

# TATTERED TIDBITS

ALPINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 1, Issue 4

August 2007

## Special points of interest:

- Alpine's Famous Willows Resort—at August meeting!
- Alpine History Day Celebration—one fine day!
- Beekeeping exhibit in the Beaty House now—you don't want to miss it!

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

## LEARN ABOUT "THE WILLOWS" AUGUST 19!

Don Walker and Shirley Dyer, grandchildren of F. B. Walker, who founded Alpine's famous Willows Resort in the early 1900's, will be the guest speakers at the August 19 quarterly meeting. Don and Shirley are first cousins of the late Betty Noble, one of Alpine's most

colorful and beloved residents. You'll learn about the "Mother of them All" and the hospitality and amenities that were part of every guest's visit at The Willows.

The potluck meeting will be held at the Alpine Woman's Club, 2156 Alpine Blvd., at 1:00 p.m. Attendees may

come and enjoy the luncheon or come just for the speakers at 2:00 p.m. Please R.S.V.P. to Carol Morrison at 445-2544.

Everyone is welcome to attend—tell all your friends and family. Don't miss this informative event!■

## 150 YEARS OF VIEJAS DAYS by Albert Simonson

Looming above Alpine is the sacred Viejas Mountain, called "Song-Dance" in the Kumeyaay language. Pilgrimages were made to its summit to honor the Sun (In'ya), the great Ruler of All Things. They watched In'ya rise exactly over Buckman Mountain at winter solstice, marked the exact alignment with stone and sang in the great dance circle at the summit. This area was already mapped by Presidio Ensign Velasquez in 1783. A chain of meadows between Harbison Canyon and Viejas Res-

ervation formed a natural highway, the "Camino de Secuan," for driving presidio horse-herds to Cuyamaca pasturage.

By the 1830's, Kumeyaay and other local tribes were in open revolt. After losing horses and ammunition to the Indians in 1837, leather-jacket soldiers approached Viejas only with greatest caution. In 1846, the mission and the Osuna family acted to close the frontier to stop marauding Indians. The elder Osuna had been mission administrator

and first mayor of San Diego, heading the first democratic town government in California. Thus was established the Rancho Valle de las Viejas y Mesa del Arroz, stretching from Sycuan to Viejas reservations. In 1848 they sold the cattle rancho to "Cockney" Bill Williams and "El Santo" Aguirre.

Cockney Bill, a salty sailor turned mountain man, allied himself with mountain and desert Indians and together they were able to put

(Continued on page 3)



Youngsters frolic on lawn in front of the Beaty House—an area that will someday be part of Alpine's Heritage Park! See more on the Alpine History Day Celebration on page 2.

## Alpine History Day Celebration and Essay Contest



Pete Holtzen points out the Queen Bee in his observation hive

**The ice cream sundaes, each year served with a smile by Mary McBride, were a very special treat!**

Third grade essay contest winners get ready to receive their awards

The Alpine History Day Celebration, held on June 2 at the museums, was a truly memorable event. Very special thanks go to Viejas Enterprises for the major contribution to this event. The weather was picture perfect, the children were excited, the exhibit was enjoyed by all and the food was superb.

Many thanks go to all the volunteers who helped with the bee exhibit, food preparation and serving and the third grade essay contest. Thanks also to those who donated silent auction items and loaned tables and chairs. Volunteers made this event happen—and are much appreciated!

Lively third graders attended the celebration with their parents and siblings to learn the results of the annual Third Grade Essay Contest. Wonderful, creative essays were written by the students.

For the category “Life in Alpine 100 Years Ago,” Madison Kurtz and Jillian Kleine tied for first place, Eric Kingery took second place and Whitney Henderson, third place. Makena Andler took first place for her essay on John Harbison in the category “My Favorite Person in Alpine History.” Dominique Markowicz wrote about Dr. Sophronia Nichols for second place and Tyler

Sinkovich took third place with an essay about Emma Everhart. Kellen Whyte and Shay Florence took first and third places, respectively, with their essays on the Alpine Cemetery in the category “My Favorite Historical Place in Alpine.” Second place went to Trevor Sanders with an essay on Viejas Mountain. Hayley Hawkins, Emily Petsch, Dylon Church, Jessie Hobbs, Wendy Moreno, Cassidy Shaffer, Sara Harris and Savannah Ernsbarger were recognized with honorable mention awards for their wonderful drawings.

Congratulations to all the entrants—a job well done!■



Norm and Dolores Kling's 1926 Model T Ford Touring Car—before (a rusty pile of parts per Norm) and after!



## Welcome New Members and Volunteers!

Welcome to the following new members: Virginia Carlen, Mary Fritz, Joanne Nichols, The Cyril Reinicke Family, Bob and Beverly Ring and Robert and Carmen Ring.

Thanks also to renewing members Helen and Nathan Astleford, Mel and Iz Crain, Gail Guth, Brabazon Alpine Paving and Truck-

ing, John and Ann Pierce, Max Robinson and Jack Wilson.

