

FAMILY HISTORY OF RACHEL & JURENTINO (J.J.) FLORES
AS PRESENTED TO SALLY AIKEN
OCTOBER 15, 1995

The year was 1927. I had graduated from Bonita High School and taken a post graduated Business Course. That same year I was fortunate to get a full time clerical job with Hobbs-Greg Nurseries. Our place of business was next door to the R.M. Teague home, where Pomona First Federal, San Dimas Branch, is now located. The entrance faced Bonita Avenue where the Model T trucks brought in the Orange, Lemon and Grapefruit. Bedded trees as well as the Ornamental plants grown elsewhere. At that time anyone not connected with the Citrus Industry, was completely unemployed. An old German man by the name of Mr. Roth was hired as a propagator right on the premises.

My duties were keeping track of sales, both retail and wholesale, accts payable and on occasion I would wait on customers. Our office also became the head quarters for Puddingstone Water Company.

Floyd Bunnelle was the manager who hired me. I cannot say enough about the wonderful person he was, kind & honest, with a great love for the early California history books were donated to the University of La Verne Library.

At that time Mr. Gregg was the man in charge. He, too, was a very special person in my business career. I did not see T. Roe Hobbs very often because he had a full time job being manager of the San Dimas Lemon Assn. My sister, Nida Flores Baiz, worked in the office from 1926 until 1962.

Before I left Hobbs-Gregg Nursery in October of 1935 to away the birth of my only daughter, Cristina, R.M. Teague, famous Citrus personality, came back as an active participant at Hobbs-Greg Nursery. He, too, was a very special person in my business career. As was my sister, Rose, who took over my job when I left.

After my husband passed away in 1938, I came back to work in San Dimas. I was hired by Fay Marchant, who had retired from Bank of America and was now with San Dimas Securities in the Insurance Business. A few years later, he sold the Insurance business to Mr. Randolph, who had a small Insurance Business at the San Dimas Realty Company Office - I went along with the deal in the Insurance business. I was the recipient for both the Real Estate Business and Mr. Randolph's Insurance.

Another favorite of mine was M. V. Helwick, well known realtor. One day he said to me why didn't I sell real estate. I was surprised and I said, "We sell real estate," and he answered well you are doing it anyway, you might as well get commission. And so I took a course and got my salesman's license. When my husband to be, Donald E. Carpenter, came back from overseas in 1945 he wanted to be in business for himself. So I drove to Los Angeles every evening and we both took the realtor's course and received our license. This meant that we now could be in business to ourselves. So we rented the office next door to Carl Dean's Barber Shop. At that time our office had been owned by Mr. Bays Jewelry Store. When our three-year lease expired there was no office suitable in downtown San Dimas. So we decided to enclose and remodel our porch in our LaVerne home into an office. This worked very well for a while except that real estate took a sudden drop and my husband took a job as a guard at the airport.

I was fortunate to get a bilingual clerical job with San Antonio Employment Association. But it was quite hectic and I tried many times to quit. But Mr. Rosenberger, the manager, said he now had permission to hire some extra help, which he did. After all I kept thinking in as much as I had a realtor's license why not go back and give it another try. The company grew and we had about three other clerks so I stayed on for another ten years. The time came when the business of the Bracero Program came to a sudden ending.

In 1961 I was hired by Claremont Graduate School as an assistant to the registrar, Lily Scott. She was a very congenial person to work under. But she became discouraged after so many years as registrar she was not given the payroll raises she deserved. Salaries were very low at that time. And the deans were always apologizing for the low budget. Especially since I was starting at a much lower salary than my former job. I did not mind the cut in salary because I felt the environment was worth the difference in salary. Out of clear sky, Lily Scott quit and left only myself in the office. It was not easy for anyone to fill her shoes, so several years went by and no one was hired and I was in charge as acting registrar at my usual salary. I retired in 1973, happy to have had

the privilege of working for such a prestigious institution of higher learning.

Things that stand out during my working days in San Dimas: one is the friendly rivalry between LaVerne and San Dimas - they were known as the Sleepy Towns where the sidewalks folded up at nine p.m. I also remember the beautiful sight it was when we had a snow storm. Everyone was taking pictures of the unusual sight. I also feel very close to San Dimas where several members of our family worked instead of in our hometown of LaVerne where we were all born as was my mother. Finally, my youngest brother, Dick, who graduated from LaVerne College, was teacher and principal of two grammar schools. My sister, Florine, owned one the first beauty shops in downtown LaVerne.

I also feel privileged to have come in contact with so many important men who I consider the founders of San Dimas. Such men as F. H. Harwood, H. E. Walker, R. M. Teague, W. Gregg, M. V. Helwick, Floyd Bunnelle and Fay Marchant.