

Walker Journal B – 13

Reminiscences of San Dimas Pioneers

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Mud Springs was ½ mile east of the Clancy house.

Some information received from Mr. Tom Gore, September 15, 1932 by Mrs. Harry E. Walker.

Mr. Thomas E. Gore came to San Dimas in the fall of 1887. M.L. Wicks had organized the San José Land Co. in 1886. It was composed of the following southerners—Frank Sabichi, Dr. Lotspiech, George W. Hughes and M.L. Wicks. There were only three buildings in the townsite when Mr. Gore arrived. 1887 witnessed great crowds at San Dimas buying real estate, which among others, included all the town lots we have today and the twenty acre lots which surround them, for all of which beggarly prices were paid. This was the peak of the boom to which the building of the Santa Fe had given a great impetus. Mr. Gore came here because his brother-in-law, Mr. Ed Marshall, was land agent here. Mr. Marshall occupied the building on the northwest corner of Bonita and Depot Street. He ran a little store and when a post office became established in San Dimas, he became the first postmaster and the office was in his store. A Mr. Biglow was his assistant.

When Mr. Gore (who had been a railroad man) came west it was in search of health. When he arrived in San Dimas he had but little of this worlds goods, having but a few cents in his pockets. As soon as the railroad was completed or as soon as an agent was needed he was chosen as station agent for this station (San Dimas was a flag station for some time). He was established as agent before the depot was built (a freight-car was also used as station for a time) and had his office in the store of E.M. Marshall. The duties of station agent were not very confining at that time, and money was scarce, so Mr. Gore did whatever he could find to do on the outside. The Santa Fe station was built in 1889, and is still in use.

In 1888, a lumber mill was built on the east side of San Dimas Avenue, just south of the Santa Fe tracks, the lumber yard is north of where the tracks are now, on the same street, and running north to Bonita Avenue. (Miss Eccles later built a shack on this property and lived there with her herd of stock.) This mill was built by the San José Land Company to obtain cheaper material for the vast proposed building program. Modern machinery was installed and all the finished lumber for an entire building was milled here. The pine was brought from Oregon and the Redwood from Humboldt County. The logs were sent down by water, then brought to San Dimas by rail and teams. Brownlee and Bowers ran the mill. Mr. James Brownlee came here from Glendora—he was the millwright and Mr. Gore says “he was a good one.” He was also a good worker. All the material used in the Santa Fe depot, the hotel building, the cottage on First Street, the La Verne Hotel on Grand Avenue, (later the David and Margaret Home) and many other buildings was milled here. Mr. Gore said some of the lumber was so green when it was used that the sap would fly out when a nail was driven into it, but so great was the demand for lumber that there was no time for curing. This mill was operated for two or three years, or until the “boom” burst. Mr. Brownlee appropriated all the movable machinery. Without the formality of asking, he hauled it to Lordsburg and shipped it from that station to the port, and from there to La Plata, South America. He left at the same time and was killed several years later in some sort of an insurrection in South America. Mr. Gore says “the San Jose Land Company owed Mr. Brownlee quite a bit of money which he could not get, the bursting of the ‘boom’ had made

money very scarce and difficult to get, and while what Mr. Brownlee did was perhaps against the law, he probably felt he was in the right—that he was entitled to it."

He left his wife and five children in San Dimas. Mrs. Brownlee became the second postmistress in San Dimas in 1890. She moved the post office building from the northwest corner of Bonita Avenue and Depot Street to the southeast corner of the same streets. She lived in the rear of the building as Mr. Marshall had done and had a small store and the post office in the front. The property where the "Mill" stood was sold to I.N. Walker of Covington, Kentucky, in 1892. It was later owned by Harry E. Walker, his son, and for many years was used as a barn. In 1910, H.E. Walker sold the property to W.A. Johnstone—the present owner. Mr. Johnstone had the "Old Mill" building torn down as it had out-lived its usefulness.

The first dwelling house in San Dimas was the cottage on the north side of First Street, between San Dimas Avenue and Iglesia Street. It was built for Mr. E.M. Marshall in 1888 by the San José Land Company. Mr. Marshall was land agent for the company. Mr. Gore did some of the carpenter work on the building and when, a few years ago, Mr. J.S. Billheimer offered \$10.00 for the oldest shingle in San Dimas, Mr. Gore thought of this cottage and remembered that the original shingles still remained on it. So he presented one of these shingles with its authentic history and received the \$10.00. James A. Johnstone and family occupied this cottage from 1890 to 1892. Mrs. Fannie M. Spilman of Kentucky, sister of Mr. James W. Walker, purchased this property off the San José Land Company in 1892 or 1893. Upon Mrs. Spilman's death, it became the property of her daughter, Miss Sue W. Spilman. She sold it in 1930 to Mr. T.C. McDowell. Harry E. Walker and family occupied this cottage from the time he arrived in San Dimas, November 1894, until 1908. Dallas Walker was born there September 22, 1895 and Mary Walker was born there October 20, 1898.

The hotel was built in 1888 by the San José Land Company. It was vacant for a long time, as by the time it was completed the boom had subsided and the hotel, instead of being the gold mine they had anticipated, was a white elephant on the company's hands. It cost \$20,000. The company offered the building to Mr. Gore as a gift, if he would open it and operate it as a hotel—he refused as there seemed to be no prospect of it ever being a paying proposition. However, he had the keys and was custodian of the building. At that time this building contained the only bathrooms in town—there was plenty of domestic water, so that Mr. Gore had the luxury of a tub bath whenever he felt so inclined—which he says he greatly appreciated.

In 1889, Mr. Carter purchased the building and forty acres of orchard on west Bonita Avenue. He furnished the building throughout and opened it as a hotel. They did little, if any, business. Mr. Carter and his wife did a great deal of planting about the building—some of which still remains. In 1890, Mr. James W. Walker of Covington, Kentucky, bought the orange grove and the hotel building. The building he purchased for a home and such it has remained up to the present time. It is occupied by his daughter, Mrs. Ella Walker Potts, and her daughter, Mrs. Rowena Potts Carruthers, and her children. Being southern people, their latch string was always out and their home was a haven to many who found themselves stranded in San Dimas. Aunt

Sue and Uncle Jimmy, as they were lovingly called by all who knew them, are well remembered by the older residents of San Dimas.

The first Sunday School in San Dimas was held in the basement of this building—before it was ever used for any other purpose. So the old building was dedicated with Christian services. It was a community Sunday School. Mrs. E.M. Marshall was the superintendent and Mrs. David C. Teague was assistant.

The first school was also held in the basement of this building and Miss Jessie McCormick, a half-sister of Mrs. Tom Gore, was the first teacher—she was killed in the San Francisco earthquake. For many years meetings and entertainments of all sorts were held here, in fact, until more suitable places were to be had.

The first church services were held in the Mills building. Services were conducted by any available clergyman—regardless of the denomination he represented. Even a Mormon held services but Mr. Gore added he was not a “Brighamite.”

During the “boom” and during the building activities there were two cement pipe camps south of the Santa Fe tracks. One was conducted by Mr. W.A. Stowell (an uncle of Sheridan A. Stowell who still resides in San Dimas) and the other by a Los Angeles firm. There were also a number of men putting down wells and building tunnels at Mud Springs to increase the water supply from that source. They were very insistent that Mr. Gore start a restaurant for their benefit, which they finally persuaded him to do. He opened it in a little building, west of and adjoining the post office building on Bonita Avenue. The first public school was held in the Mills building—northwest corner of Bonita Avenue and Exchange Place, in 1890.

