

In 1888 a lumber mill was built on the east side of San Dimas Ave., just south of the Santa Fe tracks...This mill was built by the San Jose Land Co. 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 and also a good worker. All the material used in the Santa Fe depot, the Hotel building, the cottage on First St., the La Verne Hotel on Grand, (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 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 Co. owed Mr. Brownlee quite a bit of money which he could not get. And while what Mr. Brownlee did was perhaps against the law, he felt he was in the right and entitled to it.

He left his wife and five children in San Dimas. Mrs. Brownlee became the second postmaster (or post-mistress) in San Dimas, in 1890. She built a Post Office building on the southeast corner of Bonita and Depot streets. She lived in the rear of the building and had a small store and the P.O. in front.

*S.D. Historical Society  
program*

The Hotel was built in 1888 by the San Jose Land Co. 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 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 its ever being a paying proposition. [Pat said Mr. Gore didn't want his

However, he had the keys and was custodian of the building. At this 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. *wife working like that for a bunch of strangers*