

# TATTERED TIDBITS

ALPINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 3, Issue 3

August 2009

## Upcoming events:

- August 16<sup>th</sup>—  
Quarterly Meeting
- August 29<sup>th</sup> &  
30<sup>th</sup>—Museum  
Open House
- September 26<sup>th</sup> &  
27<sup>th</sup>— Museum  
Open House
- October 4<sup>th</sup>—  
Viejas Day Parade
- October 18<sup>th</sup>—  
Annual Italian Feast

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ALPINE  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY  
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## CAROLINE'S TOMBSTONE COMES HOME

This story begins where it ends. On a beautiful Alpine day, June 19, 2009, Verna and Wilton Randel took a piece of Alpine history back to its rightful home. The tombstone of Caroline Beatty, 1837-1911, one of Alpine's early pioneers, had been missing from the Alpine Cemetery, on Victoria Drive, for thirty-nine years when the Randels "Googled" Caroline's name and up popped the Alpine Historical Society's website, [www.alpinehistory.org](http://www.alpinehistory.org). The Randels sent an e-mail to the Historical Society asking if the tombstone "was of interest to anyone." Of interest? You bet! A phone call was made and, within

an hour, the Randels met Carol Morrison, the President of the Historical Society, at the cemetery. The caretaker carefully placed the stone on the base from which it long-ago had been removed.

Now, let's go to the beginning of our story. Around 1970, Verna Randel served as property manager for a rental home across the street from her El Cajon home. After being forced to evict the tenants, the Randels went in to prepare the home for new occupants and discovered the tombstone of Caroline Beatty. They were told that the tombstone had come from

the Los Angeles area and felt there was no easy way to research where it belonged. Not wanting to *(continued on page 2)*



Wilton and Verna Randel at  
Caroline's Gravesite

## AUGUST MEETING TO FEATURE JACK INNIS



Author Jack Innis

The quarterly pot luck luncheon will be held on Sunday, August 16th at 1:00 p.m. at the Alpine Woman's Club,

2156 Alpine Boulevard. Jack Scheffler Innis, local author, will be joining us to share some tales of San Diego's historical people, places and events.

Mr. Innis is an award-winning local journalist who has written extensively on the weird and wonderful history of San Diego. A long-time surfer and boating enthusiast, he is the local media relations representative of the International Game Fish Association. Formerly editor of the *San Diego Log*, Innis is a freelance editor and writer who lives in San

Diego with his wife and daughter.

His book, *San Diego Legends*, brings together for the first time the extraordinary accounts of famous and infamous people in San Diego's history.

Come for the lunch and the speaker or just to hear Mr. Innis' presentation at 2:00.

Please RSVP to Carol Morrison at 619-445-2544 or e-mail us at [info@alpinehistory.org](mailto:info@alpinehistory.org). Everyone is welcome—spread the word! ■

## Alpine History Day 2009

The annual Alpine History Day celebration was held on Saturday, June 6, 2009. The weather was picture perfect—a beautiful Alpine day.

Winners of the third grade essay contest were presented with their awards and everyone enjoyed the newly created farming display.

Don Walker was there to tell folks about his wonderful donation of farming equipment and everyone enjoyed a luncheon of chili, bread, salad, cold

drinks and ice cream sundaes.

We were very fortunate to once again have Pete Holtzen share his interactive bee hive with us. Pete may be contacted through his website, [www.honeybeerescue.com](http://www.honeybeerescue.com).

Winners of the third grade essay contest were as follows: In the category, "Life in Alpine's Past," Mikey Ross received the first place award and second and third place went to Dean Buehner and Christian Larson, respectively.

Madison Staufenbeil received a first place award for the category "My Favorite Historical Person in Alpine" with Raynee Ludeke and Caylah Burgio receiving second and third place. Kristella Sicairos received first place for the category "My Favorite Historical Place in Alpine" and Dustin Duncan received a second place award. Honorable Mentions for art were presented to Madison Staufenbeil, Kristella Sicairos, Dustin Duncan, Mikey Ross, Somer

Hanna, Autumn Bradley, Katie Murphy, Samantha Bodger, Jake Fenn and Alexia Mares. For their creative essay format, Evan Arnold, Kylee Schwenck, Ethan Sandford, and Raynee Ludeke received Honorable Mentions. Congratulations to all the third grade participants. They, and their teachers, did an awesome job!