The first school board was comprised of Mr. D.C. Teague, Mr. H.C. Mace and Mr. Tom Gore. As time went on they found Mr. Mace could not legally serve on the board as he was out of the district, living in Charter Oak, so Mr. Peter Taylor was chosen to fill his place. Fifteen children were required in the district in order to get help from the county. Not having the required number, two were borrowed from La Verne. They were Ed and Sadie Bixby, children of Mr. and Mrs. Hillard Bixby, who with a Mr. Allen were trying to build a city north of where Bonita High School now stands. Most of the buildings were on Grand Avenue. The first teacher in the Mills building was Charles E. Taylor. He taught from June 9, 1890 to June 20, 1890 with 26 pupils enrolled. The next term in the Mills building beginning September 15, 1890 and closing May 27, 1891 was taught by Miss R.E. Griffin, with 22 pupils enrolled. The Mills building was later the home of Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Anderson and family, and was moved by them to their ranch on West Cienega Avenue where it was remodeled. It is now the property of Harry Smead.

P.S. I have a photograph of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Gore, also a picture of both the first Santa Fe Depot and the first Southern Pacific Depot.

G.R.W.

Some of the information received from W.E. Mount, November 4, 1933 by Mrs. Harry E. Walker.

Mr. W.E. Mount came to San Dimas in 1888. He kept bachelors hall in a small shack on land owned by Mr. G.H. Bixby at La Verne, later he lived in Lordsburg for three years, then built his home in San Dimas in 1897. When he came to San Dimas the Peter Taylor house on Cienega Avenue had been moved down from Grand Avenue, La Verne. The Brownlee family occupied the two story house at the corner of Bonita Avenue and Exchange Place, and continued to live there until about 1890—the J.W. Anderson family occupied the building later, the building was later moved to their ranch west of San Dimas. Ed Marshall lived in the cottage on the north side of First Street between San Dimas Avenue and Iglesia Street. Mr. Hannum lived in the two story house next door. Eli Shuler, John A. Stevens and Mr. Payne lived near the San Dimas Canyon. Solomon Gates lived on the San Dimas Canyon Road near the mouth of the canyon. Mr. Payne later had a feed store in Pomona and later bought the Solomon Gates place. A brother-in-law of Stevens lived on what is now the C.C. Warren place. Soni Cunningham (a relative of Dr. Charles Cunningham) lived west of the C.C. Warren place. He filed on 140 acres of land, and Mr. Gordon also homesteaded the same land. Mr. Cunningham failed to file his application in time and Mr. Gordon filed (Mr. Gordon was a lawyer). There was a suit which was settled by Mr. Gordon taking the north 80 acres and Cunningham the south 60 acres.

The first water development was in 1876, by the Mound City development Company. Tunnels were started at Mud Springs in 1887—two inch pipes were laid from the flowing wells at Mud Springs to San Dimas and this was the domestic water supply. Mr. Mount surveyed for the San José Land Company. They were very slow pay, it cost him about 10% of the amount to collect it, and he was years in collecting it all.

There was a brick kiln on the south side of Cienega west of Amelia Street. It was built and operated for about a year in 1887. The bricks for the chimneys and some foundations in San Dimas and La Verne were made there.

The mill on the east side of San Dimas Avenue, south of the Santa Fe tracks, was standing there but he did not think it was being operated. The lumber in this mill was used in building the buildings in San Dimas and La Verne. La Verne at that time was larger than either San Dimas or Lordsburg.

Mr. James H. Judson built his house in 1890, on South San Dimas Avenue. Mr. Mount built the Judson reservoir in 1891. One day at the reservoir site Mr. Judson, with a friend from the east and Mr. Mount were talking. Mr. Judson was pointing out the fine things in California, and of San Dimas in particular, among other things he said, they have terrible winds to the east of us but practically never have them in San Dimas. At that moment everything was calm and beautiful—within fifteen minutes the wind began to blow growing worse and worse until they had to seek shelter indoors. It blew constantly for three days. It blew down most of the freight shed at the Santa Fe Station—it was never rebuilt.

Mr. C.P. Teague lived in a little house on Cienega Avenue at Mud Springs. It was built of redwood boards placed upright—it had been there for some time and was dark from exposure to the elements—after the storm it looked like new sandpapered redwood.

Mr. Marshall, a brother-in-law of Mr. Gore, was the first postmaster (he was a telegraph operator by trade) in San Dimas. He went to Redlands in 1890 and Mrs. E.H. Brownlee became post mistress.

Mr. Tom Gore was the first Santa Fe agent at San Dimas—in 1887, he was transferred to Lamanda Park. The depot was closed at San Dimas and Mrs. Brownlee became the second agent, selling tickets at the post office and flagging trains for passengers.

The San José Land Company had given the Santa Fe a right-of-way through San Dimas, one of the stipulations being that a depot was to be maintained at San Dimas suitable for a population of 2,500 people. When the depot was closed, the San José Land Company threatened to start suit to recover the right-of-way, as they had not lived up to their contract. So the depot was again opened and an agent, Ed Durgan, put in charge.

Miss Eccles was here when Mr. Mount came, she had a herd of cattle in the San Dimas Wash. Later she had a corral and lived at the southeast corner of San Dimas and Bonita Avenues. In November 1900, there was a flood. It began to rain November 17 and rained until November 22. The Southern Pacific tracks east and west of the station were washed out, and a train was marooned at the station, the passengers were transferred to Pomona by busses and carriages. It was several weeks before the trains were running again, this being a branch line. Most of the bridges through this section were washed out.

Some information received from Martin L. Torrey, August 21, 1934 by Mrs. Harry E. Walker.

Martin L. Torrey came to San Dimas March 3, 1888. He lived in Pomona three months before coming to San Dimas. When he arrived there were only a few buildings in the townsite and they were as follows: 1) there was a store building on the northwest corner of Bonita Avenue and Depot Street in which Mr. E.M Marshall and Mr. Biglow had a hardware store; 2) a cottage on the north side of First Street, between San Dimas Avenue and Iglesia Street, which had been built by the San José Land Company for their land agent, Mr. E.M. Marshall—he and his family were living there; 3) a small house on the south side of Second Street, between San Dimas Avenue and Depot Street, west of where the Methodist parsonage now stands—it was built and occupied by Tom Gore and his family; 4) a small house about where the Southern Pacific depot now stands—it was owned and occupied by Mr. William T. Micheal and family; and 5) a two story store building on the northwest corner of Bonita and Exchange Place (where the bank now stands)—it was known as the “Mills Building” because the man who built it was named Mills. Those were all the buildings in San Dimas when he came here, four in the San Dimas townsite. The Santa Fe depot and the hotel building were under construction. The depot was in a boxcar. Mr. Tom Gore was agent. Mr. Torrey built a house on the south

side of Second Street between San Dimas Avenue and Depot Street, where the Methodist Church now stands. This house was purchased later by Mr. E.M. Marshall and moved to Redlands.

