

Upcoming events:

- April 19: Potluck Luncheon & Presentation by Diana Saenger
- April 24: Members Reception for Antique Camera Exhibit
- April 25 & 26: Museum Open House
- May 30 & 31: Museum Open House
- June 6: Alpine History Day

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JOHN DEWITT MUSEUM

2116 TAVERN ROAD
ALPINE, CA 91901

Open 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
last weekend of each month

Tom & Judy Myers, Editors
619-885-8063

Mission Honored, A Dream Achieved

Award Winning Journalist, Diana Saenger, to speak at April Meeting

APRIL POTLUCK LUNCHEON & PROGRAM—SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2015

We are delighted to welcome Diana Saenger, author of *Mission Honored – A Dream Achieved – True Stories of Veterans on the Alpine Wall of Honor*, as our guest speaker at the April 19th General Membership meeting and potluck luncheon. Diana spent two years researching and gathering the stories of 84 men and women from Alpine who served our country in all branches of the military from the Revolutionary War



to present day. Her book includes a timeline of military actions in which the United States participated and tells the story of each soldier's encounters.

Diana, an award winning freelance journalist, is also the entertainment editor of the *East County Gazette*, theatre critic for the *Union Tribune Community Newspapers*, and a contributing writer for *Hispanic Outlook* magazine and *Indian Country* magazine. She has sold more than 1,500 short stories, articles

or features to newspapers and magazines and has interviewed more than 400 celebrities, filmmakers and musicians. National Federation of Press Women President, Sylvia Mendoza, said "Her accomplishments are many, her journalistic contributions soar, and her dedication to giving back to the community has spanned decades."

This is sure to be an inspiring program, so bring your family, invite your friends. Everyone is welcome! ■



Please bring a potluck item to share for the luncheon which begins at 1:00 p.m. or arrive at 2:00 p.m. for a brief general membership meeting immediately followed by Diana's presentation. Admission is free, but seating is limited, so **please make a reservation** by calling Carol Morrison at (619) 445-2544 or send an email to info@alpinehistory.org.

BUGGY RESTORATION UPDATE

On March 11, the team of volunteers who have been working for over a year restoring a pre-1906 horse-drawn buggy received a very special surprise visit from **Don Walker**, who donated the buggy to the Alpine Historical Society. Don knew that we were working on restoring

the buggy and he wanted to get a first-hand look at our progress. Currently the buggy, called a Doctor's Phaeton, is in a state of disassembly so that we can properly clean, scrape, patch, prime and paint all the way down to the most hidden nuts & bolts.



Nevertheless, we have progressed to a state of near final finishing on the wheels and the frame (i.e. chassis) of the buggy. Soon these elements will

be ready for pin-striping details. Regardless of the state of disassembly, Don
(continued on page 3)

MEMBER ROY ATHEY RECEIVES ALPS AWARD

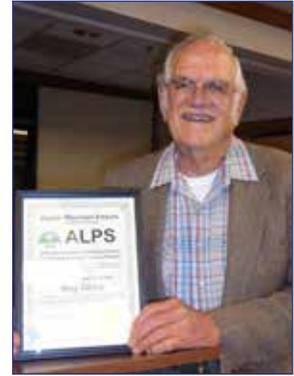
Roy Athey received the 2015 Community Organization Member's Recognition Award presented by The Alpine Historical Society at the Alpine Leadership and Service (ALPS) Awards Ceremony on Friday, March 20, 2015.

All of us save our history through family photos, genealogy and family antiques. But Roy Athey has saved an entire heritage of the "Two-Foot Gauge" rail-

road in his backyard with his **Descanso, Alpine and Pacific Railroad**. This mile-long, two-foot wide, narrow-gauge railroad has hauled over 13,000 passengers since its opening. To assemble his railroad, Roy imported parts from a quarry in Missouri and from mines in Arizona, California, and Nevada, as well as from France, Germany, and Luxemburg.

This is a one-man

operation—Roy is not only the Station Manager, but he is the engineer, conductor, switchman and ticket taker. If you want a fun family outing, head on over to the **Descanso, Alpine and Pacific Railroad** and take a ride on Alpine's first and longest operating railroad. The train station is located at 1266 Alpine Heights Road in Alpine, CA 91901, and rides are usually offered on



Sundays from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Smart travelers will call ahead (619-445-4781) for a schedule as the railroad mechanic (Roy) may be performing maintenance on the equipment. ■

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A Special Thank You to Our New Life Member:

- Leslie Holben

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members:

- Abigail Allen & Martin Sinnott
- Marilyn Moore
- Mary Welch

A Heartfelt Thanks to Our Renewing Members:

- Fred & Susan Barker
- Barbara Cater
- Trisha Cates
- James Cleland
- Greg & Patti Fox
- Dr. Gail Guth
- Ruth Jellison
- Lorraine & Michael Nelson
- Michael Nelson II
- Lance Rallof
- Gary & Sue Smith
- Janis Vanderford

A Hearty Welcome to Our New Business Members:

