

## Upcoming events:

- **May 26 & 27:**  
Museum Open House
- **June 23:**  
Honey Festival
- **June 23 & 24:**  
Museum Open House

## Inside this issue:

- Honoring Active-duty Military Personnel, page 2
- Membership Update, page 2
- Pop Quiz, page 2
- Volunteers Complete Chocolate Creek Clean-up, page 3
- Remember the *Time Travelers*, page 3
- Alpine Historical Society Celebrates Three 20-year Anniversaries, page 4
- Board of Directors & Mission Statement, page 4
- Timeline: Alpine 1880's, page 5
- 2018 History Day? page 5
- Answers to Pop Quiz, page 5
- Membership Application, page 6

## 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



## EAGLE SCOUT COMPLETES MUSEUM'S NEWEST EXHIBIT

**"NELSON BROTHERS HAND-OPERATED WELL PUMP"**

Wyatt, a Life Scout member of Boy Scout Troop 105 in Alpine recently completed his Eagle Scout project at the John DeWitt Museum. This brings him one step closer to his dream of joining the ranks of the Eagle Scouts, the highest rank for a scout in the Boy Scouts of America organization.

He has spent much of the past year planning, organizing, designing, restoring and installing his project, the newest exhibit at the museum, which demonstrates how water was pumped up from ground wells in the early 1900's before electric-powered pumps were developed.

For his project, the Alpine Historical Society offered a **Nelson Brothers hand-operated well pump** from its artifact collection. Wyatt

researched the pump and determined that it was a trough pump manufactured between 1890 and 1910. He found the replacement seals needed and restored the pump to working order. Wyatt also designed and installed the concrete and stone pad with wooden curbs on which to display the well pump.

The tricky part was figuring out a way to demonstrate the pump without drilling a real water well. Wyatt solved this problem by supporting the pump on a steel plate attached to the top of a vintage galvanized feed trough. This provided a reservoir for water from which the pump could operate.

The century-old Nelson Brothers water pump has been in the collection of the Alpine Historical Society for

many years. It has been an on-going dream of the Society to develop a hands-on exhibit featuring the pump in a way that young visitors to the John DeWitt Museum could learn about pumping water during the early days of Alpine. With this Eagle Scout Project, Wyatt has succeeded in fulfilling our dream exhibit as well as his own dream of becoming an Eagle Scout. Thank You Wyatt!

We invite you to see the project and try your hand at pumping water the old fashioned way at the museum during our next open house on Saturday and Sunday, May 26 and 27, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. The John DeWitt Museum is located at 2116 Tavern Road in Alpine.



*Young Micah tries out the new well pump, with a helping hand from boy scout Andrew.*



### *Honoring active-duty military personnel and their families—*

Once again the Alpine Historical Society is proud to join with more than 2,000 museums across the country participating in the **2018 Blue Star Museums** program of the National Endowment for the Arts. This program, which runs from Memorial Day through Labor Day weekend, offers free admission to active-duty military personnel and their families. And, since our museum is always free, we are offering a complimentary one-year membership in the Alpine Historical Society to all active-duty personnel.

Please visit their website ([arts.gov/bluestarmuseums](http://arts.gov/bluestarmuseums)) for a list of participating museums, maps to their location, links to their websites, and an FAQ page to help our military families plan their trip.

We are thrilled that we can take part in the program again this year. We look forward to greeting our active-duty service families and thanking them for their service to our country.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

*A Grateful Thank You to Our Renewing Members:* Marcia Bair, Ginny & Hugh Good, Ruth Jellison, Pam Lawless, Pene & George Manale, Patty & Steve Tweed

*Many thanks to the following for their generous donations to the Historical Society:* Carlette Anderson, Marcia Bair, Pene & George Manale, Kevin & Alejandra Schumacher