When Mr. Torrey came to San Dimas he expected to be able to do a lot of work at his trade—he was a stone mason and plasterer—as the San José Land Company were planning to build ten cottages and private individuals were planning to build 15 more. As a matter of fact, none of these were ever built.

A planing mill was built in 1888 by the San José Land Company. It was located on south San Dimas Avenue—south of the Santa Fe tracks on the east side of the street. It was quite a building, it was built on the hillside, with two stories on the level and another story below, making it a three story building on the east side and a two story building on the west side. It contained a planing machine, circular saw, band saw, molder, and stripper. It was operated by Brownlee and Bowers—and was in operation for about two years. Mr. Torrey says he has seen as many as fifteen carloads of lumber on the tracks at one time for this mill. There was a great demand for finished lumber. A large lumber yard was established at the southeast corner of San Dimas Avenue and Bonita. Some of the lumber was stolen so a fence was built around the yard as a protection. After the “boom” broke this lumber was sold out in bulk, much of it going to Pomona. There was a pipe yard on West Railway Street, where they manufactured pipe. The lumber yard is now located there. There was also a brick yard on Cienega Avenue west of Amelia Street. What remained of this brick was sold in bulk, most of it going to Pomona. These yards were owned and operated by the San José Land Company. When Mr. Torrey was living in Pomona, Mr. Jasper N. Teague was building a fine new home on Park Avenue. Mr. Torrey wanted to bid on the plastering, fifteen others had already made their bids, the contract went to the lowest bidder. It is an interesting fact that the house was all plastered and it turned so cold that the plaster froze and all of it had to be removed and the house re-plastered. He said at that same time their hydrants were covered with ice and frozen shut.

In 1888, Mr. Tom Gore opened up a little restaurant in a small building built of upright boards, adjoining the Marshall and Biglow store on the west. He did this to accommodate the men working in the pipe yard, mill and on the buildings.

1. The store building on the southwest corner of Bonita and Depot Street was moved to Cataract Street, just north of the grammar school—it was purchased by John Lee. His wife still resides there. The first building was always the home of the post office. First with Mr. E.M. Marshall as postmaster, then Mrs. E. H. Brownlee, then Mr. W.H. Macy.
2. The cottage on First Street is still standing at the original location. It has been remodeled quite recently.
3. The cottage west of the Methodist parsonage—once owned and occupied by Tom Gore—has been remodeled in about 1924.

4. The small house (which was not in the San Dimas townsite) owned and occupied by William T. Micheal, was later moved to his ranch, northwest corner of Cienega Avenue and Walnut Avenue on what is now known as the Samuel Jewell Ranch. This house burned later.
5. The store building—known as the Mills building because a man by the name of Mills built it. The Brownlee family lived in it—later Mr. Luther Torrey lived in it. Then the first public school was held in it until the completion of the Grammar School building on Cataract Street in 1891. It was necessary to have fifteen pupils in order to get a teacher for this first school. As that many were not available in San Dimas, two were borrowed from La Verne. (They were Sadie and Edward Bixby, children of Mr. and Mrs. Hillard Bixby.) This building was bought by Mr. J.W. Anderson and was his home for some years. Later he moved it to his ranch on West Cienega and remodeled for a home. It still stands on what is known as the Smead Ranch.

Miss Eccles lived in the wash with her father when Mr. Torrey came here—where she had her herd of stock. Later she moved her cattle to the old lumber yard—southeast corner of Bonita and San Dimas—where she built a shack and lived for a number of years. She was a queer character—always wearing men's clothes. Later she moved to the eucalyptus grove at Third and Iglesia where Earnest Richter has a persimmon grove now.

The two story house on the north side of Commercial Street, between San Dimas Avenue and Depot Street, was built by the San José Land Company for Mr. Bowers—it is still standing there. Mr. M.L. Torrey lived in it while he was building his home on the northeast corner of Bonita Avenue and Walnut Street in 1890. Mr. Torrey planted his home place to prunes and apricots but because of the scarcity of water he had to take the trees out.

Peter Taylor lived at the west entrance to San Dimas Canyon where the San Dimas Park is now. Mary Taylor was born there. Mr. Taylor was a member of the first school board of the Mud Springs District.

A number of the houses in San Dimas were moved from La Verne. The townsite of La Verne was laid out away from the railroad. San Dimas being their station, busses met all passenger trains at San Dimas and took passengers to La Verne. At that time La Verne was larger than either Lordsburg or San Dimas. Some of the houses moved from La Verne to San Dimas were: 1) the Alex A. McLean house southeast corner of Cienega and Cataract—known as the McComas place—it has been remodeled several times; 2) the Peter Taylor house on the south side of Cienega Avenue west of Cataract—it has been remodeled and is now the McInerny place; 3) the two story house on the north side of First Street between San Dimas Avenue and Iglesia Street—belongs to Mr. Tom Gore, it has been changed but little; 4) the William Ferry house, southeast corner of Cataract and Southern Pacific Railroad, later torn down; 5) the William M. Martin house on west

side of Cataract at Cienega Avenue—torn down when they built their present house; 6) the Kinney house on the north side of west Bonita Avenue—now known as the Caldwell house—it is much as it always was; and 7) the Henry C. Mace house, the first house in Charter Oak, has always been occupied by the Mace family, and has been changed but little. While Luther Torrey, father of M.L. Torrey, was building his house at the northwest corner of Cienega and Acadia Street he rented the little restaurant building of Tom Gore's next to the post office to live in. Mr. Torrey sold this house to Mr. George C. Platt later. Mr. Martin Torrey did most anything he could find to do when unable to get work at his trade. Among other things, he worked for Mr. W.E. Mount and helped carry the chain when the first survey was made of the present Puddingstone Dam site—that was in 1889.

Mr. Carter bought the San Dimas Hotel building with a forty-acre orange grove on the south side of west Bonita Avenue. He and his wife did much planting about the building. They opened it as a hotel but so far as Mr. Torrey knows they never had any guests. In 1890, Mr. Carter sold the building and the grove to Mr. James W. Walker, taking in exchange property in Kentucky (Covington). It has been a private house ever since and is still owned and occupied by the family—being the home of Mrs. Ella Walker Potts and her daughter Rowena Potts Carruthers and her family.

Mr. Torrey plastered Miss Jordan's house on the south side of west Bonita Avenue. It was built by a Los Angeles man and was quite the nicest place in the district.

Edward M. Wheeler came to San Dimas in 1892—he had charge of his Uncle Henry Wheeler's orange grove on north Walnut Street. He lived in a little house at Fifth and Depot Street at the foot of the north hills. Mr. A.B. Smith and family lived west of what is now called the Ames place, near Juanita Avenue. Mr. Ed Hartman lived in about the same locality. Mr. Billy Abdail lived in a store building on Bonita Avenue west of Depot Street. He was the zanjero. Mr. Brock built a home on his grove on the northwest corner of Cypress and Amelia Street. A French sheepherder lived on north San Dimas Avenue at Gladstone. His name was Ferraut. Queer character—he had very vicious dogs.

There was a small building built at the grammar school to take care of the extra pupils until an addition could be built to the school. After the addition was built, Mr. O.C. Colton bought the small building and moved it onto his ranch at the southwest corner of Walnut and Fourth Streets, where it still stands. Mr. Colton lived in it until his death.

