

TATTERED TIDBITS

ALPINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 8, Issue 2

Carol Walker, Editor

March 2014

Upcoming events:

- April 13th—
Quarterly Meeting and Potluck Luncheon
- June 7th—Alpine History Day Celebration

Open House at the Museum:

- March 29th & 30th
- April 26th & 27th
- May 24th & 25th

Inside this issue:

- | | |
|--|---|
| February Meeting Honors Justin Gruelle | 2 |
| Thanks to Donors and Members | 2 |
| Alpine Fire Safety Council Rebate | 2 |
| Buggy Restoration Project | 3 |
| W.A.S.P. Congressional Gold Medal | 4 |
| Alpine History Day Plans | 5 |

ALPINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 382
ALPINE, CA 91903-0382

W.A.S.P. Jean Landis Will Soar at April Meeting

The quarterly potluck meeting of the Alpine Historical Society will be held at 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 13th at the Alpine Woman's Club, 2156 Alpine Boulevard.

The guest speaker for this event will be Jean Landis, one of the 1,074 Women's Airforce Service Pilots (W.A.S.P.) who flew many different types of aircraft during World War II. Jean will

share her love of flying and tell of her many experiences as a woman serving as a pilot in times so different for women than exist today.

Jean was stationed in Long Beach and was assigned to the Ferrying Division. While there she flew only P-51s—at the time, the newest fighter plane, which was flown all over the United States, but mostly to New Jersey where they were prepared for shipping overseas. A woman piloting a fighter plane in those days drew startled reactions!



Plan to attend the potluck luncheon or come only for the speaker at 2:00 p.m.. Please R.S.V.P. by calling Carol Morrison at (619)



Above: Jean Landis and her plane Left: A Mustang P-51

445-2544 or e-mailing info@alpinehistory.org. Spread the word and invite your friends—everyone is welcome to attend. ■

February Meeting Honors Alpine Artist Justin Gruelle

(See story, page 2)



From left: Justin Gruelle's granddaughter, Melinda Roth, his nephew Bill Smart and Bill's wife Diane.



Board Member Jill Sing receives certificate of recognition from a representative for Senator Joel Anderson. Certificates were presented to all members of the Board.

February Meeting Honors Alpine Artist Justin Gruelle (See Photos, Page 1)

Bill and Diane Smart traveled from their home in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to attend the February meeting of the Alpine Historical Society. Bill is the nephew of Justin Gruelle, Alpine's most famous artist. Bill is a marvelous speaker and entertained those in attendance with memories of his uncle, time spent in Alpine, and work done to preserve Gruelle's legacy. It was truly a memorable event.

Melinda Roth, granddaughter of Justin and Mabel Gruelle, also attended the luncheon meeting and brought several excellent



Miss Muffet and Simple Simon—Illustration by Justin Gruelle from *A Mother Goose Parade*

examples of her grandfather's work, including a portrait of his mother in a beautifully carved frame, one of Melinda at about age two, and a Christmas Card

he painted for his wife Mabel that featured the characters from his book, *A Mother Goose Parade*.

Bill updated Society mem-

bers on the whereabouts of the famous Early Birds mural—it now is on display at the Museum of Flight in Seattle, Washington.

Bill takes credit for his uncle settling in Alpine. In 1946, serving in the Navy, a friend dropped Bill off on Victoria Drive in Alpine. Bill was impressed. So...when his aunt and uncle decided to move to the San Diego area, he mentioned Alpine to them.

Thanks to Bill, Diane and Melinda for making this a very special event. ■

Thanks to Donors and New and Renewing Members

Sincere thanks to Jeanne Gregory for her recent donations which included, among other things, an 1874 deed between Adam Beaty and the Foss Family and several other important Foss Family documents, articles from 1969 and 1970 newspapers and several historic articles from local papers, and a 1952 La Force history book.

Thanks also to Jacquie Tucker for her donation of American history books and historic stamps and to Marcie Berry for old books.

Thanks go to the following who made monetary donations to the Society: LeRoy and Willa Athey, Barbara Cater, Vikki Coffey, Gerald Dobbs, Shirley Dyer, David and Lori Fountain, Ann Hill, Corky and Vera Jones,

Mary McBride, Louise Phipps, John and Ann Pierce, Jill Sing, Anne Tarr, Janis Vanderford and Roy Williams.

Thank you to Tom and Judy Myers for their life membership support and welcome to new members Kathy Bartonicek, Marilyn and Marc Fox and Bill and Diane Smart and to new business member Hults

Bookkeeping and Tax Service. We're so glad you joined our group. Thanks to the following who renewed their membership in the Society: George and Joan Anderson, Russ and Dawn August, Franklin Ball, Bob and Sharon Beale, Alice Becker, Suzanne Broderick, Colin and Janice Campbell, Barbara Cater, Trisha Cates, Vikki Coffey, (continued on page 3)



On July 29, 2013, a large eucalyptus tree that was deemed unsafe by an arborist in addition to being positioned too close to the Beaty House had to be removed. The cost for the removal exceeded \$3,000.

