

THE ALPINE SUN SHOPPER – January 8, 2009
Tattered Tidbits: Alpine Historical Society

DID YOU KNOW THERE IS A DINOSAUR IN ALPINE?

On August 5, 1962 Dinosaur Land opened in downtown Alpine to a large crowd. According to Beatrice La Force, "Dinosaur Land was going to be a pre-history museum and an entertainment park." There were ten full scale dinosaurs and a restaurant decorated like a cave.

The restaurant is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Silver, owners of the Alpine Mobile Home Estates Park. Mrs. Silver told me when they first bought the property in 1975 they renovated the house. Inside the walls they discovered remnants of materials that looked like a cave.

Unfortunately, after only two years in operation Dinosaur Land closed. People were stopping in Alpine for gas and food but not enough people were visiting Dinosaur Land.

Some of the dinosaurs were removed and some were left behind. Due to the weather the dinosaurs that were left behind deteriorated. This last dinosaur had a real problem. His head fell off and his body was in very bad shape. Mrs. Silver's son, Adrian Kruso, came to his rescue. With his brother and his good friend Effrum they reconstructed the dinosaur. He is the only remaining dinosaur.

We think this dinosaur is a brontosaurus. They are among the largest land animals that ever lived and could grow to 80 feet long. Brontosaurus is known for its very long neck. It eats foliage off trees and shrubs. They lived in the Jurassic Period about 150 millions years ago.

I am writing a book about the history of Alpine for children called, "My Alpine." I will be using the photo of this dinosaur for the front cover. There are hardly any photos of Dinosaur Land. If you have any photos or know someone who does would you be so kind and let me know?

We would like to name this dinosaur. You can enter the Name the Dinosaur Contest if you are 12 years of age or younger. The winner will have their name included in my book with the dinosaur's name. The winner will also receive a signed copy of my book plus a gift certificate to Boomers Amusement Center in El Cajon. Deadline is January 17th. Be sure to include your name, age, address and telephone number. You can email your name to myalpinehistory@aol.com, mail it to Name the Dinosaur Contest P.O. Box 231, Alpine CA 91903 or go to our local Albertsons and drop your name off in the box at the front of the store. For each entry Albertsons will give you a miniature dinosaur. The winner will be announced in the Alpine Sun.

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A group of men move one of the Dinosaur Land creatures.