There was a big wind storm in 1887 which blew the Lordsburg Hotel—then in course of construction—to the ground. The contractor, a Mr. Boggs (I think) was building the hotel and a number of other buildings at that time. The wind did so much damage that it practically broke him. After the hotel building blew down, they sold the lumber from the building for \$15 per wagon load, but if a man loaded more than his team could haul he was charged \$25.

When Jaspar and Dave Teague came to Mud Springs in 1878, they found a chimney and an adobe bake oven in the midst of a sycamore grove near the spring—all that was left of the home of Denis S. Clancy, who had lived here from 1863 to 1870. He also operated a stage station.

The Teagues could not let a perfectly good chimney go to waste, so they built a shack up against it and that was their first home in San Dimas (then Mud Springs). It was located a little ways east of South Walnut Street where it intersects the Southern Pacific (Pacific Electric) tracks. The big sycamores which surrounded this spot were dynamited out when the Southern Pacific Railroad Company built their branch line from Pomona to Bassett in 1895. Mr. Dave Teague made every effort to have the line run so that the trees might be saved, but was unable to do so. He said they put in such heavy blasts of dynamite to blast out the roots that portions were scattered all over the hill.

The old trail and stage road has never been changed from the entrance to the old Carrion place—east for the distance of about one-half mile.

Hattie Teague was born in 1879 near San Dimas Canyon on government land north of the Old Palomares Cemetery and west of what was later the Cumberland Ranch—the place was owned by Eads later. In 1879, Dave and Jaspar Teague had moved their buildings from Mound City (Azusa) and Mud Springs to this government land—as there was some trouble about the settlement of the foreclosure made by Slauson and they were afraid they would lose their buildings if they were located on the San José Rancho—so this move was only temporary and the house Hattie Teague was born in was still on wheels or partly so.

The Teagues hauled the lumber for their buildings from Los Angeles. The Teagues got their mail in Pomona in 1878. D.C. Teague's first orange crop was destroyed by a severe wind in 1891. It was the first orange crop in San Dimas.

Notes from Robert M. Teague, January 1934, by Mrs. Harry E. Walker

A.W. Stowell invented the first cement machine here—it was a poor makeshift but beat an open ditch for domestic water. It was a hand machine and he used a rope to make the hole in the center—molding the cement around the rope. When the cement began to set the rope was pulled out and used for another length of pipe. There was about 10 or 15 inches of water flowing from Mud Springs—a part of this water was taken by open ditch to the D.C. Teague home, and was all the water they had for all purposes. Mr. Stowell made a cement pipeline (with the above machine) to bring the water from Mud Springs to the D.C. Teague home for domestic use. The making of the pipe was slow business—one night when the pipe was left to set, a cat walked on it and caved it in in places, some of it had to be made over and some of it could be patched. That was between 45 and 50 years ago. 1878 to 1880 times were very hard—crops failed and no money to be had. The Dave Teague family had only \$20 in money for an entire year. Everyone was in about the same financial condition. Mrs. D.C. Teague raised chickens, vegetables, etc.—sold or exchanged chickens, eggs, butter, vegetables and so on and took care of the family. The families traded among themselves and managed to tide over until better times.

Joe Clark, a one-armed man who later lived in Pomona, helped haul timber out of the San Antonio Canyon for the re-building of the San Gabriel Mission buildings. R.M. and all the elder Teagues knew him. In later years, when Mr. Teague visited the San Antonio Canyon, he said there were tree trunks which had been cut in shape with adzes ready to take to the Mission but for some reason they were never taken and had been laying there for years.

September 9, 1934, information received from R.M. Teague.

When Mr. Teague came to Mud Springs in 1880, a man by the name of Nadean was freighting through here from Los Angeles to Yuma, Arizona, and up and down the Colorado River. He had 18 mule teams and three wagons—each wagon had a water barrel on each side holding about 150 gallons of water. He says it was quite a sight and really a great event in the life of a country boy when these wagons passed through. They came through Four Corners (Baldwin Park). The road ran from Mud Springs through Four Corners to Bassett—on to Savana—there was four miles heavy sand between Bassett and Savana. Lucinda Duarte's father had a saloon at Four Corners. Mr. Teague remembers distinctly the cottonwood tree which stood east of the Mud Springs cienega—on higher ground. He does not remember when it was cut down or by whom. He said the Henry Dalton family used to visit the D.C. Teague family. Henry Dalton's wife was Spanish or Mexican, quite dark, very nice, she smoked cigarettes, which the Teague's thought was pretty awful. The Henry Daltons had several children—one very, very pretty daughter, Nellie.

Robert M. Teague, August 30, 1935

"Boom" Days Memories

By

Mrs. Harry E. Walker

During the "boom" there was an excursion from Los Angeles to Lordsburg. A big barbecue was given by the promoters in order to help sell the land. There were five trainloads of prospective buyers. There was the usual barbecue with much food and barrels of wine from Mirandes Winery, was free to the public. The heads of the barrels were knocked out and long handled dippers were hung thick around each barrel—each person helping himself. There was no doubt about this stimulating the buying as four hundred acres were sold that day.

These barbecues attracted all kinds of bunco men and the constable was kept busy trying to round them up. There was one clever fellow demonstrating his particular line—he operated on the railroad right-of-way, thinking the law could not touch him there. His was the three shell game—three walnut halves with a gold coin under one of them. Mr. Slanker was constable then and when he started to arrest him, he said "you can't arrest me, I am on the Santa Fe right-of-way." Mr. Slanker said, "Come on buddy" or words to that effect and jerked him away from his place of business. Placing him in a two-horse vehicle, he took him to Pomona and placed him in jail, May 5, 1887.

An episode of another "boom time" sale is interesting. The sale was being conducted out on North Garey Avenue and the tract of land being sold was that where the fairground is now located—at that time all that land was a swamp covered with tules. People were so anxious to buy that they did not go to look at the land before making their purchase. After closing their deals they found they would have to don rubber boots to even get a glimpse of their land. As usual the crooks, looking for easy money, were on hand. There were two dapper looking chaps driving a fast team to a rig. Their game was selling a gold watch for \$10. Each watch had a ten dollar bill in the case—as anyone could see but was not permitted to look too closely. There was an Irishman by the name of Neil Duncan who bought one of the watches. He lived up north of La Verne—Uncle Dick Wallace later owned the same place—when Duncan opened the watch it contained a confederate \$10 bill which was, of course, worthless. He was so angry that he started after the man but his confederate whipped up the spirited team and they were gone. Neil made a grab for the vehicle but just missed it. Mr. Teague said if he hadn't he probably would have killed that salesman.

R.M. Teague, August 30, 1935

by

Mrs. Harry E. Walker

The old cottonwood tree, which was so often mentioned in the days before San Dimas was, stood west of the present W.F. Shields home on Grand Avenue—just where the land begins to drop toward the old cienega. The cienega in the old days was many acres in extent.

Bixby and Allen started the original town of La Verne on the strength of a railroad survey. When the railroad went through in 1886, it was quite a ways to the south of the town site. There was much activity for a time and stages met the Santa Fe trains at the San Dimas station and took them to La Verne. After a time the town died a natural death. The buildings were sold and moved to San Dimas and vicinity—some were moved to Lordsburg, others to Pomona, etc.

