

# TATTERED TIDBITS

ALPINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 2, Issue 4

October 2008

## Upcoming events:

- October 4—Viejas Day Parade
- October 19—Annual Italian Feast—note time change!
- December 7—Alpine Woman's Club Holiday Home Tour

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ALPINE  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY  
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## ANNUAL ITALIAN FEAST—OCTOBER 19<sup>th</sup>

This year's Italian Feast will have a new and wonderful twist. Prior to the feast, at 5:00 p.m., Beatrice La Force's play, *Alpine's Mister Arnold*, a Reader's Theater presentation, will be performed by students from Shadow Hills Elementary School. Reader's Theater is a dramatic presentation of a written work in a script form. Approximately seven of Michelle Hause's third grade students will be the stars of the show.

The late Beatrice La Force, Alpine's historian and author of *Alpine, History of a Mountain Settlement*, wrote this play about Alpine's benefactor Benjamin R. Arnold, around 1960. It has been performed many times throughout the years to the delight of all who see it

Our thanks go out to Miss

Hause for working with the students and to Vikki Coffey for coordinating this event.

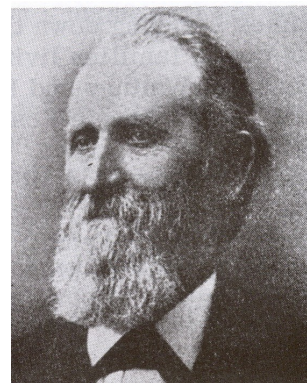
Following the play, the Alpine Historical Society Board will serve an Italian Feast. The dinner will include hot Italian dishes, bread, salad, luscious desserts and a drink. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children.

This event is one of our largest fundraisers, so spread the word and invite all your friends and family. This will be an enjoyable night for everyone.

The Italian Feast will be held on Sunday, October 19th, at the Alpine Woman's Club, 2156 Alpine Boulevard. The play will begin at 5:00 p.m. and the meal will be served immediately thereafter at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Please R.S.V.P. to Carol Morrison at 445-2544 or e-mail us at [info@alpinehistory.org](mailto:info@alpinehistory.org) if you plan to attend. We want to be sure to have enough food for everyone!

This is truly an event you won't want to miss and a great way to support our efforts to preserve the history of our beautiful Alpine! ■



Benjamin R. Arnold

## MISTER ARNOLD'S MANY CONTRIBUTIONS

Researched by Barbara Cater

Benjamin Arnold was born in Kent County, Rhode Island, on September 22, 1822 and married Harriet Miller Leonard on December 12, 1843. In 1889, Mr. Arnold visited Alpine, liked it for its health benefits which improved his asthma condition, and soon purchased property. He built a large home named "Los Robles"

in Alpine and he and his wife divided their time between their homes in Alpine and San Diego.

Among the public buildings he built were the Alpine Hotel (1890), the Alpine Center School (1890) and The Parsonage (1893). In 1899 he donated the land on Victoria Drive for The Alpine Cemetery.

Alpine's first corporation, The Hall Company, Inc., was formed with \$600 in shares sold to stockholders—Mr. Arnold donated a matching amount and the Town Hall, the village's social and political center, was built.

The Town Hall and the Parsonage stand today—a constant (Continued on Page 3)

## Some of Mr. Arnold's Buildings—two live on!



The Arnold home in Alpine, "Los Robles," was destroyed by fire. It served as a hospital for a time.



The Town Hall, 1899  
On the northwest corner of Alpine Boulevard and Victoria Drive—now the Alpine Woman's Club.



Alpine Hotel, 1890  
The hotel was located on the southwest corner of Tavern Road and Arnold Way. It was later known as Ye Alpine Tavern and burned down on September 17, 1955.



The Parsonage, 1893  
It stands today on the original site on Tavern Road just south of the Arnold Way and Tavern Road intersection. Now known as Kasitz Kastle Retirement Home.

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## Welcome New and Renewing Members and Volunteer Opportunities

Welcome to the following new members: Linda Dean, Kenneth Schulte and Peggy Jean Miller.

Thanks also to renewing member Katherine "Kay" Garrard.

A big thank you also to Kay Garrard for her recent donation.

If you haven't renewed your membership, now would

be a great time to do so! Your support will be much appreciated.