Once again, the Alpine Historical Society had a successful Alpine History Day Celebration. This *(Continued on page 4)*



**Award Winners  
Third Grade Essay Contest**



**Anne Tarr Demonstrates  
Treadle Sewing Machine**



**Don Walker in Front of  
Outdoor Farming Display**

## Caroline's Tombstone Comes Home *(Continued from page 1)*

dishonor the deceased, the tombstone was placed in a beautiful spot in their garden. Throughout the years, their gardeners paid special attention to the area around the tombstone. Some of them believed it was a grave and even left flowers on it. Caroline's tombstone was cared for and loved. But Mr. and Mrs. Randel always wanted to find where it truly belonged.

The Beattys hold a special place in Alpine's history.

In 1869, 48-year-old Adam Beatty and his 32-year-old wife Caroline came to the area now known as Harbison Canyon. Their first home was just east of the creek at present Ironsides Park. In 1884, Mr. Beatty received a homestead patent for 160 acres at Rancho del Sequan on Tavern Road. They planted an olive orchard on this property during the 1890s—the orchard still exists. In 1899, Adam Beatty built a farmhouse with his own hands.

Based on traditional British folk-house forms, it is a design called the "I" house, common in the Tidewater South of the United States prior to 1830. It was moved in 1999 to the Alpine Historical Society's property on Tavern Road, approximately one mile north of its original location. The Beatty House is one of two pioneer houses which today serve as museums.

The Beattys were held in high regard by Alpine resi-

dents as leaders of the community—they had experienced and participated in Alpine's transition from an isolated frontier to a well-established community.

The return of Caroline's tombstone completes the picture—the Beattys will always be important figures in Alpine's history and the Randels are now a part of their story. We sincerely thank them for their care of this important part of our history. ■

## Early Alpine Families and the Log Cabin Café

*Editor's Note: The following information was compiled from a series of documents resulting from interviews Barbara Cater conducted recently with Patty Heyser.*

In 1885, Dr. Edmond Nugent and his wife Jane purchased 320 acres in the center of Alpine. This was the first in a series of moves which produced a long line of Alpine residents, extending to the present day.

Shortly after the Nugents arrived, Captain George Brabazon came to Alpine and he immediately took charge of the Nugent's vineyards and orchards.

In 1904, George Smith, his wife Cora Belle and their daughters Gussie and Edwina moved to San Diego. The Smiths sought a better climate with the hope of restoring Gussie's failing health. Many of the early settlers came to Alpine in search of a dry climate—Alpine's weather was well-known for its recuperative pow-



**Old streetcar—the nucleus of The Log Cabin Café—is hauled from San Diego to its new home in Alpine**



**The old streetcar—Alpine's first convenience store**

ers. In 1911, the Smiths bought property in Viejas Valley which they named Deer Springs Ranch.

Warren Foster and his wife Emma married and raised their three children in the Del Mar area. Warren had run away from his family home in Maine at the age of thirteen, found his way across the country and met Emma in San Diego. The family relocated several times—in 1910 Warren and son Clarence were listed as Gold miners in Hart, San Bernardino County. In 1920 the Fosters returned to San Diego County and bought a ranch in Peutz Valley. They soon bought a business in Alpine—two acres of land and an old streetcar which had been turned into a refreshment stop for tourists.

Thus, the foundation was laid for the families that created this long line of Alpine residents.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Red Hat Ladies Visit Museum

A group of members of the Red Hat Ladies Society arranged a special tour of our museum houses on June 12<sup>th</sup>. The ladies were shown around by President Carol Morrison and Board Member Bill Waterworth.



**Docent Bill Waterworth shows visiting Red Hat Ladies the new farm display**

Carol Morrison had this to say: "With their purple outfits and red hats, the museum has never seen so much color." The group came to Alpine from San Diego, El Cajon, La Mesa and La Jolla and, after the

tour, enjoyed a special lunch at the Alpine Inn.

