

## Alpine History Mystery for July 2013

*Here's a mystery story for the kids, enjoying summer days off from school. Almost everyone who attended 3rd grade in Alpine will know the answer or will solve the mystery with some guidance from parents. At the end of the story we'll give you some tips for finding the answer if you need help. If you already know the answer, please don't post it right away – let's give the kids time to solve the mystery.*

Oh, he was a mighty big chap. No one knows exactly when he was born, but he first appeared in Alpine in the early 1960's. He has black hair and brown eyes and his face is punctuated by bright white teeth that always look ferocious. This fellow is huge; he could be the strongest guy in town. Nobody wanted to mess with him. Just one little poke from his mighty hand would hurt like crazy. His face was not kind, and it looked as if he wanted to growl at everyone he met.

But it was all for show. He was not mean; he was actually a very quiet fellow. And he grew attached to the community and those who were brave enough to get to know him. His earliest hang-out was at the old Log Cabin Café. You could find him there every morning at breakfast time and he stayed all day until they closed up in the evening. He was not really a security guard, but he did, in a way, keep a watchful eye on everything that went on at the Log Cabin. You see, he didn't have a real home like you. He actually preferred to live outdoors – just give him a nice comfortable tree and he thought he was in paradise.

Eventually, when the Log Cabin restaurant was torn down, he found himself with no place to go. It was then that Mike McCall offered him a place to stay. But, he was accustomed to living outside, so living in a real house wouldn't have suited him. Maybe that's because his head would go through the ceiling if he stood up too fast! (Did I mention that he was BIG?) So, the McCall family let him stay their barn, and that's where he stayed for 13 years. But, he missed living in his comfortable tree.

Then in the year 2000, Brian McCall, Mike's brother, asked if this big chap could live at the Alpine History Museum. Because he is such a historical figure in Alpine, the museum said YES. He provides a kind of security for the museum, watching all that goes on there. And even though he is ferocious looking, he's really very gentle. In 2010, the museum staff discovered that he had a foot problem, and he had to have surgery. But that didn't hurt him a bit. He didn't cry or scream or even whimper, because he was tough and strong.

Do you know that he still lives there today – almost 50 years after he first came to Alpine? But he doesn't live in the Nichols' house or the Beaty house, or even in the Carriage house. No, this chap lives in one of the eucalyptus trees in the parking lot, watching all that happens at the Alpine History Museum. Do you know the name of this ferocious looking, but quiet & gentle giant? Ask your parents to bring you to the museum open house on July 27 or 28 to answer the question or solve the mystery. You can also find the answer in [My Alpine](#) by Carlette Anderson. We have a special ice cream treat for kids of every age who can give us the name of this gentle giant – as long as your parents say it's OK.

The Alpine History Museum is located at 2116 Tavern Road in Alpine. The museum is open this month on July 27 & 28 from 2:00 until 4:00 pm. Please join us to solve the mystery of this gentle giant's name.