

Mud Springs Messenger

BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOUR SAN DIMAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Chartered—June 6, 1966

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President—Ralph Thomas

Vice-President—David Harbin

Recording Secretary—Peggy Thomas

Correspondence Secretary and

Membership —Suzy Crawford

Historian—Kim Bratt

Treasurer—Bruce Colburn

Archivist—Susan Davis

Assistant Archivist—Audrey Dailey,

Dean White, Bill Stone,

Thomas Slanina

Directors: Bee Dallas—Hospitality

Susan Higley—Hospitality

Paul McClure

Jim Rowe—Volunteers

Lorna Sapp—Mailings

Terry Templeman—Photographer

Museum Mgmt—Bill Emerson

OFFICE LOCATION

246 East Bonita Avenue, San Dimas

(909) 592-1190

Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday—9 to Noon

Special hours available upon request

MUSEUM LOCATION

Santa Fe Depot

210 West Bonita Avenue, San Dimas

(909) 305-9466

Hours:

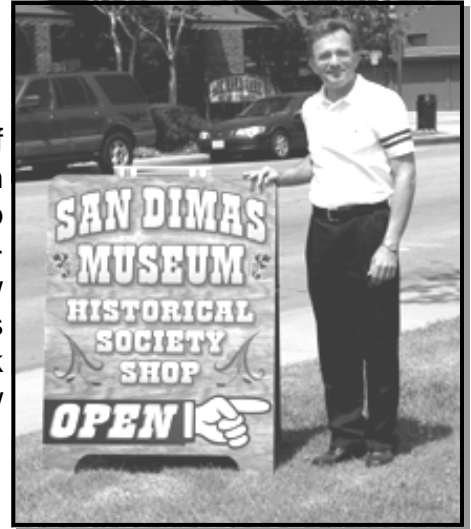
1st & 3rd Saturdays—10 am to 2 pm

www.sandimashistorical.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ralph Thomas

Fall flew by in a whirlwind of getting ready for Western Days, planning the move into the Walker House and planning for the Fall Dinner. Now Old Man Winter is upon us and we have so much to look forward to in the next few months.



Western Days was a huge success, thanks to the help we received from many of our Board Members. Our new sweatshirts and golf shirts were a big hit. We also sold several copies of our new book: Images of America-San Dimas. Supplies are limited, so be sure to pick up your copy at the Historical Society office or museum.

The Historical Society's Walker House Steering Committee has been working closely with the Festival and Rodeo to finalize our proposal to the city for utilizing space in the Walker House. The city has approved the Historical Society's plan to relocate our office, which is currently in the Martin House, and the museum, which is currently in the train station, to the 2nd floor, north wing of the Walker House. The building is scheduled to be ready for occupancy in late January or early February. We expect it will take several months to complete the move. This is a very exciting time for the Historical Society and we will keep you updated as things evolve.

We had a record-breaking 95 attendees at the Fall Dinner to hear our guest speaker, Seth Shulman talk about his latest book, The Telephone Gambit: Chasing Alexander Graham Bells' Secret. Seth spoke about his experience as a researcher and how he stumbled across evidence surrounding Bell's role in the invention of the telephone. Seth discovered

how Bell, one of the world's most famous inventors, stole the key idea behind the invention of the telephone. Although he would secure what would become the most valuable U.S. patent ever issued, this secret would plague him the rest of his life.

We also recognized two of our members at the dinner for donating items of historical significance to San Dimas. Winnie Robertson donated many items she wore in San Dimas as an infant and some of her toys. Also, Dave Harbin donated his grandfather's uniform, equipment, and personal effects issued to him during his service in World War I.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to Paul McClure and Thomas Slanina to our Board as Directors. Both are very enthusiastic members and we welcome their help and fresh ideas.

One of our priorities of 2009 is to place a greater focus on the donation of historical items. The Mission of the Historical Society is to preserve the history of San Dimas. To support this mission, we want to discover and collect any items which establish, redefine or illustrate the history of our City. We would like to encourage all our members to consider donating or lending their three dimensional items, pictures or documents. If you have something you would like to lend or donate, please call our office at 909-592-1190 or contact any of our Board Members.

On behalf of the entire Board, I would like to wish you and your family a happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

Thoughts, comments, suggestions? You can always call us at the office or e-mail us at :

office91773@sandimashistorical.org

The City Hall Display Case

Have you visited the San Dimas Museum or have you just not found the time? Saturday mornings can be a challenge with Little League, Karate or Soccer practice. Just in case, you have another option. If you are ever near City Hall during the week, you can always get a glimpse of what we are all about by venturing inside.

In the lobby of City Hall is a glass and wooden case, filled with a variety of displays. These change often and focus on a multitude of topics. In November we had a beautiful and entertaining array of telephones, old and new. The comparison in size of some of them to the tiny cell phones of today really showed how far technology has come.

During the holidays as Christmas Carols fill the airwaves, take a moment to share something from your past. Inside the lobby is a beautiful display of Christmas albums. Yes, records. Vinyl. LPs. In today's world of iPods, MP3 players and electronic music downloads, many a young person may have not seen what a record looks like. Take a minute to share with them. They also may not understand how we could sit, listening to the music while viewing the album covers for hours.

These wonderful displays are courtesy of the creativity and support of volunteer Margie Green. She comes up with the ideas, based on seasonality or the events that are happening around town. It then takes shape and is shared for all to enjoy. So, next time you are near City Hall, stop by and take a peek.