What is the Red Hat Society? "We are the ones enjoying life to the fullest, no matter where we are or what we are doing! We are the mothers, daughters and grandmothers, of society. Some may ask, 'What do you do?' The answer is... We do exactly what we wish to do." Always decked out in purple and red, they are a delight to all who see them.

We are very glad they came to visit. ■



**Red Hat Ladies and Alpine Historical Society President Carol Morrison**

## Thanks to Members and Donors

Welcome to new members Diana Lothspeich and George and Pene Manale.

The following members are sincerely thanked for renewing their memberships in the Alpine Historical Society:

The Alpine Woman's Club, Robert Beale, Charles and Charlene Day, Gail Guth, Victor Head, Joel Jette, George

Landt, Ron and Carol Matzenauer, Paul and Marianne Rohal, John Pierce, Scarlett Spencer, John and Joanne Talamantes and Stan Wilson.

Your continued interest helps us continue our quest to document Alpine's history.

A big thank you goes out to the following recent donors:

David Carey, Katherine Robles, Vikki Coffey, James Hinds, Helen Porter, Gail Guth, Victor Head, George Landt, Mary Polk, Albert Simonson and John and Joanne Talamantes.

The wonderful signs that document the outdoor farm equipment recently donated by Don Walker were created by Jason Clark. Jason generously

donated all the labor costs involved in the creation of the signs. Thank you, Jason!

If you haven't renewed your membership or joined the Society—do it today!

This is a terrific bunch of people performing valuable service to the local community. We have so much to learn, document and share—join us! ■

## In Memoriam—Patricia Foster Heyser



Patricia (Patty) Heyser, a long-time member and supporter of the Alpine Historical Society, passed away on July 7, 2009, after a long battle with lymphoma. Patty was born on August 30, 1918 in San Diego. When she was a young girl, her family moved to Alpine where her parents, Gussie Smith and Clarence Foster, owned and operated the famous Log Cabin Café. The Foster and Smith families came to Alpine in the early 1900's and were very involved in the development of the settlement.

In 1940, Patty married Les Heyser and they raised their three children, Jeffrey Alan, Gregory Linden and Patricia Leslie, in Alpine and El Cajon. She is survived by her three children, eight grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and her sister, Peggy Miller.

Patty was a lovely lady and will be greatly missed by her family, friends and the community of Alpine. ■

## Alpine History Day Celebration (Continued from page 2)

was made possible by our Major Sponsor, the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians, and Major Donors Wells Fargo Bank, Albertson's and Trynn Gallery.

Bill and Joan Waterworth donated a gourmet dinner for 22 as a Silent Auction Item and raised over \$1,000 for the Society. A huge thank you goes to the Waterworths—it was an evening to remember!

This year we had 25 businesses donate Raffle Prizes—the raffle was a tremendous success! Ticket sales were wonderful—a big thanks to all!

Finally, we wish to thank school administrators, teachers, essay contest participants, donors and our wonderful volunteers for making this a very successful and enjoyable celebration of our history! ■



Vikki Coffey, Essay Contest Chair, with some of the Third Grade Winners

## Our Dedicated Volunteers—Don Walker

Many of our most dedicated volunteers are not long-time residents of Alpine. Not so for this month's special volunteer. Don is the grandson of F. B. and Bevie Walker, founders of Alpine's famous Willows Resort. So, instead of just talking about how much Don does for the Alpine Historical Society we're also going to share some memories Don has of his years at The Willows.

First, let's highlight just how much Don does for us. Don has driven the Society's float—his 1930 tractor pulling a 1927 flatbed wire-wheeled wagon—in the Viejas Day Parade for the past twelve years. Loaded with essay contest winners, the float is a sight to behold. Don reports that as the wagon fell apart through the years, his Uncle Doug would, "Take baling wire and wire it together."

Many of the farming-related artifacts, as well as Willows photos and memorabilia, that are now in the museum came to us through the generosity of Don Walker. He has contributed greatly to our collections. Don has graded the area around the museums to make walking easier. He is always willing

to help with whatever is needed. He is a gentle, pleasant man who is a joy to be around.

