

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
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- 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

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

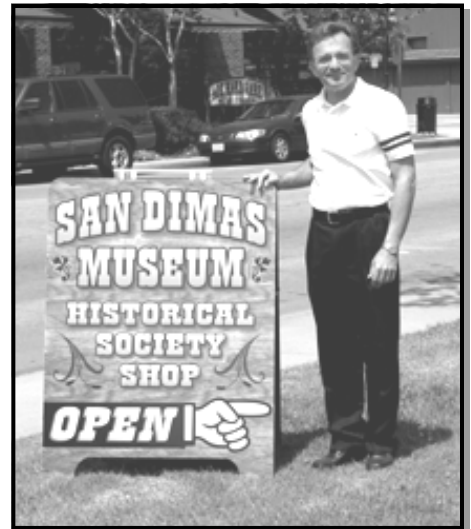
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ralph Thomas

It's done and it's magnificent!!!
After months of restoration, the historic Walker House is ready for its grand opening.

For 122 years, the Walker House has been the crown jewel of San Dimas' history, achieving county, state and national landmark status. Although it was originally built as a hotel, it never had a paying guest. (Come to the opening and find out why). For almost 90 years, it served as a private residence for descendants of the James and Sue Walker family.



The Historical Society's Walker House Steering Committee and Board have been working with the city over the past several months to help finalize plans for the grand opening. Pictures hung throughout the house were selected from our archives and under the leadership of our Archivist, Susan Davis, a Walker House Docent Program has been established to support the grand opening events. Docent guided tours will provide interesting facts about the construction, use and restoration of the building.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the Historical Society plans to relocate our office and museum to the second floor, North wing of the Walker House beginning in May. Our museum will utilize 4 rooms; 3 rooms for displaying historical artifacts and a room located under the tower that will display a family tree of the Walker descendants. You will also be able to view the inside construction of the 65 foot tower. Other rooms will be used for collection accessioning, a reading room and office space. We are excited to now have more space for our

volunteers to work and a research room where the public will have access to online and hard-copy archival information for their research. By having everything centrally located in one building, our goal is to become even more accessible to the public.

We are thankful to the city for making the restoration of this historically significant building possible and are excited to open it up for everyone to enjoy. Join us at one of our open house celebrations on Saturday, March 21 and 28 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and Thursday, March 26 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

Also, please mark your calendars for our Spring Dinner on May 14th at the San Dimas Canyon Club House. Our speaker will be author, Rick Thomas, who will talk about South Pasadena's Raymond Hotel which opened one year before the Walker House was completed. I look forward to seeing everyone there!

A BIG San Dimas Welcome

to our newest members:

Teddie and Carl Main



What's in a Name?

Alicia, Delores, Teresa and Victoria. Edinborough, Gainsborough, Greenwich and Manchester. Briarwood, Pinewood, Cottonwood, Redwood and Rosewood. Do you live in a neighborhood where all the streets are named in a similar fashion? Do the names conjure up images of the Old West? The Maverick, the town Marshall, the Butterfield stage coach, the Rodeo. Or perhaps they are all girls names, places or names of trees.

Krishna Patel, Director of Public Works shared street naming conventions applied as our city has grown. Most were determined and named in zones long before our 1960 incorporation and were named with a common thread as explained above. But there are streets named

within our town that reflect a bit more history. This is the beginning of an on-going series intended to share the stories behind the names.

First we will start with Way Court. This street gives tribute to Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Way who came to San Dimas in 1899 from Nebraska. The bought a tract of land north of Fifth Street which became known as Way Hill (think of the water towers.) Now the Ways were not citrus ranchers like most of our early pioneers. Instead, they found the soil in this location best for growing berries. They raised all sorts of berries with the exception of strawberries. The Ways grew and shipped to Pomona, Los Angeles and other distant cities. They also supplied the Harvey Houses restaurant by utilizing the railroad.

Our Annual Membership Drive

Our organization is indeed a non-profit one. It is staffed and served by wonderful volunteers. These people donate their time and expertise, be it reading, writing, organizing others, staffing our museum, manning the barbeque, scooping ice cream, paying the bills and computer support. It is all performed by passionate volunteers.

And speaking of paying the bills, there is a reason why every May we conduct our membership drive. We need funds. Yes, even with all of those volunteers and donated hours, the Historical Society has bills to pay. We incur utility bills like the telephone on a monthly basis. Insurance and the hosting of our website also incur a fee. We have printing costs to generate our quarterly newsletters and directory. Rest assured we stretch the pennies to the best of our ability but we do need and appreciate your support. With the Walker House adventure before us, we are excited to be able to display and share much more. With this excitement comes a cost for display materials. (Continued on page 3)

The Other House

By Suzy Crawford

Yes, there is much excitement in the city of San Dimas these days. Everyone is talking about the house, the Walker House. But this is not the only artistic feat of architecture in this town. Did you ever hear anyone speak of the 'Round House?' Well, like the Walker House, the Round House has some interesting features.

