

TATTERED TIDBITS

ALPINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 4, Issue 2

April 2010

Upcoming events:

- April 18th—
Quarterly Meeting
- April 24th and
25th—Museum
Open House
- May 29th and
30th—Museum
Open House
- June 5th—Alpine
History Day

Inside this issue:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| A Tale of
Tradition | 2 |
| Donors/
Membership
Update | 2 |
| Sacred
Mountains | 3 |

ALPINE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
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“LAST KNOWN ADDRESS”—APRIL MEETING

David Lewis, author of the book *Last Known Address* will be the featured speaker at the April meeting of the Alpine Historical Society. David spent nine years and over nine thousand hours creating a map of the Julian cemetery, compiling a database for the historic section and writing his book. *Last Known Address* details the history of the Julian Cemetery, onsite archaeology, historical research and current projects. Additionally, it contains stories of Julian pioneers buried in the cemetery and the author's personal recollections of Julian history.

David's interest in the Julian Cemetery began in February, 1999, while preparing to dig a grave for his cousin. He found that almost no monumentation existed within the cemetery to posi-

tion gravesites. Thus began his research.

The fourth of five generations of his family to live in Julian, David is married and has two daughters. He modestly says he is not credentialed for any of the work he has done in researching the Julian Cemetery and the history of Julian; however, his surveying skills enabled him to place monuments and to create the map of the cemetery.

David served two years in the U. S. Army, ten years running his own excavation business, worked as a civil engineering designer for nineteen years and works part time for the South Coast Information Center, creating maps and drawings for the Nate Harrison and Whaley House site investigations under the direction

of Dr. Seth Mallios and David Caterino.

The quarterly pot luck meeting will be held on Sunday, April 18th at 1:00 p.m. at the Alpine Woman's Club, 2156 Alpine Boulevard. Come for lunch or at 2:00 p.m. for just the speaker. Please R.S.V.P. to Carol Morrison at 619-445-2544 or info@alpinehistory.org. ■



David Lewis



Above Left: David Lewis works at The Julian Cemetery

Above Right: A photo of the Julian Cemetery taken by Bill Waterworth

Virginia Christman Weaves a Tale of Tradition

The February meeting turned into a school reunion of sorts for three attendees. Jim Hinds, Virginia Christman and Coleen

Bishop White all attended Alpine schools together and shared school memories—teachers, friends, and “the good old days” at the

meeting. It showed everyone how the lives of the Viejas people and other Alpine residents are, and have always been, intertwined.

to the young Kumeyaay so none will forget the beautiful traditions of her ancestors.

The story of how the Viejas Valley got its name was presented as it had been presented to her as a child. One could visualize the area, with elderly women at work at their metates, when soldiers arrived to take young men to serve as laborers.

All those in attendance were captivated by Virginia’s stories and one could not help being moved by the warm reunion, after so many years, of the three schoolmates. ■

Virginia Christman was the featured speaker at the meeting and wove tales of Indian lore, culture, traditions and heritage.

Named “My Story,” Virginia’s talk transitioned from the old ways of her ancestors to the new ways and addressed the impact of the transition on the tribe.

She feels strongly about passing down her heritage



High School Reunion

Jim Hinds, Virginia Christman, Coleen Bishop White

Our Generous Donors and Membership Update

Two major donations have recently been received. Our thanks to Jeff Bloom and David Carey for these very generous donations.

Thanks also go to Carlette Anderson, George and Yoshioni Barnett, Gretchen Calabrese and Dan Heald, Virginia Carlen, Barbara Cater, Jean Christianson, Vikki and

Paul Coffey, David Galloway, Mike Harris, Lisa Herman, Jim Hinds, Rollin Newton, John and Ann Pierce, Mary Polk, Katherine Robles, Albert Simonson, John and Joanne Talamantes and Paul and Carol Walker for their generous donations. Rod and Guille Tuttle recently became life members of the society and we

are pleased to welcome the following new members: Albertson’s, Janie Chesney, David Galloway, and William Gardiner.