Recently, the two Carols (Morrison and Walker) spent the morning at Don's home and he talked about his memories of The Willows. Following are some of those memories.

Don was born on October 23, 1925, in a sanatorium in San Diego. His first home was at The Willows. A family-run enterprise, all the Walkers pitched in to help keep the resort running. All the fruits and vegetables, as well as the chickens for the famous Sunday dinners, were raised on the property. Farming was a way of life for the Walkers.

Aunt Nean was the cook. Everything she made was from scratch—and delicious. Sunday dinners included fried chicken, baked potatoes, fresh vegetables, fresh hot biscuits and a variety of pies and cakes. People drove from San Diego in their old Franklin cars—probably three hours each way—to partake of Nean's fare. Don says in the heat of the summer, he often saw Aunt Nean, a small woman barely five feet tall, pour ice water over

her head and keep right on cooking over the huge flat top cast iron stove.

Don, his sister Shirley and his cousins Betty and Sue Noble were the only children at The Willows. They pitched in too. Don recalls that they helped stringing beans, shucking corn, and shelling peas. It was a contest—the child who had the biggest pile at the end was rewarded with a hot buttered biscuit. Strangely, each time the winner was a different child, so everyone got a reward.

Viejas Creek was created by the flood of 1926, and the Willows youngsters enjoyed playing in it (photo, bottom left).

Don left the Willows for many years, but he and "the love of my life, Maxine" returned built their fourth home, South Willows Ranch, in 1979. After sixty years of marriage, Maxine passed away in 2005. Don continues to be surrounded by the love of his three surviving children.

Don Walker is truly one of Alpine's finest. More stories of his memories will be placed on our website soon—stay tuned! Thank you, Don, for all you do! ■



**Don Walker**

*Our museums are open the last Saturday and Sunday of each month between the hours of 2 and 4 p.m. Stop by and see the recent changes!*



**Don Walker, Shirley Walker and Betty Noble playing in Viejas Creek**

*"I don't regret anything I ever did."  
...Don Walker,  
July 2009  
How many of us can say that?*



**Don's present home, South Willows Ranch, designed by Maxine**

## Early Alpine Families and the Log Cabin Café *(Continued from page 3)*

Dr. Nugent's eldest daughter Rhoda married Captain George Brabazon in 1886. Their son, Montague Brabazon married Edwina Smith in 1916. Gussie Smith and Clarence Foster were married in 1917. Each of these families played important roles in Alpine's history.

Today we'll highlight some of Patty Heyser's tales of the Log Cabin Café, the business purchased by Patty's grandparents Warren and Emma Foster. We'll tell more about the Brabazon Winery, the Nugents and Deer Springs Ranch in later articles.

Charles Sherman and his wife Murrilla had two acres in Alpine and a dream to go into business. They had an old streetcar, minus its heavy wheels, hauled up to Alpine and placed near the site where the Alpine Inn now stands. The Sherman's turned the old streetcar into a convenience store for tourists—selling ice cream, soda pop and sandwiches.

When the Fosters bought the streetcar business in the early 1920's, they began making improvements. The outside of the building was covered with split logs and it soon became known as the Log Cabin Café.

Two red gasoline pumps were installed in front of the café and the Fosters sold Standard Oil's Red Crown Gasoline. The business thrived. In time, Warren and Emma offered

a partnership to their son and daughter-in-law and, in 1927, Clarence, Gussie, and their children Patty and Peggy moved to Alpine.

Clarence and Warren continued to add to the café. A dining room was needed; however, there was a huge old oak tree right in the path of the planned construction. Not to be deterred, the Foster men built around it allowing a large branch to come through the side wall and grow out of the ceiling. Years later, the gorilla, which now resides in a tree outside our museum, was placed on the roof in the tree. The dining room accommodated about thirty patrons and, on the back wall, there were three tiny booths enclosed with a draw drape for privacy. Two

tree stumps served as chairs and the Log Cabin became a very popular place for young couples.

