

Martin L. Torrey Interview - August 21, 1934

Martin L. Torrey came to San Dimas March 3, 1888. 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 Ave. and Depot St., in which Mr. E. M. Marshall and Mr. Biglow had a hardware store.
- 2 - A cottage on the north side of First St., between San Dimas Ave. and Iglesia St., which had been built by the San Jose Land Co. for their land agent.
- 3 - A small house on the south side of Second St. between San Dimas Ave. and Depot St. 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 moved and occupied by Mr. William T. Micheal and family./
- 5 - A two-story store building on the Northwest corner of Bonita and EXchange place. It was known as the Mills Building.

Those were all the buildings in San Dimas when he came here, for the Santa Fe Depot and the Hotel building were under construction.

The Depot was in a boxcar.

Mr. Torrey built a house on the south side of Second St. where the Methodist Church now stands. This house was purchased later by Mr. E. M. Marshall and moved to Redlands.

When Mr. Torrey came he expected to be able to do a lot of work at his trade. He was a stone mason and plasterer. The San Jose Land Co. was 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.

There was a big windstorm in 1887, which blew the Lordsburg Hotel - then in the course of construction - to the ground. The wind did so much damage that it practically broke the contractor. 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.