The hotel building became the David and Margret home in 1910. Bixby and Allen once owned 160 acres where Pasadena is now. Both Bixby and Allen were related to Mrs. R.M. Teague.

During the boom days in San Dimas a big sale was in progress. A man was interested in the piece of land where the Gilman home stands today—he wanted to see the land before he bought it. While he was gone, the land was sold. So anxious was he to buy that he bought another piece, sight unseen—when he went to look at it, it proved to be in a gully.

Note: I want to get more information about the following—C.P. Teague bought 400 acres of land northeast of La Verne. He ordered Mount and others off—they thought it was government land. They farmed it. Dr. and Mrs. Colburn were also interested up there. Mr. Teague says he remembers they lived in a tent and took their meals with the men.

Information received from Mr. H.C. Mace, February 14, 1933 by Mrs. Harry E. Walker.

There were but two houses in San Dimas when I arrived. The cottage built by the company was occupied by Mr. Tom Gore.

The Santa Fe train stopped where the depot now stands but then it was in the midst of a barley field, with only two buildings in sight—that was in 1888. When I alighted from the train, the agent, Mr. Gore, came up. I said to him, “Where is San Dimas?” He answered and said, “My dear sir, you are now right in the center of the city.”

There were a number of houses built in what was then La Verne. They were unable to get a clear title to the land upon which they stood, I think, so the houses were sold and moved off. Many of those houses were moved to San Dimas, one of them Mr. Mace bought and moved it to Charter Oak, and is still the home of Mr. Mace.

H.C. Mace

P.S. I have a picture of this house taken in the nineties. Also, a snap shot of Mr. Mace and Mr. D.C. Teague taken 1932.

G.R.W.

Reminiscences by Jasper Newton Teague, 1934

Jasper N. Teague came south and to the San Gabriel Valley in 1878. He and his brother Dave became part-owners in the San Jose Addition and of 500 acres near the town of Azusa—then called Mound City. Very heavy rains had come in the early part of that year. They planted many acres of corn and grain—great numbers of wild ducks came and ate up the grain the first night. In 1879, they planted many acres to grain on the home ranch for seed—they had just finished planting it when a big rain came. It rained four inches in twelve hours and drowned it all out. As soon as possible, they got all the extra harrows they could find and hurriedly harrowed and replanted some of it. The falls of 1878 and 1879 were very dry, so dry that they had to haul water in. There was plenty of rain in 1879 and 1880, having a fall of four inches in twelve hours at one time.

When they came to live at Mud Springs they found a chimney and an outdoor oven—they proceeded to build their shack against the chimney. (The chimney and oven had belonged to Denis S. Clancy who had had a stage station there from 1863 to 1870.)

Mr. J.N. Teague plowed the first furrow in what is now San Dimas in 1879. They planted 130 acres of grain and got 600 bags. He says that they had many difficulties to overcome. The first year they dried out, the next year their grain was ruined by rust. They heard about rustproof wheat in Russia, and got 100 pounds of it and raised 2,200 pounds from the seed. In 1880, their crop was ruined but they were out of the red in 1881.

The Teague brothers farmed the greater part of this great tract, about 3,000 acres, in small grain for a number of years. In the early eighties there was about an acre of oranges growing on the Carrion ranch and some seedling orange trees on the Henry Dalton Ranch—near where Azusa now is. He says the winds seemed very much worse then than now and he told of one which blew their house over. His brother Dave was a great lover of flowers and at this time had a few growing around the house. He was not at all disturbed about the house being blown over but said “my flowers are ruined”—which was a real tragedy to him, loving flowers as he did. Mr. J.N. Teague moved to Pomona in 1886.

Crawford P. Teague, father of J.N. Teague, came to the valley in 1878. He was a member of the Mound City Land and Water Company (at Azusa) which had purchased about 4,000 acres of the Henry Dalton homestead at Azusa and an undivided one-third interest in the San José Rancho—also the Addition to the San José Rancho, making 13,666 acres. Jasper N. Teague came to Southern California in 1878 as his fathers’ representative in Azusa, working with the engineering corps in the survey of Mound City for the old Mound City Land and Water Company, dividing 4,000 acres of the Dalton Ranch. This corporation made the first payment of \$35,000 on the land and then, within a year after buying the property, went into liquidation. Being thus thrown on his own resources, Mr. Teague (C.P.) leased a tract of land at Mud Springs (now San Dimas). So he and his two sons, Jasper and Dave, turned their hand to the thing that was obviously possible—the raising of grain. Hay and grain would grow without irrigation.

The Teagues came to California in 1865.

**Information received from Mr. Tom Gore and from his son Dave Gore
1930, 1932, 1935, 1939, Feb. 5, 1940**

The San Jose Land Company built a building on the northwest corner of Bonita Avenue and Depot Street (now Monte Vista) for a land office. In it Mr. E.M. Marshall and Mr. Ed Biglow, his brother-in-law, had a store. The first post office was housed in it with Mr. E.M. Marshall the postmaster. When Mr. Marshall gave up the post office, Mrs. E.H. Brownlee was appointed postmistress. She kept the office in this building and had a little general merchandise store in connection. In the latter part of 1889 or early in 1890, Mr. B.W. Kinney, who lived on west Bonita, purchased the building and wanted to open a store, so he ordered Mrs. Brownlee to vacate. There was no place to go, so with the help of friends she purchased a lot on the southeast corner of Bonita and Depot Street and erected a building on it. She had the post office and a store in the front room, with living quarters in the rear. Mr. Kinney ran the store on the northeast corner for a time, later had Billy Abdail run it for him—did not make much of a success of it. Later J.W. Anderson ran a store there but did not succeed very well.

There were many men employed in and around San Dimas and they wanted Mr. Gore to run a restaurant for their benefit. So, finally, Marshall and Biglow built a building adjoining the post office on the west and there Mr. Gore opened a restaurant. Mr. and Mrs. Gore were not restaurant people—they employed a Chinaman to do the cooking and all went well but they were not making any money—but they must have looked prosperous for one day two men came along and after staying for a couple of days decided to buy the restaurant. One of the men was named Stover, I do not remember the other ones name. It was not long until they decided this place was never going to amount to anything. The one from Illinois would not stay because he could not raise corn here, so he went back to Illinois. Mr. Stover went up near Sacramento where he continued to live—he visited San Dimas in 1912 and was amazed at the development.

Mr. Tom Gore built a house a little west of where the Methodist Church stands now, and lived there with his family until they went to live at the depot after the Southern Pacific Railroad was built—he was their first agent in San Dimas. George Scott occupied the house on Second Street for a time—then W.D. Tubbs, principal of the grammar school, lived in it. Finally, Mr. Gore traded it to Mr. Brubaker for a two story house on the north side of First Street between San Dimas Avenue and Iglesia Street—an even trade. The Gore family still owns this house. The house that Mr. Gore built is still standing on Second Street—has been remodeled some—is occupied by Mr. John S. Johnson and family.

A man by the name of Smith built a little house on the southwest corner of Iglesia and Fourth Street in the early days. He died and Mr. O.C. Colton bought it. When the grammar school became too small to accommodate the pupils, a building was put up on the grounds to take care of the overflow—this was used until the new building was erected. Then Mr. O.C. Colton bought the building and had it moved to the south side of Third Street—126 E. Third Street. After he sold his ranch he lived in it until his death.