### RECOGNITION OF OUR CURRENT LIFETIME MEMBERS

Carlette Anderson • Deborah Anderson • George & Joan Anderson • Mark L. Anderson • Roy & Willa Athey  
 Franklin R. Ball • Pat & Joe Brunold • David Carey • Ted Christensen • James H. Cleland  
 Peggy & Jim Easterling • Beverly Falor • Katie & Brian Ford • Vincent Fritts • Paul Gonya • Gail Wilson Guth  
 Janet M. Harris • Linda Harshberger • Ann Hill • Leslie Holben • Ken & Denise Hujing • Ben & Kirby Johnson  
 Bill & Diane Keltner • Jill & Shawn Killon • John Krempp • J. Clayburn LaForce • Joanne & Martin Marugg  
 Carol Morrison • Tom & Judy Myers • Helen Porter • Paul & Paula Saksa • Kurt Scherbaum  
 Albert Simonson • Donna Sisson • Joseph Sisson • Virginia Sisson • Anne Tarr • Elma Terry  
 Rodney & Guille Tuttle • Paul & Carol Walker • William & Joan Waterworth • Stanley Wilson

### RECOGNITION OF OUR LIFETIME BUSINESS MEMBERS

Brabazon Alpine Paving and Trucking  
 Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians • Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians  
 Tom Dyke Drilling • John Garbaczewski Family Foundation  
 Chris Wiley—Primary Residential Mortgage • Turvey Granite Pit • Tuttle Charitable Trust

**CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS:** Life Members ~ 50, Supporting Members ~ 91, Members up for renewal ~ 6

**POP QUIZ:** *Answers can be found in articles in this newsletter.*

- When was the John DeWitt Museum “ribbon cutting”?
  - April 19, 1998
  - The last weekend of each month
  - In 1761 when pivot scissors were invented
- When did the Historical Society receive the Beaty House?
  - Last week
  - May 1998
  - In 1911 when Caroline died
- From which country did Nikolas Peutz immigrate?
  - England
  - Costa Rica
  - Germany
  - None of the above
- Which organizations helped the Historical Society clean up Chocolate Creek?
  - Boy Scout Troop 105
  - Greater Alpine Fire Safe Council
  - Back Country Land Trust
  - Alpine Historical Society
  - All of the above

## VOLUNTEERS COMPLETE CHOCOLATE CREEK CLEAN-UP PROJECT AT JOHN DEWITT MUSEUM



Lisa, Jon, Andrew, David, Justin, Mark, Barbara, Wyatt, Austin, Aaron, Judy, Tom, and Rob.

During March and April this year, volunteers from the **Alpine Historical Society**, the **Back Country Land Trust**, **Boy Scout Troop 105** and the **Greater Fire Safe Council** (GAFSC) collaborated on a clean-up project for the portion of **Chocolate Creek** that crosses the Historical Society property just south of the John DeWitt Museum.

The goal of the project was to reduce ladder fuels in the creek, clean up trash, trim the weeds, and remove non-native invasive plants

that were populating the banks of the creek, restricting natural water flow and degrading the wildlife habitat. Specifically, two Shamel Ash trees were “limbed and laced” to reduce the fuel loads, three Mexican Fan Palms were removed, and several invasive Olive trees were removed. The resulting branches and brush were piled in the meadow and later shredded into mulch by the GAFSC.

The final clean-up was accomplished by boy scouts and adult

volunteers who worked together to spread the mulch around ornamental plants and under the Chinese Elm trees that separate the meadow from Tavern Road. Boy Scout Troup 105 volunteers included Aaron, Andrew, Austin, Justin, and parents Mark & Barbara, and Rob & Darlene. David & Lisa along with Tom & Judy volunteered from the Alpine Historical Society. Jon and Sayana represented the Back Country Land Trust, and Howard from the Pioneer Landscape Company provided chipping services for the GAFSC.

This project truly exemplifies how a group of volunteers from many community organizations can come together to improve fire safety and wildlife habitats within our town and have fun in the process. *Many thanks to everyone!*



Justin~Aaron



Aaron~Austin~Andrew



Jon~Sayana



BEFORE



AFTER



Mark~Darlene~Jon~Austin~Aaron~Justin~Andrew

### REMEMBER THE TIME TRAVELERS!

Your Alpine Historical Society membership card also gives you access to over **300** other historical museums and societies nationwide.

