

THE ALPINE SUN SHOPPER – October 7, 2010
Tattered Tidbits: Alpine Historical Society

RORIE THE GORILLA GETS SURGERY

The Alpine Historical Society Museum was turned into a temporary hospital. Rorie the gorilla had to have surgery after a swarm of bees made a home inside of his body.

The bees entered through a small hole in his left foot. By the time Bill Waterworth, property manager, noticed the invasion he had to call in a specialist to take care of the problem.

Bill Henselmier, an exterminator from Harbor Pest Control, came up twice and was able to take care of the situation. He donated his time and expertise to help make Rorie all better.

Don Parent from SDG&E made arrangements to have Rorie taken down, from the tree, so he could be repaired. A large hole was cut in each of Rorie's feet so he could be cleaned out. Bill and Baltazar Marquez took out over five pounds of honey and dead bees. They ran a water hose through Rorie's body for about 30 times and were able to get all the honey and dead bees out. They used gorilla glue (that is what it is called) to replace the pieces they took out and were able to close up the holes in his feet.

Baltazar's father-in-law also helped with this procedure. He is a dental technician, and has experience with fiberglass. They put three screws in his right foot to keep it closed. He is now lying peacefully in the barn and recovering very nicely. He will be back up in his tree very soon. Keep a look out for him.

To learn more about Rorie you can read about him in the book I wrote about the history of Alpine called, "My Alpine."

By Carlette Anderson



“Surgical team” removes more than 5 pounds of honey and bees from Rorie the Gorilla.

