

## Alpine History Mystery for May 2013

Our mystery man was born in Indiana 124 years ago into the family of a famous American painter. The arts seemed to run in the family. His brother John was a famous writer and creator of popular children's toys that are still enjoyed today. The subject of this mystery was also a writer as well as an artist. One of his early literary works is well known in Alpine. His illustrations have been published world-wide in children's books, but he is also recognized for his watercolors and oil paintings of murals, landscapes, individual portraits and vintage aircraft. In fact, he was commissioned to paint several murals for the Works Progress Administration and from 1936 to 1939 painted several murals that were exhibited at the New York World's Fair. Later he was commissioned to create the "Early Birds" mural which was on display for several years at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC.

Our mystery man moved to Alpine in 1955 with his wife, Mabel. He had a studio in their home on Lilac Lane. It is there that he created 14 nearly life size paintings depicting the Stations of the Cross for the Queen of Angels Church in Alpine.

Perhaps you know this man - this writer, painter, and illustrator of books, cartoons and covers for sheet music. His name, artifacts from his studio and examples of his work can be found at the Alpine History Museum. Come visit to learn more about him at our next museum open house on May 25 & 26, or at the Alpine History Day on June 1. If you can't join us then, watch for our article next month when we will give you his name and present you with a new Alpine History Mystery.