Marion Brubaker bought a bicycle off Mr. Gore—he could not pay for it in cash, so gave Mr. Gore a ton of hay.

Notes taken from William Ferry on the water conditions in the early days as he remembers them. July 22, 1939

In the early days, the water question was a serious one. The early settlers had purchased water with their land—an inch for each ten acres, \$1,000 per inch and paid for it—to find later, after much planting had been done, that there was not enough water to go around. In the summer the canyon supply became exhausted and the water from the cienega was not sufficient to meet the demand. Everything that could be thought of was done to settle the water problem and feelings ran high in the community. Those were hectic days indeed and, in reviewing the situation, one wonders how bloodshed was avoided before peace finally reigned.

The “prior-righters” or the ones who had purchased their land first, felt they were entitled to the first water, whether there was enough to go around or not. They were all fighting for what they thought rightfully belonged to them and there were many threats as well as many real fights between prominent citizens who in later years, after the smoke of battle had cleared, became very dear friends. On one occasion one prominent citizen had another prominent citizen on his back in a flume, intent upon finishing him when Mr. Ferry happened upon the scene. He said, “here—what do you mean? Let that man up,” which he did. When the man was released he ran like a jackrabbit. Mr. Ferry said, “what did you do to make him run like that?” He replied, “I was choking him—that’s what we do to men like that in the country where I came from.” On another occasion Mr. Ferry came upon one prominent citizen chewing the ear of another prominent citizen to even up a score. Many, even more serious, happenings took place—when shovels and other weapons were used as a means of offense and defense.

The San José Land and Water put wells down in the cienega in 1886 and 1887—in all there were 14 or 15 wells put down—they circled the east side of the cienega. About half of these were north of the Santa Fe Railroad, the other half south. One of these wells flowed about 20 inches—the output of these wells decreased to such an extent that in 1888, in a frantic effort to increase the supply, a tunnel was driven into these wells about 30 feet from the surface. This tunnel flowed 65 inches. Mr. C.P. Teague, father of Dave and Bob, was a high tempered man, difficult to deal with. When the decision was made to build a tunnel about 60 feet of it would be on the Teague land, so an agreement was made with Mr. Teague—he was to have the water which was developed on his property. This was a verbal agreement and Mr. Teague did not get that amount—he got 3 ½ inches in all. So when those interested felt that much of the water that was being wasted could be saved by putting a pipe in the tunnel, they ran into difficulties with Mr. Teague. He refused to allow any of the workmen on his property and stood guard with a shotgun—they were all afraid of him. One day Mr. William Mount, whose property joined Mr. Teague’s later, Mr. William Ferry and Martin Torrey were working on the tunnel. When they got to the Teague property, Mr. Mount stayed on the company property, Mr. Torrey insisted upon going down in the tunnel, leaving Mr. Ferry to work at the top. Soon, out came Mr. Teague, shotgun in his arm and wanted to know what they were doing there and who was down in the tunnel and what he was doing? Mr. Ferry said that Martin Torrey was in the tunnel putting

rocks on the pipe. Teague ordered him up—as Torrey got his head above the shaft he held up his hands and said, “Mr. Teague, I did not know that the Water Company was not supposed to work on your land.” Mr. Teague said, “You are a liar. You know all about it” and ordered them off. They finally persuaded Mr. Teague that they were only workmen and not to blame for the trouble between him and the company, that they were paid for their work and not at all implicated in the trouble—they were terribly frightened, but it was finally settled without bloodshed.

Another time two prominent citizens were on Mr. Teague’s property, which was surrounded by a cypress hedge. Without any ceremony, Mr. Teague ordered them off and started to the house to get his gun. In their great haste to get off the property they made for a hole in the hedge—which was not large enough for the two of them and they got stuck making a fine target for the old gentleman.

The first zanjero in San Dimas was William T. Micheal. Zanjero 2) Billy Abdail, 3) Bert Torrey, 4) Martin Torrey, 5) John Reese, 6) John Harris.

Genevieve R. Walker

Information received from William Ferry.

Mr. William Ferry came to La Verne in 1887. He built a house on the corner of Juanita and Ramona—when the boom broke, he had bought five acres in San Dimas district but he did not have money enough to move his house onto the property, so he traded it to a Mr. Robinson for a smaller one which he moved to his San Dimas place. Mr. Robinson and Mr. Ferdinand Davis (architect) moved the original Ferry house and another one from the same district to some lots at the corner of Main and Pasadena Streets, Pomona.

Mr. Ferry had purchased five acres on the east side of Cataract (south of the present Southern Pacific Railroad). The road had not been put through—when this was done, Mr. Ferry had 4 ½ acres left and three acres of that was down in the canyon—so, he had only 1 ¼ acres of level land. The Ferry children (William, Annie, Winnie, Agnes, Manus and Hugh) were born on this place. Some years later Mr. Ferry moved to his 20 acre ranch on the west side of Amelia Avenue north of Covina Boulevard. The old Los Angeles-San Bernardino-Sonora Road ran through this place, between his house and barn. When the big rains came the water would follow the old wagon ruts and wash out his land in places, causing no end of trouble. This roadbed was hard as cement. Later Mr. Ferry sold his ranch on Covina Boulevard to Mr. and Mrs. Dent and bought a place on the northwest corner of San Dimas Avenue and Gladstone Avenue, where they built a comfortable home in which they are living today. Mr. and Mrs. Ferry celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 19____. Their first home in San Dimas on Cataract Street was torn down.

Genevieve R. Walker
July 22, 1939

Information received from William Ferry.

Reminiscences

1. La Verne's water supply came in an open ditch from San Dimas canyon. La Verne residents came to the cienega at Mud Springs with containers of every description and carried their drinking water from there. Later the water from the canyon was piped as far as the hotel building (later the David and Margret Home). The pipe was steel but secondhand and evidently of poor grade—with water pressure it leaked like a sieve. The company from which it was purchased sent a man out to repair it—he engaged Mr. Ferry to help him—they spent three months putting bands on the pipes and they still leaked.
2. A Mr. Carter bought 40 acres of land on the south side of West Bonita Avenue from the San José Land Company paying \$200 per acre for it—\$8,000 cash and they gave him the hotel building on San Dimas Avenue between Bonita Avenue and First Street—with the understanding it was to be furnished as a hotel and run as such for a specified length of time. The only guests they ever had were the San José Land Company and their friends. Besides Mr. Carter and his wife, Mr. Carter's father was with them—he was a preacher. The Carters were Canadians and very nice people. They did much of the planting around the hotel—much of which remains after fifty years. Mr. Carter Sr. preached in the Mills building sometimes—once he made the mistake of advising the women of his congregation to take Queen Victoria as their example and try to be like her. This incensed some of his hearers who declared they were Americans and did not want any foreigner put up as an example to them—no end of trouble. Mr. Carter traded his ranch and hotel to Mr. J.W. Walker of Covington, Kentucky, in 1890.
3. Mr. Ferry remembers when Puddingstone Canyon was named—he was present at the time, it was in 1888. All of the people of La Verne and vicinity had a picnic that day. They met at the La Verne Hotel building on Grand Avenue and went to Puddingstone Falls, which up to that time had no name as far as he knows. Just above the falls there was a hole in the bed of the stream which was hollowed out of the rock and was the shape of a big bowl—the rock in the bottom looked like a pudding containing fruit turned to stone. They spoke of it as looking like a bowl of pudding and Dr. H.A. Reid, who was present, called it a puddingstone and so named the canyon and falls, because much of the rock was of the same formation—and the name has lasted through the years. Dr. Reid was a resident of La Verne and published a newspaper there in 1888. His granddaughter, Jessie Douglas Cochrane, now of Los Angeles, was the first American child born in La Verne. Mrs. Ferry thinks she was named Jessie La Verne Douglas.
4. There was a cement pipe yard on Railway Street—where the lumber yard is now (1939). It was operated by the father and uncle of Sheridan A. Stowell—who still lives in San Dimas on Cienega Avenue. It ran for about two years and employed between fifty and sixty Chinamen.

