

THE ALPINE SUN SHOPPER – October 1, 2009
Tattered Tidbits: Alpine Historical Society

WHO WAS JOAN MAC QUEEN?

Joan MacQueen was born in Denver, Colorado in 1914. Her family moved to Los Angeles when she was a young girl. She worked her way through school and graduated from UCLA in 1938. She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, a National Honor Society.

After Joan married, she and her husband moved to El Cajon. In 1966 she started teaching in Alpine. In 1974 she was appointed principal of the Chapparal Middle School which was located in Harbison Canyon. She retired in 1979, but due to a vacancy, she returned as an interim principal during the spring semester of 1982.

During her years as principal she was the first to arrive in the morning and usually the last to leave in the evening. She would counsel with students and staff and talk on the phone with parents and community leaders. Mrs. MacQueen was involved in all aspects of the school's operation.

Jon Knight, a teacher who worked at the school, said this about her, "What stood out about Joan as a person is her courage, her gentleness, her dignity and most of all, her compassion and true caring about individuals as persons. Her philosophy was Firm, Fair, and Friendly."

Linda Stewart, who worked with Mrs. MacQueen said, "When she walked into a classroom the students would get very quiet. She spoke to them in a soft voice and they all had so much respect for her."

For 13 years she served as a teacher and a principal in the Alpine Union School District. On September 11, 1984, the Alpine School Board voted to rename the Chaparral Middle School after Joan MacQueen. The dedication ceremony took place on October 19th. When a new middle school was built in Alpine in 2001 they named that school Joan MacQueen Middle School. Mrs. MacQueen died in 1985 from Lou Gehrig's disease.

By Carlette Anderson



This painting of Joan MacQueen hangs in the office of Joan MacQueen Middle School.