Thanks also to Gail Guth, Pat Heyser, Jim Hinds and Joanne Nichols for their recent cash donations.

If you haven't mailed your membership renewal, now would be a great time to do so! Your support will be much appreciated.

Volunteers are always welcome. If you have special talents you are willing to share, please contact Carol Morrison at 445-2544. We have a myriad of “wants”—volunteers are always needed and your work will be greatly appreciated. Let us know your specialty!

This is a wonderful group!■

## Our Dedicated Volunteers: Jim Hinds

One of the Historical Society's most significant assets is its archivist, Jim Hinds. Jim has an interest in history—and, he says, "If it interests me, I pursue it." As a result of his efforts, our newspaper collection, maps of early Alpine and the history of Alpine's school districts, among countless other things, are exemplary.

Jim has lived on his family's property, now known as Lilac Lane, all his life. When his parents bought the property in 1940 Jim says there was nothing there but brush!

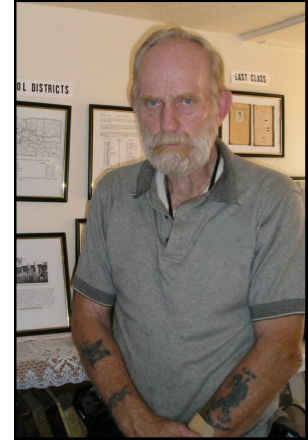
He served our country in the Army for five years and did service in Southeast Asia, Vietnam and Korea. In 1970-71 he was with a field maintenance repair facility in Southeast Asia fulfilling a government contract. He went back in 1973 by popular demand.

In addition to his involvement in Alpine's history, Jim is very active in the Mountain Empire Historical Society. The upper floor of the museum in Campo is known as the Hinds Gallery of Military History. Jim modestly reports the work at Mountain Empire has

been a cooperative effort.

Jim's extensive research has been cited in several local military history books. His work on the Calvary has been published and for this he received a commendation from military leaders.

This self-described "poor little country boy," who tells it exactly as he sees it, is a credit to his community and has contributed greatly to the documentation of Alpine's history. His maps are exceptional. All of us thank you, Jim, for all your hard work and tireless effort! ■



Jim Hinds

***Our pioneer houses are open the last Saturday and Sunday of each month from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Stop by and visit soon!***

## Viejas (Continued from page 1)

Viejas to the plow. Aguirre, an elegant Basque trader and ship owner, co-founded what is now downtown San Diego. To supply San Diego and Fort Yuma with grain, trains of ox-drawn carts, driven by Indians, began to rumble through the grass mesa (Mesa del Arroz) toward Secuan. More grain was produced here than anywhere else in the county, and the Viejas ox-cart road was a lifeline to the army. This was a time of tricultural harmony, with men and women of Viejas working together in laying out downtown San Diego, creation of roads, manufacture of ox-carts and providing Fort Yuma wagon trains.

In 1857 the first transcontinental mail stages passed through Viejas and Cockney Bill ran the vital Viejas Stop, herding mules and

feeding passengers for the San Antonio and San Diego mail line. The gigantic rancho enterprise was tragically ended by drought, plague, civil war, lawsuits and death. Viejas fell silent and remained vacant for years.

In the 1870's, George Washington Webb established the "Alpine Ranch" and the "San Diego-Julian Toll Road Company" to grade a road along the old "Camino de Secuan." At the newly-formed "Alpine School District," the beguiling Miss Emma Everhart set up school in a two-story schoolhouse, and became involved in a notorious killing. One young French shepherd lay dead, and Webb's young son was charged with murder. Miss Everhart remained single and went on to success as a fashionable downtown

milliner with several stores.

Nick and Lucy Overmier planted zinfandel vines and a village nucleus in 1872. Their house was just behind the post office. They called it "Cove Ranch" but everyone else still called it "Valle de las Viejas." In 1884, a tuberculosis epidemic brought new people to the pure mountain air of a renamed "Alpine," and the old name was relegated to the eastern valley where a rougher breed of settlers practiced mayhem and murder to settle old quarrels.

Beautiful houses built by Benjamin Arnold around the turn of the century, together with surviving 1880's homesteads, reflect Alpine's role as a refuge from urban congestion. And so it remains today. ■



Jimmy Hinds on Lilac Lane in Alpine—1948 Snowstorm

**Alpine Historical  
Society**

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**We're on the Web!**

[www.alpinehistory.org](http://www.alpinehistory.org)

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Send notices via: E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Category (please check one):**

Student \$5

Family \$35

Business \$50

Senior \$15

Nonprofit Org. \$30

Business Life \$1,000

Individual \$25

Life \$500

**Amount Enclosed:**

Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Interest for Volunteers:**

Building Preservation

Technical/Clerical

Where Needed

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

***Thank you for helping to preserve Alpine's history!***

Stop by our Museum Store to browse through the numerous brochures pertaining to Alpine history and look at the books and other items available for sale! It's well worth the trip and you'll enjoy seeing the recently completed renovations in the Nichols house! The museums are open the last Saturday and Sunday of each month from 2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

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