

TATTERED TIDBITS

ALPINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 7, Issue 1

Carol Walker, Editor

January 2013

Upcoming events:

- February 17th—Quarterly Pot Luck Meeting
- April 21st—Quarterly Pot Luck Meeting
- June 1st—Alpine History Day Museum Open House:
- February 23rd & 24th
- March 30th & 31st
- April 27th & 28th
- May 25th & 26th

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President’s Annual Report

As yet another year came to an end, I paused to reflect on events and, once again, on the accomplishments the Alpine Historical Society made. My sincere thanks to all the dedicated volunteers who spend many hours ensuring that the history of Alpine is preserved.

The following is a list of some Society activities for 2012:

- Quarterly potluck meetings were held with a variety of speakers offering valuable information about our history.

- The third grade essay contest was held with all local elementary schools participating.

- The Alpine History Day Celebration was held in June with music, lunch and events.

- The Society’s pioneer houses were open monthly and docents were available to provide information to interested visitors.

- A new display was created in Dr. Sophronia Nichols’ carriage house—a space *(continued on page 2)*



Carol Morrison

U.S.S. Midway Museum—on the Docket for February

The quarterly potluck meeting of the Alpine Historical Society will feature a docent from the U. S. S. Midway Museum. The museum, an important part of San Diego history will

surely be an informative and interesting topic.

The meeting will be held on Sunday, February 17th, at 1:00 p.m. at the Alpine

Woman’s Club, 2156 Alpine Boulevard. Plan to attend the luncheon, or come only for the speaker at 2:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. *(continued on page 2)*



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE IN JANUARY
 Please mail the enclosed renewal envelope and your check today. Your contribution will play a vital role in preserving a very special part of East County History. The plans for 2013 are exciting—make sure you’re a part of them. Please spread the word—you can make a difference.

President's Annual Report *(continued from page 1)*

previously used only for storage. The display was open for the first time at the Alpine History Day Celebration.

- A Community Enhancement Grant from San Diego County was applied for and received.
- Many interesting and valuable artifacts were added to the museum collection.
- The ALPS Award Ceremony and other Alpine Chamber of Commerce activities were attended.

- Communication continued to be expanded through the website, newspaper articles and the newsletter.

- The winners of the essay contest rode in the Viejas Day Parade along with Don Walker and me.

- School, individual and group tours of the Alpine Historical Society's museums were conducted.

- Monthly meetings of the Board of Directors were held to make plans for the future.

- Time was spent with descendants of Dr. Sophronia Nichols to document the doctor's contributions to history.

- A display was created for the First Annual Honey Festival, held at Christ the King Church, including a replica of John Harbison's California Hive and bee-keeping equipment and information.

- Research projects included the Alpine Cemetery, Veteran's of Foreign Wars and providing infor-

mation to Corinne Lewis of Alpine Elementary School and Lonnie Brooks who are working on a book.

Once again, the volunteers and the donors who unfailingly support the Society make these things happen. Thanks to each of you for your dedication, support and commitment to our community.

I wish all of you a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year and hope to see you at an upcoming Historical Society Event. ■

U.S.S. Midway Museum—on the Docket for February *(continued from page 1)*

Please R.S.V.P. to Carol Morrison at 619-445-2544 or e-mail us at info@alpinehistory.org. Feel free to invite any interested friends to attend what promises to be a very memorable event.

The U.S.S. Midway Museum is an unforgettable adventure for the entire family. It feels like you are at sea without even leaving port! There are more than sixty exhibits and a collection of twenty-seven re-

stored aircraft. The museum is located in downtown San Diego near Seaport Village and is a must for visitors and residents alike.

Adjacent to the museum, site preparation is underway to commemorate the most famous kiss of World War II. Formally called "Unconditional Surrender," the permanent 25-

foot sculpture has been cast and is awaiting preparation of the site next to the museum.



The Midway worked with the Port of San Diego to secure design approval and permits. The plan calls for a textured hardscaped plaza surrounding the sculpture, benches, new landscaping, featuring Japanese friendship cherry

trees, and night lighting. The entire one million dollar project, including the cost of the sculpture, has been funded by community donations.

It is hoped an unveiling celebration of "The Kiss" will take place on Saturday, February 16.

We hope to see you on February 17th for this informative program—the Midway Museum is important for those who love history. ■



How Much Can a Dollar Buy?—Looking Back *(Tattered Tidbits No. 8, 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 the University of California, Berkeley.

Good land was worth about a thousand dollars or pesos a league, which works out to twenty-three cents an acre. Viejas went 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 two dollars a head. Or maybe a choice stallion for five to ten dollars.

Cattle varied from two dollars to five dollars a head. Bull calves brought one dollar and fifty cents. Hogs went for fifty cents. Un-

branded 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.



“How about a new 1935 Buick Straight-Eight Sport Coupe for \$855?”

A barrel of brandy set you back fifty dollars. People paid mostly in hides and tallow or otter skins to the ships in the port because pesos were scarce. You could get about two dollars for a good cowhide or twenty-five pounds of tallow. Wine was less costly at sixteen to twenty-five dollars a barrel. These barrels were small wooden ones of eighteen and one half gallons. Madera was popular.

All of San Bernardino sold for one thousand dollars and was

considered a frontier rancho of Christian civilization. Rancheros like Bandini at Rancho Jamul sold out because of Indian predation.

Our own Cockney Bill of Rancho Volcan won the respect of his Indian neighbors and got along well with them. Lassitor at Cuyamaca’s Green Valley did well, too. He hired them as a road gang and paid them with clothing and liquor. Think well of them as you drive through. Lassitor was famous for bad spelling and getting murdered in Arizona, still today a handgun-infested place.

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 run we are all dead.” So, forget the long term.

And, as my mom said, “You won’t take it with you when you go.” ■



Albert Simonson, author of the article shown above, has researched and documented much of the early history of Alpine and San Diego county. He is a valuable contributor to our archives.

Albert, who lives with his wife Bonnie in Santa Ysabel, is a former Alpine Resident and retired research engineer. He has spent much of his life probing ruins in Scandinavia, North Africa and the Andean and Mayan civilizations. Working with Alpine’s Back Country Land Trust and other local historians and archaeologists, he has compiled a vast array of information. Albert has the unique ability to paint a picture of historical figures with his words.

The Alpine Historical Society, with Albert’s permission, “borrowed” his “Tattered Tidbits” title for its newsletter and the monthly columns that appear in *The Alpine Sun Shopper*. The name just seemed to perfect to resist. Thank you, Albert!

Albert has submitted several additional articles that are being added to the Historical Research portion of our website—look for more information coming soon. ■

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Your Will Can Make a Difference

Including the **Alpine Historical Society** in your will can be a convenient way to leave a lasting legacy to your community. The development of **Heritage Park**, educational programs and preservation of the history of **Alpine** will be made possible by people who had the foresight to include the **Alpine Historical Society** in their estate plan.

After providing for loved ones, your will can carry out your wishes by directing that a gift be made in one, or a combination of, the following ways: a specific dollar amount, a percentage of an estate, the remainder of an estate.

Bequests should read as follows: "I bequeath to the **Alpine Historical and Conservation Society** (our legal name), _____, to be used for the support of the **Society's** programs."

The **Society** is available to consult with your attorney about the best way to use your will, living will, trust, insurance policy or other estate plan to help develop and maintain the historic resources in **Alpine**. Your attorney can provide you with details about the estate benefits that can result from your bequest.

If you have already included the **Society** in your estate plan, please let us know so that we may thank you. Your gift will make a difference to your community!■