then later in the house next to it. Rent, was just \$19/mo. for the cabin. My first explorations included hiking Viejas Mountain and playing in the creek behind our house. I loved catching crawdads, but my mom would never cook them. (“They look like creepy spiders. Get them out of here!”) I once managed to wing shoot a bat with my BB gun. I found him alive, put him in my father’s bait trap, fed him and kept him alive as a pet — until Dad needed the trap. Another time, I stood outside our front porch and tried to pick off flies on the house’s siding. On one shot, I aimed carefully at my winged prey, pulled the trigger and, watched the flight of the BB as if it was in slow motion. It found its mark, then bounced straight back into my left eye! I still sport a mark on my eye from that little stunt.

My time at the Alpine Center School began half-way through the second grade. Grades 1 through 6 all sat in the same wooden two-story building. The only heat we had was a wood stove in the corner. I recall tables set up for the different age/class groups. Later our classes moved to the new elementary school where we had our own, single grade classrooms.

My best friend in Alpine was

Al Hinkle; his family owned Hinkle Lumber. We had some great adventures together mostly playing at his family’s turkey farm.

In 4th grade we learned about clay modeling. Well, they assumed we knew how to handle exacto knives. Oops. Not me. I sliced my thumb almost to the bone. I was so embarrassed that I ran out of the room, excusing myself to go to the bathroom. Bleeding profusely, I ran back to the room claiming I cut the thumb running to the bathroom. With no stitches, it took a couple of months to heal. I look at the scar on my thumb now and memories flood back, 67 years later, just as though it was yesterday.

I really enjoyed the bus ride to school and became fond of an older girl who always laughed at my jokes — my first “crush”. To catch the bus, I had to walk up Highway 80 to the bus stop, an old greasy spoon and small country store. My dog, Janie, would walk with me the quarter mile to the bus stop, return home after I departed, and then meet me every afternoon at the correct time. I was amazed that she knew when to leave the house to fetch me from the bus stop.

For some reason, during my 4th and 5th grades I endeared myself to a couple of young adult siblings living up near the reservation at Darnell’s Cottages. They owned a Ford Model A and took me to a theater in El Cajon for western movies. On the way to their cottage, the old Willowside Service Station no longer sold gas but still sold Coke in bottles out of a beat up, chest style vending machine. The bumpy ride to El Cajon was about a half hour and on the return trip I always looked for the sign that said, “Welcome to Alpine, Best Climate in the USA”. Fog always seemed to stop just short of town, right at that sign. I still can’t figure out why they



would pal around with a 9 or 10 year old, but I’m glad they did.

I am the youngest of four children. At the time, only one sister, Joan, lived with us at the Willows. Joan attended Grossmont High School where she met Paul Bailey. Paul’s family owned Bailey’s Café (Best Tacos!). Bailey’s was right next to Hinkle’s Lumber, where I could hook up with Al. We ate at the Bailey’s Café quite frequently as Joan and Paul turned from puppy love, to high school sweethearts, to lifelong mates. They had three lovely children and eventually moved to Pismo Beach, where they invested in real estate and a few businesses. They also owned about 30 collector automobiles, a couple of which I got to drive (e.g. Mercedes Excalibur, Cadillac convertible pickup truck, 1932 Ford, Corvettes, T-birds). I was in heaven driving that Corvette. They were quite successful and Paul eventually became mayor of the town. Joan and Paul both passed in the last couple of years and are dearly missed.

My parents worked in San Diego and eventually grew tired of the commute, so in 1956 we moved back to San Diego. I spent my formative years there, graduating from San Diego High School, before leaving town for college and the rest of my life. But, my fondest memories of youth still reside with my time in the Willows and Alpine.

If anyone knows how to contact Al Hinkle, Bob would love to connect with him again. Send us a note at info@alpinehistory.org.