5. There was a mill on the east side of San Dimas south of the Santa Fe Railroad. It was operated by the San José Land Company, built 1887. Mr. Brownlee was the millwright and Mr. Bowers his assistant. The company owed them a lot of money which they could not collect when the boom broke—so they appropriated all the machinery in the mill, hauled it to Lordsburg, and shipped it from there to South America. Brownlee and Bowers both left at the same time, leaving their families. The Brownlee's were living in the Mills building at the time—after Mr. Brownlee left, his wife got the post office and had a building erected on the southeast corner of Bonita and Depot Street, facing west. It contained one room for the post office and store, five small rooms as living quarters—that was in 1890. Mr. Ferry plastered this building. The Bowers lived in the two story house on the north side of Commercial Street, west of San Dimas Avenue. This house was moved from La Verne and is still standing. The Mills building was purchased by W.J. Anderson and later moved to his ranch west of San Dimas on the south side of Cienega Avenue—later known as the Harry Smead Ranch.
6. Mr. Benjamin W. Kinny bought 30 acres of land on the north side of West Bonita—now known as the B.F. Caldwell place. He moved a house from La Verne to this property but he never brought his family here to live. Billy Abdail, the janjero, lived in the house in 1891—Mr. Kinny coming out occasionally. In 1893, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hartman moved into it. Mr. Kinny did not have enough water for his ranch—he bought a piece of land on West Fifth Street that had a spring on it. Mr. Ferry built a tunnel for him into the hill about 50 or 75 feet long and developed about 1 ½ inches of water. Mr. B.F. Caldwell also owns this property today. The house on West Bonita has never been changed.
7. Mr. William M. Martin and Mr. Alex A. McLean were brothers-in-law—they bought acreage on the southeast corner of Cienega and Cataract. They bought a house in either La Verne or Lordsburg and had it moved to their place—when they got as far as the Judson orchard, west of Depot Street and north of Cienega Avenue, a big rain came and the ground was so soft that they had to stay right there for five weeks—both families were living in the house at the time. This house has been remodeled several times but is still standing at the corner of Cienega and Cataract. It has been known as the Judge McComas home or the “Rendezvous” for many years (1939). Mr. McLean was a very difficult person to get along with and in a short time he and Mr. Martin parted company. Mr. Martin bought twenty acres on the southwest corner of Cataract and Cienega Avenue. He built a little house, 12 x 22, under the beautiful big oak tree on the place. They lived there until 19___, when they built their present home in about the same location—this house is now the home of their daughter, Mrs. Jeremiah Cravens Bowden and family. The oak tree is still standing, one of the largest in the valley.
8. Mr. Billings had a 500 acre ranch west of San Dimas on West Bonita—he had a house on top of Lone Hill. Mr. Ed Hartman, who had lived in Pasadena, worked for him. When Mr. Hartman was married in 1893, they moved into the B.W. Kinny house on West Bonita. Later, when Clyde was a baby, they lived in the Billings house on the hill.

Billings had one son—who either attended Pomona College or was a teacher there—his father gave him 10 acres on the south side of Bonita Avenue hoping he would become interested in ranching. He gave the property to Pomona College.

Note: I think the entire Billings Ranch finally became the property of Pomona College whether as a gift or foreclosure of a mortgage I do not know. Will check on it. *G.R.W.*

When A.B. Smith came to San Dimas in the early nineties, he purchased forty acres of unimproved land joining the Billings ranch on the west and built a building on it just west of Lone Hill—they lived in this building which was built to be used as a barn later. He had charge of the Billings Ranch. Mr. Billings bought a two story dwelling house at La Verne, planning to have it moved to his ranch west of town as a help house—he had much difficulty in getting it moved. Finally, a Mr. Taylor started to move it—they got it as far as San Dimas and for some reason decided not to move it onto the ranch. The San José Land Company gave him a lot on First Street between San Dimas and Iglesia Street and he placed the house there. Later it was purchased by Tom Gore—he has owned it ever since. It has been changed but little and is still standing on First Street.

9. Mr. E.M. Marshall was land agent for the San José Land Company. He was the first postmaster in San Dimas. When the boom subsided, he became very disgusted with everything in general. He gave up the post office and wrote to Washington, D.C. saying that the people of San Dimas wished the post office discontinued and he was leaving and there was no one here capable of running the post office. The citizens, even though there were only a few, were very indignant. I do not know how it was finally settled but Mrs. E.H. Brownlee became the post mistress in 1890 and the office was moved from its old location on the northwest corner of Bonita and Depot Street to her new building on the southeast corner of the same streets. Mr. Tom E. Gore was the first Santa Fe agent at San Dimas and served for 5 ½ years—the Santa Fe paying half his salary and the San José Land Company paying the other half. When the “boom” broke, the San José Company stopped paying their part and as that received from the Santa Fe was not enough to live on, he gave the office up and went to Lamanda Park. The Santa Fe Depot was closed for a time and tickets were on sale at the post office by Mrs. Brownlee. She would flag the trains. I do not know how long this condition existed, but finally quite a young fellow by the name of Ed Durgan was appointed agent. The next agent was a young man by the name of Murphy—then Fitzsinlhiaus, then Rhodes, then Monroe.
10. While they were building the Lordsburg Hotel, a severe wind came blowing it to the ground. They erected it a second time, putting the roof on before enclosing the building—another wind storm came and took the roof off. The Dunkards purchased the hotel for a college. There was an organization here called the United Workmen of America—they had no place to meet. It was against the law for a Dunkard to belong to such an organization but the caretaker of this hotel was a member although it was not

generally known—he arranged for this group to meet in the cellar of the hotel. Mr. Ferry was a member.

As told to Mrs. Harry E. Walker by Mr. William T. Micheal, December 15, 1939

William T. Micheal was born in Clearfield County, Pennsylvania, March 11, 1855. His father moved to Linn County, Kansas, in 1864—his mother having died the year before in Pennsylvania. His father was Robert Micheal, of German descent; his mother was Emeline (Rose) Micheal.

William T. left home at the age of eleven and from that time on took care of himself. He worked for a man in Pleasanton, Kansas, by the name of Bernhardt—a silversmith. Young William learned that trade, working for his room and board for the first two years and receiving a small wage the third year.