Volunteers are always welcome. Currently we're gathering items which will be used to decorate the museums for the Alpine Woman's Club Holiday Home Tour on December 7. For the second year, our houses will be a stop on the tour. We need donations of old-time Christ-

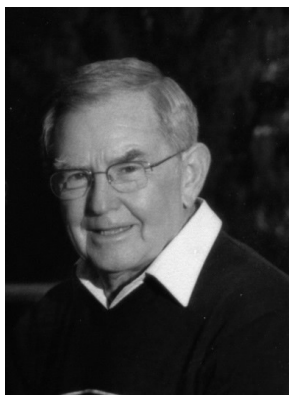
mas decor and lots of help with the decorating process. This is fun for all involved—why don't you join us?

If you have special talents you are willing to share, please contact Carol Morrison at 445-2544. We have a myriad of needs and wants, volunteers are always needed and your work will be greatly appreciated.

Let us know your specialty! ■

***Our museum houses are open the last Saturday and Sunday of each month from 2:00—4:00 p.m. Stop by and see our updated exhibits!***

## In Memoriam—Don Tarr



**Don Tarr, one of our dedicated volunteers and Secretary to the Board, passed away on August 24, 2008. Don will be greatly missed by his many friends. He was a true inspiration to all of us.**



### ALPS Award Dinner

Seated: Don's wife Anne, daughter Martha Bakkedahl and daughter-in-law Cindy Tarr. Standing: Alpine Historical Society President Carol Morrison and Don's son David Tarr.

## Don Tarr Recognized at Annual ALPS Ceremony

The Alpine Historical Society presented a Special Recognition Award to the late Don Tarr at the annual Alpine Leadership and Public Service Award (ALPS) ceremony for his demonstration of outstanding community leadership and public service. The award was accepted by Don's son, David Tarr.

In addition to serving as Secretary to the Historical

Society's Board, Don served for many years as the coordinator of the Third Grade Essay Contest and was the person behind many very special field trips. He was always willing to help in any way needed and his innovative ideas have enhanced the Society's ability to preserve our history.

The ALPS Award ceremony is an annual event spon-

sored by the Alpine and Mountain Empire Chamber of Commerce and the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians. It was held on September 11, 2008, at the Viejas Dream Catcher Lounge.

We had so hoped that Don would be able to attend this event and receive his award in person, but it was wonderful that his family was there to receive his award. ■

*Don's dedication showed until the end. He attended the August Board meeting and took the minutes while on oxygen and in a wheelchair. What grace he had!*

## Mister Arnold's Many Contributions *(Continued from Page 1)*

reminder of the significant contributions Mr. Arnold made to the Alpine community.

During the busy years of developing the settlement, Mr. Arnold made vast improvements to roads and to the stage line. He improved what was known as "the terrible road" from Lakeside and El Cajon to Alpine and added more horses, better equipment and additional stops to the

stage line.

Benjamin Rice Arnold died on August 24, 1899 at his home in San Diego of heart failure. He was buried at Mount Hope Cemetery in San Diego, California. Following the death of Mrs. Arnold, on June 11, 1903, in Rhode Island, Mr. Arnold's remains were moved to Swan Cemetery, Rhode Island, where he was buried next to his wife.

Beatrice La Force wrote, in *Alpine, History of a Mountain Settlement*:

"That he was loved by the people of the mountain settlement he had adopted is accepted, and that he loved them and their village can be assumed by what he did while here."

Mister Arnold—our benefactor—will forever be a part of Alpine's rich history. ■



Harriet Arnold

## August General Meeting Update—Sue Wheelington's Antique Clothing



Sue and Donna on stage with the collection



Sue Wheelington (right) with sisters Donna and Linda

Attendees at the August 17, 2008 quarterly meeting of the Alpine Historical Society were treated to a real treat—a display of part of Sue Wheelington's lovely antique clothing collection.

Sue has been collecting antique clothing for fifteen years. The hobby began when Sue found three children's dresses in the attic when she and her sisters were, after the death of their parents, cleaning out the family home. The dresses were believed to have been made by her grandmother and were in very poor condition. Sue's interest was instantaneous and she was, after much trial and error, able to restore the garments amazingly well.

Examples of the way garments worn by Victorian-era women were layered were shown—bloomers, panties, corset base, corset, corset cover, petticoat, bustle, hoops, etc.—hard for us in shorts and a tank top to even imagine!

A lovely example of a boy's suit and a Christening dress from the Civil War era were also presented. Elma Terry modeled her own Victorian costume and tried on accessories from Sue's collection.

Other items included a lovely wedding dress, a flapper dress and hats as well as Sue's father's World War II Eisenhower-type jacket. One of the crowd pleasers was a quilt that had been handmade—the backing of the quilt was made from feed sacks and the pig images that had been printed on the sacks were clearly visible.