Thanks also to renewing members Alpine and Mountain Empire Chamber of Commerce, Alpine Woman’s Club, Franklin and Josephine Ball, George and Yoshioni Bar-

nett, Bob and Sharon Beale, John and Donna Boyer, Suzanne Broderick, Gretchen Calabrese and Dan Heald, Pat Cannon, Virginia Carlen, Barbara Cater, Jean Christianson, Karen and James Cleland, Vikki and Paul Coffey, Alan Dadisman, Charlene and Charles Day, *(continued on page 3)*



Photos of the Julian Pioneer Cemetery taken by Bill Waterworth

The Sacred Mountain—By Elder Maria Alto, introduction by Albert Simonson

Many cultures have observed with ceremony the winter solstice on December 21, and local Indians were no exception. As migratory food gatherers, they needed to know when it was time to migrate to distant places to harvest each resource. It was a matter of life or death.

Stone alignments and a dance circle on Viejas Mountain and Cowles Mountain show that the local Kumeyaay people observed the winter solstice. This is the turning of the sun which is probably the origin of diverse festivals of light which have accumulated into the winter holiday season as we know it.

For a local indigenous festival of light, we now reprint an account given by noted Kumeyaay elder Maria Alto in 1914. This is a timeless tale of beauty and wonder. It is not imported from anywhere else.

"Long before Kwut'ah Lu'e-ah (Song-Dance, or Viejas, east of El Cajon) mountain fell into the hands of See-i (Evil One), the Indians made a pilgrimage once a year to its very top to watch In'ya (Sun) come out of En-yak' (East), and praise

and honor him with song and dance. For In'ya (Sun) was the great Ruler of All Things. He governed the universe; he commanded the earth, nothing grew unless he caused it; he even dominated the bodies of men, some of whom he made energetic and strong, others weak and lazy. When he disappeared at night he cast a drowsiness o'er the world, so that everything slept until it was time for him to come again in the morning. Such a great ruler as he received due reverence and worship.

For many preceding moons the young Braves prepared themselves for the race which began the celebration of Kwut'ah Lu'e-ah (Song-Dance). They ate no meat while in training for this event, and daily they bathed and rubbed their bodies with Cha-hoor' (Clear Rock). This crystal made them light on their feet like animals, so they could jump over high boulders and run with the swiftness of deer.

When the time came, everything was in readiness. The big circle on top of the mountain had been freshly prepared and cleared for the dancers and singers.

The aged and feeble, with the small children of the village, had been carefully carried up there the previous afternoon, that they might be on hand to take part in the ceremonies.

Then, in that mystic hour which is neither night nor day, the able-bodied ones made the ascent. Last of all, after the others had reached the top, the runners came; swiftly they vied with each other over the steep trails - some so fleet they seemed to fly like birds over the course.

When all had reached the summit, the ritualistic ceremonies began. With song and dance in the blushing dawn, they watched for In'ya (Sun), Ruler of All. Opalescent streamers of golden radiance and flaming banners of crimson flaunting across the pearly tints of the receding night, heralded his arrival; while the people chanted songs of praise in honor of his wonderful light, and made obeisance in the dance in homage of his great power over all things.

Year after year this celebration took place till See'i (Evil One) grew envious, and cast a spell over the mountain; then the Indians

feared to make the ascent any more.

One or two foolhardy ones made the attempt, but they found the trails tedious and wearisome. The springs of water by the pathway were poisonous, and frightful noises like the hissing and rattle of snakes pursued their footsteps, and they gave up in despair.

So, though the old trails are faintly discernible and traces of the ring where they danced and sang still remain, no more does the red man swiftly ascend Kwut'ah Lu'e-ah (Song-Dance) mountain to watch In'ya (Sun) come out of En-yak' (East) in all his glory." ■

IN MEMORIAM

We have just learned of the recent death of Barry McCall, a long-time supporter of the Alpine Historical Society. Barry's life and contributions will be detailed in the next edition of Tattered Tidbits.

A memorial has been planned for Sunday, April 11 from 12:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m. at the Alpine Community Park.

Our Generous Donors and Membership Update *(continued from page 2)*

David Fountain, Mary Fritz, Mike Harris, Lisa Herman, Fred Higginbotham, Ruth Jellison, Joel Jette, Clay La-Force, George and Ida

Manale, Judy Matlock, Ron and Carol Matzenauer, Rollin Newton, Ila Oker, John and Ann Pierce, Sam and Glo-

ria Purlia, Robert and Beverly Ring, Max Robinson, Katherine Robles, Jill Sing, Joseph Sisson, Margaret Smith, Jack

Spaulding, John and Joanne Talamantes, Anne Tarr, Elma Terry, Chris Wiley, Stan Wilson and Genna Yoder. ■

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