A portion of the two acre parcel had previously been owned by Captain Harry Parks, a Civil War Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient. Captain Parks lived in a very small house which the Fosters called The Doll House. The home had two bedrooms, two tiny built-in closets, a kitchen that could accommodate only one person, and a breakfast nook which had side benches that would seat a maximum of four people. Clarence's family readily accepted this as a good place to live. Warren and Clarence built rental homes on the two acres—one two bedroom log cabin, two smaller cottages and four tiny one-

room cabins. All were covered with split logs. Clarence's family eventually moved into the largest of the cabins.

All of the Fosters worked long hours running the café. They opened at 6 a.m. for breakfast and closed at 9 or 10 p.m. Clarence learned from his mother how to make luscious pies—apple, cherry, blueberry, loganberry, gooseberry, mince and pumpkin. Pie sold for ten cents a slice—fifteen cents for pie a la mode! In the early days, nine-year-old Patty took care of her one-year-old sister Peggy while their parents worked in the café. It was a luxury when the family had dinner together at home while Warren and Emma manned the café.

Patty Heyser had a wealth of wonderful stories about life and work in the Log Cabin Café—owned by her family until 1946, then sold to Barney and Agnes Ratliff who ran it for another twenty-four years.

The well is now covered with sidewalk, the gas pumps are long gone, no oak tree is growing through the dining room roof, but the Alpine Inn now stands near the spot where once folks were greeted with a friendly smile, delicious food and courteous service. The Log Cabin Café and these early Alpine families—a vital part of our community's history. ■



**Alpine's Log Cabin Café**



**The Doll House**

## A Gala Evening at the Waterworth's Home

For the second year in a row, the generosity of Bill and Joan Waterworth has proved to be extremely lucrative for the Alpine Historical Society.

Bill and Joan offered to host a gourmet dinner at their home for the top twenty-two bidders at the Alpine History Day Celebration Silent Auction. The minimum bid was \$35. The bidding ended and the dinner resulted in over \$1,000 for the Society! Several attendees bid on several



**Barbara Hendrix, Bill and Joan**

places—Gretchen Calabrese and Dan Heald bid on seven and Katherine Robles made a significant contribution to the Society.

Bill and Joan generously donated the food for the evening as well as their home—a lovely setting for such an event. Three tables were beautifully set for all to enjoy.

Barbara Hendrix, her son Laurence and granddaughter Allison graciously volunteered to help Bill and Joan with the preparation and serving of the meal. The Hendrix family also made

the delicious shrimp cocktail, one of the appetizers. Bill told all that Joan and he couldn't have done it without the Hendrix family!

The dinner consisted of appetizers, soup, salad, entrée and dessert—each course a culinary and visual delight. No one left hungry and all in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the Waterworth's easy hospitality.

Bill and Joan, you are wonderful. Thank you so much for this major contribution. ■



**From left: Tom Hill, Pat Cannon, Yolaine Stout, Carol and Paul Walker, Katherine Robles, Elma Terry and Ann Hill enjoy the evening's fare**



**Allison and Joan are busy preparing the food—the organization in the kitchen was as amazing as the food was delicious—so beautifully presented**

## Name the Dinosaur/New Children's History Book



**Kylee Schwenck holds certificate awarded by author Carlette Anderson**

Alpine resident Carlette Anderson set out, over two years ago, to write a book on Alpine history suited to the needs of children—specifically third graders who study local history as part of their curriculum.

The book, *My Alpine*, was recently published and is available at the Alpine Albertson's and from Carlette by sending an e-mail to [myalpinehistory@aol.com](mailto:myalpinehistory@aol.com).

As part of the promotion for the book, Carlette held a "Name the Dinosaur" contest. Kylee Schwenck submitted the name

"Arnoldasaurus" and was the winner of the contest. Congratulations, Kylee! Arnoldasaurus and a group of Alpine children are pictured on the cover of Carlette's new book.

Carlette serves on the Board of the Alpine Historical Society and, because she was allowed access to Historical Society files and photos, she is donating a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the books to the Society.

Check out our local author's *My Alpine*—it makes a great gift for the child in your life. ■

**Exciting news!**  
**The Alpine Historical Society has been granted \$7,000 through the San Diego County's 2009-2010 Community Enhancement Program.**

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Areas of Interest for Volunteers:

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Please complete this form and include your check payable to the Alpine Historical Society, a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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SOCIETY

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