

Realtor Appraiser

When Harry Walker moved to his new home on S. Walnut in 1908, he was unable to get a telephone as he was a mile from the center of town, and all the lines were full. (S.D. at that time was served by 2 lines from Pomona Exchange.) It was very inconvenient - Mr. W. appealed to Mr. Parker, Manager, with the same answer. At last Mr. W. appealed "Is there anything I can do to get a telephone in my home?" Mr. Parker offered him the following proposal: if Mr. W. would see ALL of the S.D. subscribers and get them all to agree to pay 25¢ more per month, and get 12 or 15 new subscribers, they would establish an exchange in S.D. and Mr. W. could get a telephone in the south hills. Mr. Walker got himself appointed solicitor by the Board of Trade, and began driving his horse and buggy around to see the subscribers. Quite a job, so he asked Mr. Parker again if there was any way he could get a telephone to make this task easier. Mr. Parker agreed to give him a one-way phone - Mr. W. could call others, but they could not call him. IN a very short time, he had every subscriber signed up, except one, and had gotten 20 new ones. So in Feb., 1909, the first S.D. Exchange was opened with 112 telephones connected to the switchboard. The first operators were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Laing. Mrs. Laing and her son died during the 'flu' epidemic in 1919.

Operators Clara Mize Johnson and Mildred McDonald

San Dimas Historical Society

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THE CARRUTHERS RESIDENCE

