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Tattered Tidbits: Alpine Historical Society

A HONEYMOON STORY

In 2011, Lonnie Brooks wrote *My Life and Things Remembered*, a story of his life. One of the chapters tells of his honeymoon and Alpine's first motel, Tappy's, built in 1947. Following is Lonnie's story:

“After the Wedding we all assembled back up the street at Alice's house and cut the Wedding cake and fellowshipped for about half an hour. It was wonderful!

Someone asked us where we were going for our Wedding Night and I told them that we didn't know, that we didn't have any plans. We were just going to drive until we got tired! I think I drove about 5 miles (to the little town of Alpine) and got tired! I think it was the first motel that we came to and the name at that time was Tappy's. I called the Alpine Apartments & Motel at 2335 Alpine Blvd #15, Alpine, CA 91901 this morning, 22 July, 2011 and the lady said that this was Tappy's in 1952. She also said that there is a book about Tappy's in the Alpine Library. Neat! I must get that book!

A funny thing happened at the motel on our wedding night. We checked in to the motel, went directly to our room and got ready for bed. Alice went to the bathroom first and then came back into the bedroom. Remember now, she was only 16 years old!!!

Then, I went into the bath room to get ready for bed and when finished, turned around to open the door and it was stuck. I was surprised and at first thought that Alice was playing a trick on me, but I knew she wouldn't do that!

I tried the door again and it was still stuck, so I backed up and determined that if it didn't come open this time, I would tear it off the hinges! It came open on the third try and we both got a little laugh about it. Alice was already in bed with the covers pulled up under her chin. She wasn't about to get out of that bed unless she absolutely had to!!!! Such wonderful memories!!!

Alice and I boarded a Greyhound bus the next morning and headed to Pendleton, South Carolina to see my folks and show off my beautiful, new bride! We got to El Paso, Texas, the next day sometime and the bus made a stop at the bus terminal. It was huge and there were lots of people in there. You have to remember that back in those days, most people traveled by bus. Airline travel was a bit more difficult back then. Mostly money-wise.

Alice and I both went to the bathroom, first thing. When I came back to the central lobby area it was really crowded and there was a really well-dressed, broad-shouldered, tall man in a grey suit, talking to Alice. Alice had a smile on her face. Now stop and picture this: Here I am, a sailor, married one day to the most beautiful young lady in the whole world and I ran into this!!! I wasn't about to have anything to do with this!

When I walked up, looked at the guy and asked “What the he— is going on here? The guy just looked at me and asked if I knew this young lady. I said “He— yes, I know her, she's my wife and what the He—are you doing talking to her?” I was furious! He then pulled out his FBI Shield and said “this young lady looks like a young girl that has run away and we are looking

for her!” I took Alice by the hand and said “Well, by GOD it isn’t her! Come on, Alice, let’s go!” I left that sucker standing there with his shield in his hand. Alice, being the totally innocent Christian that she was, said “but, Lonnie, he was really nice”. I told her that I didn’t doubt that he was nice, those guys use their shields to meet pretty young girls.

A lot of my friends have told me over the years that I must have been a jealous husband. No, I wasn’t! I was just protecting what was mine!!!”

Carol Walker and her husband Paul lived in Alpine for 19 years. Carol is the webmaster and newsletter editor for the Alpine Historical Society. She can be reached at cwalker@alpinehistory.org or 619-467-7766.