TIMELINE: ALPINE 1894 TO 1902

Beginning with Cockney Bill Williams who purchased the Valley de Las Viejas in 1848, to the Walkers who established the Willows Resort in 1901, we have been following a timeline for Alpine, roughly the first half-century.

It started with Cockney Bill raising grain and providing rest and hospitality for drivers and passengers of the stage line. In 1850, California became the 31st state, but most of its citizens were searching for gold up north. Nearly twenty years later beekeeping was a start-up industry. The next thirty years saw a steady increase in settlers purchasing land or claiming land through the Homestead Act. These settlers brought a variety of skills leading to the development of orchards and vineyards, raising poultry or farm animals, and keeping a store and post office.

Benjamin Arnold moved here for the healthy climate leading to new industries for resorts and the treatment of people with lung disease. Arnold also recognized that a growing community needed infrastructure, so he built a school, a parsonage, and a hotel. He improved the road leading from Lakeside to Alpine, and established the Alpine Center Stage Line. In 1899, Arnold gave Alpine land for a cemetery on Victoria Drive, and paid half the cost of a Town Hall

where citizens could gather for civic meetings, worship services, read a book from the Library, and host parties or special events. What else could a developing settlement need as it grew from a scattered group of beekeepers and ranchers to a self-supporting community? Perhaps a doctor?

Sophronia Athearn Nichols, older sister of Carolyn Foss, was born in West Tisbury, MA in 1835. She earned her teaching credential from State Normal School in Bridgewater, MA. She married Joel Nichols and they had five children, but only Alice and Wilfred survived. A very strong-willed, determined and independent woman, Sophronia enrolled in the New England Female Medical College in 1873. The college merged with Boston University School of Medicine a year later. Sophronia graduated with a degree in Homeopathic Medicine in 1874, the only woman in her graduating class. After a year of disappointing medical practice in Corey, PA, (the town wasn't ready for a woman doctor) her brother urged her to move to California.

As a single mom in 1876, she arrived in San Francisco with her two children. Leaving her son Wilfred with her brother in San Francisco, Sophronia and Alice headed to Washington Territory and then on to Albany, OR, where she



established a very successful medical practice. In 1879, Sophronia received California Medical License #26, and from 1880 until 1894, she practiced medicine in California, including the communities of Santa Cruz, Petaluma, San Diego, Otay, and Riverside. In 1888, her daughter, Alice, married Nicholas Anderson and they settled on a 40-acre parcel in Alpine, completing the purchase in 1891.

In 1894, Doctor Sophronia Nichols moved to Alpine, and in 1895, delivered Ida Stephenson's baby, George. About this time, the Alpine directory listed Sophronia's son, Wilfred, as a farmer. In 1896, Dr. Nichols purchased a home on Tavern Road. She ran her medical practice out of her home, making frequent house calls within the community. In 1902, Sophronia had a disabling stroke, ending her career.

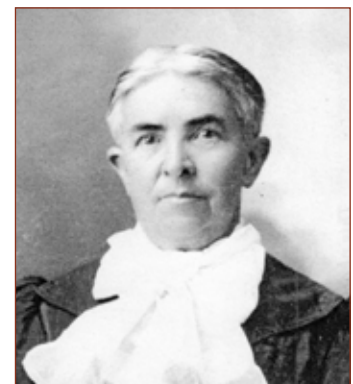
Doctor Sophronia Athearn Nichols, the first Doctor to practice medicine in Alpine, died on November 12, 1903, and is buried in the Alpine Cemetery. Alpine historians remember her as an advocate for women's rights long before the Suffrage Movement started, and as the first and most admired pioneer doctor in Alpine.



Dr. Nichols Home



Sophronia Nichols — age 25



Sophronia Nichols — age 59

Alpine Historical & Conservation Society
P. O. Box 382
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Membership Category (Please check one):

- Student \$5 Individual \$25 Nonprofit \$30 Business \$50
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 Senior (2) \$20 Life \$500

Amount Enclosed:

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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.