When he was fourteen years of age, he joined a party of Pleasanton people who were coming to California. He landed in San Francisco where he stayed for a couple of years. When he left for California, Mr. Bernhardt, the man with whom he had lived and worked while learning the silversmithing trade presented him, as a parting gift, with a complete set of his tools for his work. The party soon scattered, some going to Oregon, others to Southern California and elsewhere. He found himself without old friends, homesick and unable to find permanent work. After two years he sold some of his beloved silversmithing tools and with the money went to Santa Cruz. The only work he could find there was with a large dairy—milking cows. Twenty-six cows were his allotment—these he milked night and morning. Being unused to this type of work his hands cramped and swelled and pained him so that he would have to hold them in a pan of hot water before he could get to sleep at night. Finally, he had a chance to get a better job with five dollars more per month pay. It was rounding up the cattle night and morning, hot or cold, rain or shine. While doing this work he contracted inflammatory rheumatism and was so ill that he was finally unable to work—he was crippled through his entire body, unable even to feed himself. He had been in Santa Cruz for three years.

While he was ill at the boarding house, he met a man who was a partner of Mr. A.R. Meserve. This man was much interested in Micheal—he said, “My boy, this climate does not agree with you and unless you get to a warmer, drier climate you will die.” My partner, Meserve is in Southern California now making a deal for a tract of land, and when he comes back I am sure he will give you work down there—where you will have a chance to get well. Sure enough, when Mr. Meserve came back he did give the boy work. He came south at once—came by sailing vessel to Santa Monica. Mr. Meserve had made arrangements with a Mr. Seymour, who had a grain and general merchandise store in Los Angeles for necessary ranch purchases. Mr. Micheal had a letter to him. After seeing Seymour, he took a Southern Pacific train for Spadra. (There was no Pomona then). He stayed all night at the Rubottom Hotel. The next morning “Uncle Billy Rubottom,” as he was called, arranged for a vehicle and team of mules and driver to take him to the old Palomares adobe on the San Bernardino Road, which was on the newly acquired tract purchased by Loop and Meserve. Here he was left with his trunk and satchel, which contained all his belongings. The Palomares family had vacated the house by this time, so

young Micheal was all alone in the big house, which he thought was a wonderful place even if it was a little lonely at first. He was by this time a boy of eighteen years of age—starting his life in Southern California. He became manager for Mr. A.R. Meserve on his recently acquired ranch of 2,000 acres, and was to meet and care for prospective buyers that Mr. Meserve expected to send down from the north. In 1874, Rev. C.F. Loop and Mr. Alvin R. Meserve purchased a tract of about 2,000 acres of land from Concepcion Palomares, widow of Ygnacio Palomares, for \$16,000. This was later known as the “Loop and Meserve” tract. It was this tract that Mr. Micheal (known as Billy) managed successfully for three years—living in the old Palomares adobe all the time which was just as its original owners had left it with its planting of olives, seedling oranges, and grapes. This was soon changed under the new management—Billy made many improvements in the appearance of the place. He built a rail fence on the south side among other things. When “Billy” had been with Mr. Meserve for three years, he had saved about \$1,800 and decided, now that he was twenty-one years of age, to go back to Pleasanton, Kansas, and marry Sarah Irene Richards, the little girl he had been engaged to since he was fourteen. They had corresponded faithfully all those years. He left California and in thirty days was back with his bride. He could still have his position with Mr. Meserve, but he felt now that he was a married man, he should start out for himself. So he became associated with Dr. Cunningham who lived west of San Dimas Canyon. Dr. Cunningham was to furnish the land and half the seed and “Billy” the rest of the seed and the labor on a tract of 350 acres of land. This land was near the mountains, west of San Dimas Canyon and north of what is now the town of San Dimas.

He and his bride went to live in the little shack under a pepper tree—occupied by Cyrus Burdick and family from 1868 to 1870 when he owned the property—their daughter Cree Burdick Brackett was born there. It stood south of the present C.C. Warren home on old Foothill Boulevard.

The Micheals fixed up the house and were very happy there. “Billy” prepared the land and sowed his grain—there was one early rain, the grain sprouted, then there was a long dry spell and the grain died. He bought more seed and replanted but due to the drought this seed did not even come up, so there was no crop and all his money was gone so he had to find something to do. Dr. Cunningham gave him a job chopping oak wood in Sycamore Canyon at 50 cents a tier—\$1.50 per cord. That was his means of livelihood. He would leave his home after an early breakfast, walk to Sycamore Canyon and chop wood all day. After his wife had her work done, she would bring their lunch, then sit on a stump and do her crochet or patchwork until he had enough wood cut, then she would pile it into tiers. In the latter part of 1887, he started to work for the San José Land Company. He built a little house north of Second Street near that of Tom Gore’s but on the other side of the street where he owned two lots. After the company’s first land agent, Mr. Marshall, quit, Mr. Micheal took his place—he was also the first zanjero in San Dimas and held that position for several years. He had charge of the company’s lumberyard also and he placed over one million feet of lumber in it. He found the San José Land Company a very nice company to work for and with. He bought a tract of land north of Cienega Avenue and west

of Walnut Avenue where he planted a citrus orchard—there was about thirty-five acres in this tract. The little house he had built in the San Dimas townsite, he moved to this property. It was not long until the house and everything in it was burned to the ground. The San José Land Company sent him a carload of lumber with which to build a new house—those were days when everyone helped their neighbors in time of stress—so the friends all got busy and helped to build and furnish the new house. Many years later this property was sold to Mr. Darias White, who made many improvements in the house. It was later sold to Samuel Jewel—who remodeled it again. He sold the western part to Mr. George Perry. The Jewel heirs still own the remainder. Mr. Micheal planted a number of orange groves and also purchased some he did not plant. He planted among others the grove on the south side of Covina Boulevard at Lone Hill. This grove was owned later by Mr. I.D. House—later by O.S. Tillman—is now owned by Mrs. Lloyd Eloberry. He planted the grove on the west side of Grand Avenue at Cienega—he purchased the land from Mr. Boettler, it now belongs to Mrs. Ed Clopine. He purchased thirty-five acres on the south side of Foothill Boulevard at ____ from Mr. Freeman. He planted this to citrus and built a beautiful home on the property—had the grounds landscaped nicely. This property now belongs to the widow of Earnest Richter. At one time he purchased the Norris home and grove on the corner of Foothill and Grand Avenue. He bought it for a home, but Mr. Norris wanted to buy it back in about a year and paid him much more than he had sold the property for. Mr. Micheal raised all his nursery stock from the seeds for the many groves he planted.

He was an active factor in the development work done in this section. He has seen many changes, for when he came there was not even a Pomona or any of the other towns we know today. Where most of the fine orange groves now stand was a desolate waste, and it has taken all these years of ceaseless toil and untold expenditures to bring them up to their present stage of beauty and profit.

To the men who have assisted in this work all praise is due, and future generations will have them to thank for providing the stepping stones to even more wonderful work awaiting their hands.

Mr. and Mrs. Micheal were the parents of eight children: 1) Alfred Leroy (Roy); 2) Emeline Roberta (Birdie); 3) Lloyd L.; 4) William Frank; 5) Edward; 6) Wilfred M.; 7) Clyde R. (deceased); and 8) Irene—who died very young.

Information received from Mr. William Thomas Micheal of Pomona, December 15, 1939. After writing the above article, I read it to him and he assured me it is correct, July 1, 1940. Mr. Micheal was 85 years old March 11, 1940. His mind is perfectly clear.

Mrs. Harry E. Walker,
San Dimas, Cal.