- Alpine Ranch Chiropractic
- Alpine View Lodge
- Barons Market
- On Line Bookkeeping & Tax Service

A Greatful Thanks to Our Renewing Business Members:

- Bert Fuller VFW Post 9578 (nonprofit)
- Laurie Hallihan—State Farm Insurance

Thanks go to the following who made generous financial donations to the Historical Society:

- Barbara Cater
- James Cleland
- Greg & Patti Fox
- Dr. Gail Guth
- Marilyn Moore
- Lance Rallof
- Janis Vanderford

RECOGNITION OF OUR LIFETIME BUSINESS MEMBERS

Brabazon Alpine Paving and Trucking
Ewiiapaayp Tribal Office • Viejas Enterprises • Viejas Tribal Office
Tom Dyke Drilling • Chris Wiley—Primary Residential Mortgage
Turvey Granite Pit • Tuttle Charitable Trust

NEW EXHIBIT TO OPEN APRIL 25

VINTAGE CAMERAS

FROM THE COLLECTION OF FRED BRAY



Our April 25 & 26 Open House at the DeWitt Museum of the Alpine Historical Society will feature a new exhibit of **Vintage Cameras** from the Collection of Fred Bray. In 1984 Fred and his brother Arthur moved to Alpine, but their interest in vintage cameras dates back to 1968 when Arthur purchased his first Stereo Realist camera. Our exhibit features cameras from the late 1800's to early 1900's and includes view cameras, portrait cameras, and field cameras. Unlike

today's digital cameras, these cameras primarily used photographic plates that required long exposure times. Many of the historical photographs on exhibit in our museum were made on cameras such as these. Our exhibit will also include a historical glimpse at the life and works of Clarence Stearns, who would have used cameras such as these. Stearns was a highly acclaimed and well-travelled photographer in the early 1900's who lived in Alpine for 10 years beginning in 1952. ■

Buggy Restoration Update

(continued from page 1)

viewed the work with a great deal of enthusiasm and admiration. We were flattered beyond belief when he assessed our efforts with the following words:

"I thank everybody because I never thought it would look like this again. This is great. You are doing a lot better than I expected—it looks professional. This is fantastic, beautiful! I never thought that I would see this finished.

I thank everybody who has done so much work here. You've done a beautiful job on it. It's great, it's amazing!"

Well, we couldn't let Don get away without a little bit of dust on his clothes, so we talked him into helping with sanding on the shaft as we prepare it to be painted.



This buggy was built in San Francisco before the 1906 earthquake and was used for many years at the famous **Willows Resort** right here in Alpine. When the vehicle was finally retired, Don took good care of it by placing it in a storage area protected from the elements and critters that always want to chew up historic fabrics. So the buggy was in sound condition when Don donated it to the Historic Society, it just needed a lot of work restoring the finishes. Before long, we'll be putting it back together and we'll have something good to show you on Alpine History Day, June 6, 2014. ■

NEW MEMBER BENEFIT

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 5-7 P.M.

EXHIBIT PREVIEW RECEPTION

VINTAGE CAMERAS

from the
Collection of Fred Bray

We are pleased to invite members of the Historical Society and their guests to a special preview of our new exhibit of Vintage Cameras from the Fred Bray collection.

*The reception will be held at the
John DeWitt Museum
2116 Tavern Road*

Light refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP by calling Carol Morrison at 619-445-2544 or send an email to info@alpinehistory.org

OUR SIGN HAS A FRESH NEW LOOK!

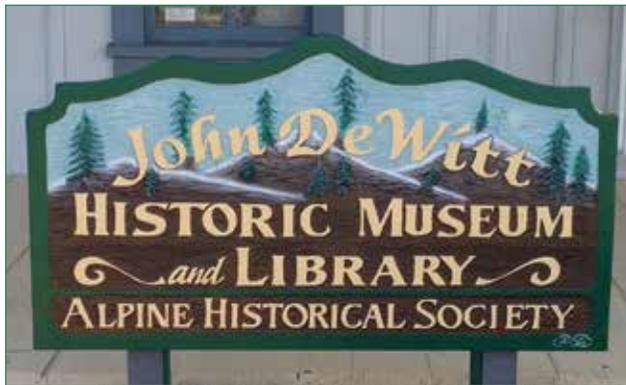
If you like the fresh new look of our museum sign, you can thank Tanya and Jeremy Lester of **SoCal Signs 'n Such** in Descanso. Last year we started a project to

improve the entry way to the museum and a major element of that project was to refurbish the sign that identifies the museum. When we started looking for someone who could

tackle the job, Tanya and Jeremy came to the rescue, offering to do a complete restoration of the sign for just the cost of materials. We are so thankful to live in a community where folks help each other out. And, when you see the sign on your next visit to the museum, we're sure you will agree that it is beautiful! ■

◀ Restored Sign

▼ Weathered Sign



SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 6, 2015

GET READY FOR ALPINE HISTORY DAY

The Alpine Historical Society Board of Directors are busily preparing for Alpine History Day 2015. This has been a popular event for many years and this year will be no exception. Here's some of what you can expect this year:

- Sky Hunters Birds of Prey **[NEW!]**
- Model T Fords **[OLD!]**
- Fred Bray Camera Exhibit **[NEW!]**
- Bee Keeping **[& HONEY!]**
- Tin Type Photography **[NEW!]**
- Balloon Animals and Face Painting
- Baby Chicks **[CUTE!]**
- Miss Alpine Beauty Queens
- Antique Buggy Restoration
- Treadle Sewing Machine and Spinning Demonstrations
- Pump Organ Demonstration
- Kiwanis Cook Shack **[YUM!]**
- Ice Cream Sundaes **[YUM!]**
- Opportunity Drawings, Silent Auction and More ...

The event takes place from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 6th at the John DeWitt Museum, 2116 Tavern Road in Alpine. Sponsorships are available for businesses or individuals. Please call Carol Morrison at 619-445-2544 for information. ■



Why is the Alpine History Museum Named the John DeWitt Historic Museum and Library?

Some of you may be wondering why the Alpine Historical Society named its museum after John DeWitt. Well, here's the story as told by Carlette Anderson in *The Alpine SUN* in July 2010.

"The man who made it possible for the AHS to have a place of their own was John Colby DeWitt. He lived in the Dr. Nichols' house and owned the land around it. When he died, he willed the doctor's house and one acre of land to the Alpine Historical Society. His family sold the property and house to developer Paul Gonya. After several years of negotiating with the family, Mr. Gonya signed the property over to the AHS in January 1996. The AHS finally had a permanent home to display their historic documents and treasures.

The ribbon cutting ceremony took place on April 19, 1998. The museum was named the John DeWitt Historic Museum and Library after Mr. DeWitt." ■

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO FINISH RESTORING THE DOCTOR'S BUGGY

In 2012-13, we held our first fund-raiser to support the acquisition and restoration of a horse-drawn carriage for display at the Sophronia Nichols' Carriage House. The Alpine community generously responded to our request with donations totalling \$3,715, and Don Walker donated a Doctor's Buggy which had been made before 1906 and was used at the historic Willows Resort right here in Alpine.

Since then, we have made great progress in our restoration efforts. Our all-volunteer crew has worked over 1,000 hours so far, disassembling the buggy and then

cleaning, scraping, filling gaps in the wood, restoring carved wood elements, priming and painting the wheels, chassis, body, and seat. When this is complete we will have spent about \$1,100 for replacement parts and materials—but all the labor was free.

However some of the work needs to be done by craftsmen with special skills and equipment. For example, we had to take the wheels to a wheelwright in Escondido to replace the rubber around the perimeter, and that cost \$600. The seat was restored by our volunteers, but the cushions and upholstery will be custom

made and installed by an upholstery shop to match the original appearance of the seat, and this will cost us about \$500.

And now that we have completed restoring the chassis and wheels it is time to start pin-striping. This is a job that definitely requires a specialist, and we estimate the cost will be about \$700. In addition, the leather coverings on the dashboard and shaft and miscellaneous straps will cost another \$500.

All of these costs are covered by donations made during our first fund-raising effort, with a little contingency left over.



◀ **Finished restored carved wood scrollwork & frame**



◀ **Original broken carved wood scrollwork & frame**

But, we still need an additional \$2,000 to complete the restoration of the folding top. Our estimate for this work comes from the Morgan Carriage Works, a firm with expertise in restoring carriage tops just like this one. So, we are asking you to help us complete this exciting restoration project by making a donation to the **Carriage Top Restoration Fund**. The Alpine Historical Society is a 501 c(3) non-profit organization, so your donation may be deductible as prescribed by tax laws. Please send your contribution today so that we can have this beautiful buggy ready to show at the Alpine History Day, June 6, 2015. ■



Carriage Top Restoration Fund

YES, I want to help. Enclosed is my donation for: \$ _____

Name _____ Date _____

Street Address/P.O. Box: _____

City/ST/Zip: _____

Please complete this form and include your check made payable to the **Alpine Historical Society**, a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Mail to: Alpine Historical Society, P.O. Box 382, Alpine, CA 91903-0382

Alpine Historical Society
P. O. Box 382
Alpine, CA 91903-0382

Address Service Requested

**ALPINE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

P. O. Box 382
Alpine, CA 91903-0382

Phone: 619-659-8740
E-mail: info@alpinehistory.org

We're on the Web!
www.alpinehistory.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Date _____

Street Address/P.O. Box: _____

City/ST/Zip: _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Send Newsletters via: E-mail U.S. Mail

Membership Category (Please check one):

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit Org. \$30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25 | | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Life \$1,000 |

Amount Enclosed:

Membership \$ _____
Donation \$ _____
TOTAL \$ _____

Areas of Interest for Volunteers:

- Building Preservation
 Technical/Clerical
 Where Needed

Please complete this form and include your check made payable to the Alpine Historical Society, a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.