A BIG San Dimas Welcome

to our newest members:

Marlee Barnes, Ryan & Rebecca Cantor, Steve & Rachel Bratakos, Wayne Collier, Lloyd Crow, Linda Gamborg, Reverend Joyce Kirk-Moore and the San Dimas Community Church, Doris Johnson, Chuck & Linda Keagle, Laura Lampys, Martha Martinez, Pat McKee, Michael Moore, Thomas Slanina and our newest Life Member, Yolanda King

There's No Place Like Home

By Suzy Crawford

There's no place like home. Does that statement make you conjure up visions of tornadoes, scarecrows, tin men and wicked witches? It would for me as well but not any longer. Now I think of something else and here's why: Several of the residents of San Dimas had the opportunity to travel to China recently and tour this marvelous part of the world. In typical tour fashion, the groups would climb aboard their designated bus and off we would go to see the sights.

Once our bus arrived at the destination, we would disembark and gather around our tour guide. Now there were about forty people per busload and there were five buses in our group. In addition, there are many, many other tour groups at each tourist site, doing the same thing. Add to that the fact that China is one very populated country. Not meaning to reference the Wizard of Oz but 'people come and go so quickly here.' At many of the sites, the general population was attending and touring as well. When you left the bus it was as if you entered a bee hive.

So, you follow your tour guide and keep that Bus sign in sight. However, my height is not what I would like it to be. The tour guide did not hold the sign up very high due to the fact the sign was on a stick only about a foot and a half long. Add to that the hustle and bustle of many, many other tour groups and the general business of people who live there and you have one big crowd. It was easy to lose sight of our leader. Heck, it was easy to lose sight of my fellow bus passengers.

Several times I would look at something just a moment too long, or take a photo and then turn to see that my tour group had moved on. Not far mind you but in some of the sights there are buildings within buildings, hallways with twists and turns. So it was relatively easy for me to

lose sight.

I'd scurry along to catch up but with no Bus sign in sight. Panic was almost at my throat but several times a wonderful thing happened that truly made me laugh. I would spot '91773' and feel so much better. Ted Powl from our Chamber wore one of our baseball caps on this trip. The photo below is when we emerged from the Forbidden City on our very first tour day. I had my husband Mitchell take a photo of this event because it made me chuckle so.

During the rest of our trip, my eyes became trained to look for that zip code more than the Bus sign. You just never know where your home away from home will show up. And our merchandising committee has been busy adding to our San Dimas collection. Come browse the selections during Museum hours and add a touch of home to your wardrobe. There are now a variety of shirts as well as aprons and hats. What will you wear and where will you go on your excellent adventure?



Do You Know?

Which member owned and ran a local Christmas Tree Farm?

Answer: Next Issue

Fall Issue Answer

Paul Spencer donated the smudge pot, now the prize of the Smudge Bowl. His grove was on Valley Center



From the Archives

By Susan Davis

It has been a busy year for the Historical Society and it looks like 2009 will be even busier. I want to express my thanks to a wonderful group of office volunteers. Thomas Slanina has recently joined us on both Tuesday and Thursday mornings and has rapidly become indispensable. Bill Stone has returned to help on Thursday mornings and his assistance is truly appreciated. Dean White is still our resident jokester and photographer extraordinaire. Besides helping me retain sanity, Audrey Dailey also continues to chuckle her way through the copies of the old San Dimas newspapers.

We always welcome people to the archives and especially enjoy the opportunity to assist them with their research into their homes and families. David Aguaya contacted us regarding his Uncle Pete Aguaya, who owned a bicycle sales, rental and repair shop in San Dimas. I'm happy to say, that we were able to locate four years of telephone directory listings, one even had a photo, of Aguaya's Bike Shop. Another visitor was Juan Gonzales. Juan was born in the Mexican Colony and is compiling the names and stories of the residents of the colony. We were able to provide a copy of the rent receipts from 1927-1929.

Our November Walking Tour was not only well attended, it was truly a lot of fun. I am embarrassed to say that it is the first one I have ever taken part in. Dave Harbin led us up one side of Bonita, to a short visit to our museum and then down the other side of Bonita. In addition to the educational information, Dave and some members of the group shared "I remember" stories. There are four scheduled walking tours in 2009. Please plan on joining us for the next

one on Saturday, February 21, 2009. We meet at the Martin House at 9:00 AM for the 90 minute tour. The cost is \$5 per person and includes the "Touring San Dimas" book.

Every year during the holidays, you probably notice that the Martin House is decorated with lights, garlands and bows. I want to thank all those who gave up their Saturday morning to help. They were Mitchell & Suzy Crawford, John Davis, Matt & Julie Draayom, Bill Emerson, Dave Harbin, Charles McCants, Ralph Thomas and myself. We also want to thank Emmett Badar, Lorna Sapp and Jeff Templeman for joining us for a pre-decorating strategy breakfast at Roadys.

With the possibility of the Historical Society's archives and museum moving into the Walker House, it is imperative that we develop a group who help us with staffing. We need volunteers who will commit to serving at least 3 hours per month.

We are looking for a group of people who will be trained either to use the Past Perfect Software to help keep our extensive archives and records up to date and to help access the files contained in the computer; or, trained on the History of San Dimas and the J.W. Walker House to act as docents for the museum. Please contact the office at (909) 592-1190. We know you will enjoy helping the Society.

From all of us in the archives

Merry Christmas! We hope you have a holiday that fills your heart with joy!

Historical Society Elves at Martin House