In 2015 we registered with the **Time Travelers**, a reciprocal museum benefit program created by the Missouri History Museum in 1998, and all members of our society will receive benefits offered by all “Time Traveler” participating museums. Such benefits may include free or discounted admission, discounts on merchandise and special events, free parking or other benefits specified by each institution.

There are now 33 participating museums in California, including the San Diego History Center, the new Catalina Island Museum, the Pasadena Museum of History, El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park, the Santa Ynez Valley Historical Museum, the Walt Disney Family Museum, and 27 more!



Please explore their website:

<http://timetravelers.mohistory.org>

Be sure to take your AHS membership card!

# Alpine Historical Society

## CELEBRATES THREE 20-YEAR ANNIVERSARIES

*At our recent April 15 Potluck Luncheon and Program,  
we cut a cake in celebration of three important anniversaries in the community of Alpine.*

**1** The first event to celebrate was the April 19, 1998, “ribbon cutting” for the **John DeWitt Historic Museum and Library** building. Although the Alpine Historical Society was founded on April 8, 1962, the fledgling society had to collect and store documents and objects in the homes of its members because it owned no property.

In 1997, developer Paul Gonya donated the Sophronia Nichols house and one acre of property to the Alpine Historical Society, in accordance with the terms of John DeWitt’s Last Will & Testament. This historic house, the home of Alpine’s first doctor, was converted into Alpine’s first museum and was named for long-time AHS member and benefactor John DeWitt.



*Carlette Anderson, County Supervisor Dianne Jacob, Bea LaForce, and Paul Gonya at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.*

**2** The second event occurred on May 1, 1998, when Alpine, CA, was certified by the National Wildlife Federation as **America’s first Community Wildlife Habitat**. The CHIRP garden club organized and encouraged members of the community to create sustainable wildlife habitats on their property, no matter how large or small, and they organized educational programs to promote wildlife habitats and conservation in the community. Although the CHIRP organization has dissolved, this program continues to be strong under the combined partnership of the Alpine Historical Society, the Alpine Garden Club and the Back Country Land Trust. Carlette Anderson is the program director and offers frequent programs explaining how to create and certify your own wildlife habitat. Information and literature is available at the John DeWitt Museum where you can see exhibits demonstrating the elements of a sustainable wildlife habitat.



**3** The third event that we celebrated also occurred in May 1998, when Ted and Donna Christiansen donated the **Adam Beatty House** to the museum. The house, built by Adam Beatty in 1899, was moved from its original site and set up next to the Nichols House. This gift of the Christensens effectively doubled the exhibit space for the DeWitt museum and provided additional attic space for storage of objects and archival materials not on display.



*We encourage you to visit our museum during this 20th anniversary year to experience our exhibits and ask any questions you may have about the history of Alpine.*

*The museum, located at 2116 Tavern Rd., is open the last Saturday & Sunday of each month from 2:00 to 4:00 pm.*



### ALPINE HISTORICAL AND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:** Tom Myers  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Programs:** Vikki Coffey  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Membership:** Judy Myers  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, Property:** [position open]  
**Secretary:** [position open]  
**Treasurer:** Lisa Celeste  
**Archivist:** Carol Morrison

**Director:** Vicki Freeman  
**Director:** Janet Harris  
**Director:** Norm Kling  
**Director:** Dave Smith  
**Director:** Anne Tarr  
**Lifetime Director:** Elma Terry  


---

**Webmaster:** Pene Manale  
**Caretakers:** Baltazar & Laura Marquez

#### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the *Alpine Historical & Conservation Society* is to encourage the community in an effort to retain structures and sites of historical significance, conserve natural resources and parkland, make available the visible evidence of the history of our community, and develop historical programs which emphasize the contributions of the various cultural, ethnic, religious and social groups that comprise the Alpine area.

## TIMELINE: ALPINE 1880's

**N**ikolas Peutz (pronounced Poitz), a charcoal maker from Germany, immigrated to the United States in 1880. He made his home in the small community, not yet named Alpine, in the area we now call Peutz Valley.