Recently, the Historical Society received \$1,500 from the Greater Alpine Fire Safety Council from the Defensible Space Rebate Program—reimbursing nearly 50% of the cost of the removal.

**Thank you,
Greater Alpine Fire Safety Council!**



Buggy Restoration Project

The restoration of the historic buggy, donated to the Alpine Historical Society by Don Walker early in 2013, is well underway. The buggy was used at the famous Willows Resort in Alpine many years ago and has a long history with the Walker Family.

The Buggy Restoration team consists of volunteers Norm Kling, Ed Morrison, Bill Waterworth and Tom Myers. Norm has many years experience restoring Model T Fords. Ed is skilled in woodworking projects and furniture repair. Bill has interest and experience in a wide range of repair and restoration projects. Tom has experience with exhibits as well as preservation, restoration and storage of museum artifacts. Tom reports all

members of the team excel at odd jobs.

As of February, the following tasks have been completed:

- Restoration of the rubber tire surface on the buggy wheels and repair of the large gaps caused by wood shrinkage on the wheel hubs.
- Disassembly of the top section of the buggy from the canopy top down to the support springs.
- Photo documentation of all pin-striping that could be identified on remaining painted surfaces.
- Determination of closest match to original paint colors.
- Removal of paint from

the wheels and the start of filling wood cracks and sanding to prepare the wheels for painting.

- Removal of the upholstery padding and paint from the seat back and sides.
- Scraping and paint removal from the main body of the carriage above the undercarriage has begun.

To date, the following costs have been incurred and were paid from the estimated \$3,200 in donations received for the buggy project.

- Wheelwright work on wheels—\$600.
- Materials for paint removal, wood preparation and black paint—\$105.

A meeting was held with Lyle Fisk, a painter in La Mesa. Mr. Fisk is highly recommended and may do the pin striping if sufficient funds are available. Pin striping will be one of the last things done on the buggy; however, it will have to be done prior to reassembling the buggy.

Armon Tuberg, of Ramona, was approached about doing the upholstery and fabric roof top. Mr. Tuberg is very busy working on classic and antique vehicles, but will work with the Society interspersing the buggy work with other jobs. His estimated cost is \$2,000.

A huge THANK YOU to this amazing group of volunteers for sharing their expertise and for all their hard work. ■



Left:
Bill and Ed

Right:
Bill and Norm



Thanks to Donors and New and Renewing Members *(continued from page 2)*

Alan Dadisman, James and Rita David, Charles and Charlene Day, Gerald Dobbs, Shirley Dyer, David and Lori Fountain, Mary Fritz, Lisa Herman, James Hinds, Hitech Screen Science Co., Bernice Horan,

Chik Hylton, Corky and Vera Jones, Norm and Dolores Kling, George Landt, Judy Matlock, Ron and Carol Matzenauer, Gary Mitrovich, James and Cheryl Minshew, Lori Mitrovich, Tom and Judy Myers,

Louise Phipps, John and Ann Pierce, Bob and Beverly Ring, Yvonne Sanchez, Kenneth Schulte, Jill Sing, Margaret Smith, Scarlett Spencer, Anne Tarr, Elma Terry, Janis Vanderford, Susan Walter, Roy Wil-

liams, Stan Wilson, and Genna Yoder.

Thanks again to all these supporters—their contributions help us continue to preserve Alpine's history and are very much appreciated. ■

W.A.S.P. Congressional Gold Medal Awarded in 2010

In recognition of their heroic service over sixty-plus years ago, the Congressional Gold Medal was given to Women Airforce Service Pilots (W.A.S.P.) of World War II on March 10, 2010, at a ceremony held in Emancipation Hall at the Capitol Visitor Center in Washington, D.C.

During a time of national crisis, thousands of women answered their nation's call and volunteered for duty as



Women Airforce Service Pilots Congressional Gold Medal
The medal features the portrait of a W.A.S.P. in flight headgear with three other W.A.S.P.s in period uniforms with an airborne AT-6 in the background.

pilots for the United States Army Air Force. However, unlike their male counterparts, these women were never considered members of the military and always held civilian status.

Their story is long and eventful but really starts in the months before the United States' entrance into World War II. Seeing a need for qualified pilots, two prominent individuals submitted plans for women in *(continued on page 5)*



Jean Landis rests on her cot—Avenger Field, 1943.