Sue ended her presentation with the thought, "I like the hunt!" She has found many of her treasures at garage and estate sales right in Alpine.

Everyone seemed to truly enjoy the display. Our thanks to Sue Wheelington and her sisters Donna and Linda for a most memorable event. ■

## Board Opening

The Alpine Historical Society Board is looking for an enthusiastic person to fill a Board vacancy. If you are full of ideas and want to become involved in a very worthwhile cause, please give us a call.

The Board meets monthly, the first Thursday afternoon of each month, to discuss plans and issues relating to the Society. We become involved in all sorts of

things—planning fundraisers, grant writing and seeking, preserving the museum houses, adding to the archives and taking an active role in the community.

Our website contains lots of information that may help you decide if this important role is for you—visit us at [www.alpinehistory.org](http://www.alpinehistory.org).

Currently the position of Secretary is vacant—but if

that doesn't appeal, we have other spots that might suit your particular talents.

If you have a desire to serve, enrich your knowledge of Alpine's history, meet wonderful people and establish new friendships or enrich old friendships, please contact Carol Morrison at 445-2544. This is such a fantastic group—you won't be sorry if you take the plunge! ■



A lovely top and shoes

## Our Dedicated Volunteers: Albert Simonson

Many of the stories pertaining to Alpine history are the result of research performed by one of our most dedicated volunteers, Albert Simonson.

Albert, a former Alpine resident and retired research engineer, has spent much of his life probing ruins in Scandinavia, North Africa and the Andean and Mayan civilizations. His interests led him to find that our local area also possesses a rich cultural heritage which has gone largely unnoticed. In cooperation with Alpine's Back Country Land Trust and virtually every historian and archaeologist in the region, a vast quantity of manuscripts, maps and 19th-Century newspaper

accounts has been assembled. Simonson has given talks to various groups of professional archaeologists and historians in Monterey, Sacramento and San Diego and has donated many documents to archives in San Diego and Berkeley.

He has a way of taking historical people and events and painting a picture with words that enthralls the reader. How rich our history is as a result of Albert's work.

Born in New York City, Albert and his wife Bonnie now reside in Julian, but keep in touch with friends made during their twenty years in Alpine. Their hobby is to visit historic and

prehistoric sites in Latin America, Northern Europe and Mediterranean lands.

The Alpine Historical Society has copies of wonderful stories Albert has written about early residents of our area—"Cockney" Bill Williams, Emma Everhart, the famous Alpine murder—just to name a few. Albert has a dream—to document Alpine's lost trails and roads by creating a video tour of the area that will preserve his vision for future generations. The Society is looking for funding sources and hopes to achieve this goal in the near future.

Albert Simonson—thank you for all you do. You are truly amazing!■



**Albert Simonson**

*"Albert has a dream—to document Alpine's lost trails and roads by creating a video tour of the area that will preserve his vision for future generations."*

## Alpine Historical Society Grant Report

The Society recently learned that it has received a grant, in the amount of \$6,000, through the Community Enhancement Program.

Plans are in place to utilize these funds to reinforce the Beaty House foundation, stain the deck around the Beaty House, build a ramp to the entrance of the Nich-

ols House and repair the sagging south wall of the Nichols House.

At the September meeting of the Board, it was decided to subscribe to Grant Station, an internet-based program which provides search engines and support for grant writing endeavors. A one-year membership will be purchased at a dis-

counted rate and will primarily be used to identify available grants. Two projects that have currently been identified that potentially could be funded by grants are the archival of the Society's newspaper collection and the development of a video of the trails and roads in our area.

We'll keep you posted!■

## Around the Museum....

With fall approaching, Bill Waterworth, our Property Manager, has plans for adding to the landscaping around the museums. He has been taking starts from plants in his own beautiful yard and plans to add them to the many plants he has already added to the areas

around our pioneer houses.

In addition, Carol Morrison has other exciting news that may come to pass in the very near future. Don Walker, of the Willow's Walker family, is considering donating some farm equipment to the Society.

He and Bill Waterworth are cooking up plans for a wonderful outdoor exhibit which may be in place for the next Alpine History Day celebration in June, 2009. Keep your fingers crossed—this would be a great addition to our collection.■



Don Walker standing next to a cream separator from his uncle's dairy in Santee which now serves as a fountain by his home!

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### 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):

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$5     | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$35         | <input type="checkbox"/> Business \$50         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior \$15     | <input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit Org. \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Life \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> 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.

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