Here Nikolas found mature oak trees that were perfect for making charcoal, his primary cash crop. Although there is no record that Nikolas filed for a homestead, he did build a three-room house and a good barn. He fenced in the property to contain livestock and he planted a garden and orchard. In this valley, he raised turkeys, pigs, cows, and chickens, and he was known to take a wagon loaded with live turkeys to San Diego to sell at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

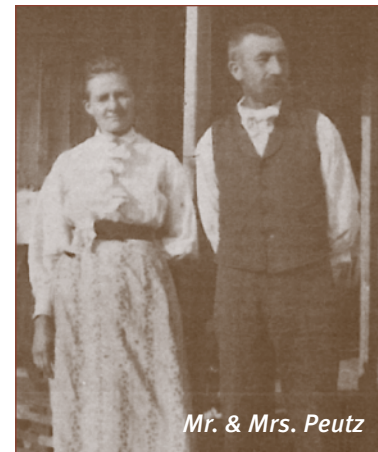
Nikolas was unmarried when he arrived in the USA, but after establishing his holdings here, he sent back to Germany for a bride. Some

accounts say he knew his chosen wife from earlier days in Germany, others believe she was a mail-order bride. But, apparently after corresponding by mail, the couple became engaged and his wife-to-be set sail for America. Nikolas met her when she arrived at the Port of San Diego and they got married right away. It is reported that the new Mrs. Peutz (we never learned her first name) told friends that her sea voyage was uneventful, but the ride up the hill from San Diego, on the worst road imaginable, terrified her!

The couple never had children, but according to Ruth Loring Folger who knew them well, they were very happy together. Mrs. Folger also wrote a very interesting description of the couple and their lifestyle in backcountry San Diego in the 1880's. Her article, published in the September 30, 1965 edition of the *Town and Country News*, tells us:



*The Peutz ranch was well established with vegetable garden, fruit trees, and livestock. There was a "milk cellar" dug deep into the ground across the driveway from the kitchen, with steps that led down to the screen door. Inside the light was dim as it came from a rather narrow strip*



*of screen under the pitched roof. There was a long three-tiered table that held the wide shallow milk pans where the cream was always skimmed each day. It was cool there and had its own special atmosphere. Every week Mrs. Peutz had her regular customers for butter and cottage cheese in Alpine Center. I often drove up with her and it was quite clear she was a very well-liked and respected person.*

*Our wonderful summers at camp came to an end when Mr. Peutz died one winter. Mrs. Peutz told my Mother he had a habit of cracking apricot and peach pits and eating the kernels. A doctor told her, too late, that they were poison. She sold the ranch, (I think to someone named Foster) and then moved to San Diego where she had a little house on Robinson Street. Later, my mother told me she married a widower who had five children.*

## 2018 HISTORY DAY?

**B**y unanimous vote, the AHS Board of Directors decided that the *Alpine History Day Celebration* will go on hiatus for 2018.

Board President, Tom Myers, said "this was a difficult decision, but

reflected that the Society has many projects and priorities and not enough volunteer resources to accomplish everything." With all the activities and events available to families in Alpine, it is difficult to find a time that makes

the event available to the entire community. So this year, we encourage everyone to visit the museum during one of our monthly Open House events held the last Saturday and Sunday of each month from 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

We also invite the community to visit our table at the *Queen Bee Brunch* on June 23 at the Alpine Community Center. And we extend our grateful appreciation to the *Postal Annex* for sponsoring our table – thank you Rose!

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

*Address Service Requested*

**ALPINE  
HISTORICAL &  
CONSERVATION  
SOCIETY**

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

Phone: 619-659-8740  
E-mail: [info@alpinehistory.org](mailto:info@alpinehistory.org)

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.alpinehistory.org](http://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"/> Individual \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit \$30       | <input type="checkbox"/> Business \$50         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (1) \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$35     | <input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit Life \$600 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Life \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (2) \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life \$500      |   |  |

**Amount Enclosed:**

Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteer Opportunities:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Museum Open Houses  | <input type="checkbox"/> History Day         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Programs & Events   | <input type="checkbox"/> Oral Histories      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibit Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Archival Data Entry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Maintenance  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____         |

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