

Alpine History Mystery for October 2013 – Solved!

Our October Alpine History Mystery told us about a former San Diego streetcar that served Alpine for over 70 years beginning in 1915. But this streetcar was never used for transportation in our town. So what was its purpose? Why was this streetcar so popular even though it never operated along the streets of Alpine?

Well, when this relic of the early San Diego streetcar system was purchased and transported to Alpine by Mr. Sherman, it was parked in the center of town across the street from the general store. It was here that



Mr. Sherman set up his business to sell ice cream, soda pop and sandwiches to travelers passing through Alpine. Some say that about a third of the car seats were removed to make room for an ice box and a serving counter, but others say the food was served to customers who walked right up to the windows to receive their treats.

But this old streetcar was not to remain an ice cream & soda pop stop for long. In 1921, Warren & Emma Foster purchased the streetcar and performed a major transition. They covered the outside with split logs,



even enclosed the big oak tree leaving the top to grow through the roof of the new structure. Inside, they used real log stools at the long dining counter and they equipped a first class café kitchen.

They named their new restaurant the Log Cabin Café, and it was a welcomed stop for town folks and travelers along Highway 80 for many years. The Log Cabin Café changed owners several times over the years, but it was said that they always served good food

at a fair price. In 1987, after more than 70 years in Alpine, the former San Diego streetcar that became the Log Cabin Café was demolished and removed from Alpine forever.

Thank you for reading and solving our Alpine History Mystery for October. You can find the complete mystery story at: www.alpinehistory.org/alpine_history_mysteries.html . At this same site, you can also enjoy mysteries from prior months. We welcome your comments and questions so please send us a note to mystery@alpinehistory.org or to Alpine Historical Society, P.O. Box 382, Alpine, CA 91903-0382.