

*THE ALPINE SUN SHOPPER – April 2, 2009*  
*Tattered Tidbits: Alpine Historical Society*

**HISTORY OF THE ALPINE COMMUNITY CENTER**

On April 4, 1950, San Diego attorney and local resident, Charles Crouch met with other residents to start a Youth Center in Alpine. A fundraising program was initiated. Mary Doerr was also involved from the very beginning. She was known as the, “Mother of the Youth Center.” There were so many people involved. It would be impossible to name them all. Many fund raisers were held with a lot of support from the residents and local organizations.

Before the Youth Center, Bailey’s Café was the only place in Alpine where teens could hang out. Carmen Lewis, the owner, would play records and serve food for the teens. Today, Bailey’s Café is Al Pancho’s Mexican Restaurant.

Elmer Otto donated seven and a half acres of land for the Youth Center. Fred Rushing, who owned Alpine Grading and Equipment Rental, did the grading to prepare the land for the building.

The Kiwanis Club put in a ball field. They named it Otto Field after Mr. Otto. A few years later two tennis courts were added.

In 1951 an old army barracks from Camp Lockett, in Campo, was moved onto the property. Throughout the years that building was added onto. They ended up with a total of seven buildings. The Alpine Academy will be moving into those buildings in the fall of 2009.

In 1975 they started the child care program and in 1981 they started a program for the seniors. When Yvonne Young Garrett became the director of the Center in 1984, she started an after school latchkey program for children.

As Alpine grew the community needed more space for activities. A fundraising campaign was started in 1991. Jim Hobbs, Ron Littlefield, and others worked on getting a loan. Ron was in banking and secured a very low agricultural loan for the Community Center. It took six to seven years to get the building constructed.

On July 16, 1998, the new Community Center opened. It is much larger than the old building. The new building has a huge kitchen and facilities for weddings, parties, dances, and all kinds of events. During the week they offer a variety of different activities: lunch for seniors; exercise classes; tennis and guitar lessons; and many other programs for all age groups. Throughout the years, there have been hundreds of volunteers helping

with fund raising events to help with the operating expenses. Sue Hobbs was instrumental in starting “Christmas Calling.” That is a formal dinner and dance that brings in several thousand dollars each year.

In February 1996, the Alpine Community Center Auxiliary was formed. These ladies promote

and support the Alpine Community Center through fundraising and service programs. They have sponsored Christmas Calling, the Silver Tea, and Breakfast with Santa.

The Community Center is a nonprofit organization and depends totally on the support and donations from Alpine residents. Each year the Community Center has a membership drive. They ask everyone in Alpine to become a member to help support their programs. If we each do a little bit great things can be accomplished. Are you a member?

*Carlette Anderson and her husband JC have lived in Alpine for 16 years. She is the founder of Save-A-Heart "The CPR Pros, past president of the Alpine Historical Society and author a "My Alpine." You can email Ms. Anderson at [myalpinehistory@aol.com](mailto:myalpinehistory@aol.com)*