The Round House was the 'green' idea of Bob Gaston, long before it was popular to be green. He developed his ideas into a wonderful home, nestled in the hills overlooking our Puddingstone Lake. Built in 1953, Bob and Verna raised their family here.

New to the area, Pastor Berkedal of Faith Lutheran in San Dimas joined Meals on Wheels to help others, to get the lay of the land and meet people. His driving and delivery partner was Bob. In conversation Pastor Berkedal shared his quest for the right slope or hill for Easter Sunrise Services and his search ended. Bob offered up his home, rooftop that is. Yes, all able to climb the ladder to the roof would enjoy a wonderful Sunrise Service. In addition the location offered a birdseye view of Puddingstone, the San Gabriel Mountains and the San Gabriel valley below. These services started in the early 90s. It was after these services that Bob offered to take anyone interested on a tour of the home.

Think of a large circle with a smaller circle in the center. This inner circle was the family room that also served as a form of hallway. It has doorways that allowed you to get from one side of the outer circle to the other. This outer circle consisted of two bedrooms and two baths as well as kitchen, workshop and living room.

Eaves were angled down and extended a precise number of inches from the walls. I remember him sharing the reason for these measurements. Due to the position of the sun in the sky during the various seasons he calculated the optimal length. He could gain warmth through the windows in winter while shielding the interior of the home from the blasting heat of the day during the summer months

when the sun was higher in the sky.

Many of our homes today have wonderful 'pass-through windows.' These allow quicker access from our kitchen to our California patio during pleasant weather, thus saving the hostess steps. The Round House utilized this same idea. Drawers that slid from the kitchen and dishwashing station, through to the dining room, where the table was set saved time and effort.

This home will never see the number of visitors the Walker House will see. But those of us who had the chance are glad we did.



Membership...continued

Our annual membership drive banner will be flying in May. We know times are tough. We hope you renew your membership and encourage your San Dimas neighbors to join. We value each and every one of our members and their contributions. You are the key to our success. Our Museum is open to the public as well as our archives and research areas. All this is done in support of our mission: We are committed to preserving the history of San Dimas., with your support.





From the Archives

By Susan Davis

WALKER HOUSE COMPLETES RESTORATION!

I don't know about you, but I was beginning to wonder if I would ever see the above headline. However, the renovation has finally been completed and by the time you receive this newsletter, at least one of the open houses celebrating the Walker House Grand Reopening will have already taken place. Thank you to the City of San Dimas for preserving this important part of San Dimas history.

Most of the photos that you will see in the public areas of the Walker House came from our archives. It was an excellent learning experience working with the decorator to choose the original photos to use and working with QIP to understand why you can't take just any picture and enlarge it into a 16x20. Not to mention, my failure to understand how much space 50 picture frames would take up in our workroom!

Thank you to the individuals that responded to my pleas for docents. Although we have been concentrating on preparing docents for the four open houses there will be future opportunities for docent tours once the Walker House is open as well as opportunities to volunteer some time in either our museum or archives.

We have two new fund raisers coming up. On Friday, April 10th if you take the enclosed flyer into Blimpie Subs & Salads, the Historical Society will receive 20% of your total purchase. Likewise, on Thursday, April 16th, please take the enclosed flyer to Applebee's and we will receive 15% of your purchase.

In January, I had the privilege of meeting with Stella Smead Weigle. Stella grew up and at-

tended school in San Dimas before moving to Pomona, where she has lived in the same house that she and her husband, John, built 70 years ago. Among items that Stella donated to the Historical Society is a framed sampler stitched by her grandmother. Thank you Stella for your donation and a wonderful afternoon spent learning about some of the San Dimas pioneers.

Just in case you haven't heard, San Dimas is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2010. It was August 4, 1960 that the City of San Dimas was Incorporated. In conjunction with all the activities that are being planned, our museum will have a rotating display, throughout the year, highlighting the various decades of San Dimas history. Please keep us in mind, while doing your 'Spring Cleaning' and if you run across photos or items that typify those five decades, I would appreciate it if you would loan or donate them to the museum. Remember, we do not need to keep your original photos. Once we are able to scan them into our files, the originals will be returned to you.

We have already received, through the San Dimas Library, a cereal box, Ralston's Bill & Ted's Excellent Cereal based on the 1989 movie. Now if someone just saved a Bill & Ted's Cassette Tape Case that was shaped like their telephoning phone booth - that would be cool.

Our next big project will be moving the archives to the Walker House. Which should be taking place in May. When the move is complete, the archives will have new hours. Stay tuned for all the updates.

<p>Do You Know?</p> <p>What unique animal was an attraction for past Western Days Festivities?</p> <p>Answer: Next Issue</p>	<p>Last Issue Answer</p> <p>One of our past Board Members, Winnie Robertson owned and ran the Sturrock's Christmas Tree Farm</p>
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