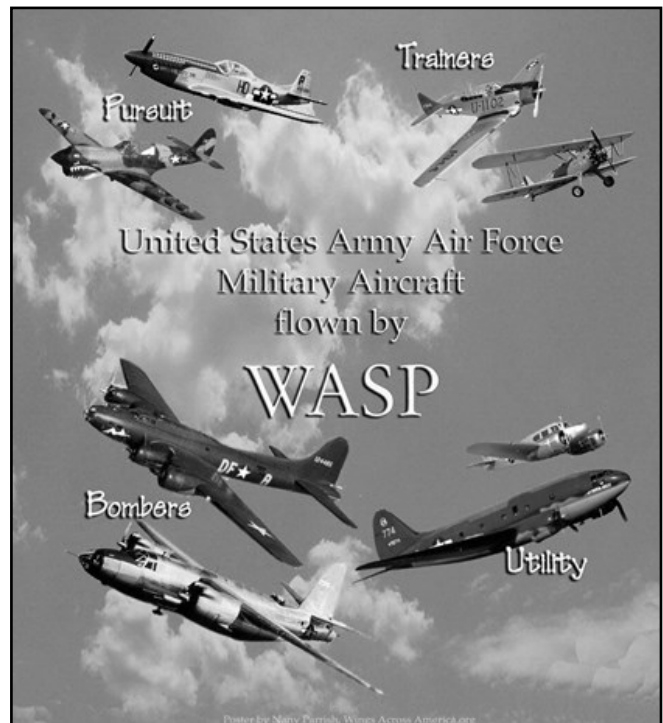


Jean climbing in with fellow W.A.S.P. Flora Belle Smith Reese—Women of Courage Event, 2010.



Top Left:
Jean Landis in uniform.

Bottom Left:
W.A.S.P. Wings worn by 1,074 women during WWII (out of 25,000 who applied and 1,830 who were accepted) who successfully completed the Women Airforce Service Pilot training program.



W.A.S.P. Congressional Gold Medal Awarded in 2010 *(Continued from page 4)*

non-combat aerial missions to the military, both of which were dismissed. However, following Pearl Harbor, the merits of their ideas came to light again and two separate organizations were created, the Women's Auxiliary Ferry Squadron (W.A.F.S.) and the Women's Flying Training Detachment (W.F.T.D.). In less than a year after their creation, the two organizations were melded into one which was called the Women Airforce Service Pilots.

Over 25,000 women applied to be a W.A.S.P. during its duration with 1,074 succeeding in completing the requirements of the program. All of the individuals were already qualified commercial pilots but participated in at least four months of military training for the paperwork and flight maneuvers the Army Air Force required of them.

The women were stationed at over one hundred air bases where they served non-combat missions such

as flying new planes from their factory to embarkation locations and towing targets for gunnery practice. These were all duties which freed up their male counterparts for combat missions.

Throughout the life of the program, over sixty million miles were flown under the program resulting in 12,650 aircraft of 78 different types being delivered to their desired locations. Thirty-eight W.A.S.P. lives were lost, eleven in training and twenty-seven on active duty.

The government classified materials related to the program shortly after the end of the War and no recognition was given to W.A.S.P. members until 1977 when they were given veteran status.

In 1984, each was awarded the World War II Victory Medal and those who served more than one year were also given the American Theater Ribbon/American Campaign Medal. *(Source: www.coinnews.net)* ■

Alpine History Day Celebration Plans in Progress



Bryon Harrington's Gang

Plans are underway for a different and exciting Alpine History Day Celebration to be held on June 7th at the museum.

Bryon Harrington, author of

the book *Campo, the Forgotten Gunfight*, will be on hand with some western actors to present a comedic reenactment of life in the wild west. Plans for other activities to celebrate Al-

pine's history are underway and will be announced soon.

Alpine History Day is a great way for the community to help support the Alpine

Historical Society and celebrate Alpine's history at the same time. Mark your calendar for June 7th and plan to attend this year's celebration and watch for more information coming soon. ■

CHECK OUT OUR RECENT WEBSITE ADDITIONS

Website address: www.alpinehistory.org

Historical Research Page—Newspapers/Articles—Scanned Newspapers

Select editions of the following local newspapers are now available on the website:

Alpine Echo—1958—1964

Alpine Echo and Sun—1965

Lakeside News and Thrifty Shopper—1966

Town and Country News—1963—1967

(NOTE: If you are looking for a particular subject, files can be searched. Please send an email to info@alpinehistory.org to request a search. Some files are very large and take longer to load—please be patient!)

Suggestions for the website are welcomed and may be sent to webmaster Carol Walker at cwalker@alpinehistory.org.

Alpine Historical Society
P. O. Box 382
Alpine, CA 91903-0382

Address Service Requested

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EL CAJON, CA
92020
PERMIT NO. 349

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Date _____
Address/City/Zip _____
Phone _____ Fax _____
E-mail _____

Send notices via: E-mail _____ Fax _____ U.S. Mail _____

Membership Category (Please check one):

Student \$5 Family \$35 Business \$50
 Senior \$15 Nonprofit Org. \$30 Business Life \$1,000
 Individual \$25 Life \$500

Amount Enclosed:

Membership \$ _____
Donation \$ _____
TOTAL \$ _____

Areas of Interest for Volunteers:

Building Preservation
 Technical/Clerical
 Where Needed

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

ALPINE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

2116 Tavern Road
P. O. Box 382
Alpine, CA 91903-0382

Phone: 619-659-8740
E-mail: info@alpinehistory.org

We're on the Web!
www.alpinehistory.org