

*THE ALPINE SUN SHOPPER – March 3, 2011*  
*Tattered Tidbits: Alpine Historical Society*

**DON WOOLDRIDGE, LONGTIME RESIDENT**

Donald Wayne Wooldridge's grandfather, William Wooldridge, left Kentucky in 1924 and moved his family to Coronado where Don was born on April 23, 1928.

The family moved to Alpine in September 1937 and lived in an adobe on the McNett homestead off the Bell Bluff Truck Trail. The rent was \$7.50 a month. Don had three brothers, William, Harold and Clifford. They all attended the Alpine Center School, which was destroyed when an airplane flew into it in 1957. Their graduation ceremony was held on the stage at the Alpine Woman's Club.

Don met his wife Olive Ball (daughter of Dr. Howard A. Ball) in the Center School and they were married years later. The Balls named their place El Rancho Metate because of the many Indian grinding stones (metates) found beside their creek. Today you can find Ball Ranch Road on the west side of Tavern Road, not far from the Alpine Historical Society museum.

Don and Olive were married for 32 years and lived in the family home at El Rancho Metate. Don's first job was with the CDF (California Department of Forestry) where he worked out of Chula Vista and then Campo. His second job he worked for the U.S. Forestry Service and eventually was hired by Operating Engineers working for different contractors. He was with that company for 40 years and retired in 1993. His starting salary was \$1.65 an hour.

After retirement Don moved to Gold Beach, Oregon located at the mouth of the Rouge River. Don returned to Alpine in 2010 and is now back in his hometown. I had the pleasure of meeting him at the Alpine Historical Society's Pot Luck luncheon. It was a pleasure listening to his stories and getting to know one of Alpine's long time residents.

By Carlette Anderson