

Mud Springs Messenger

BROUGHT TO YOU BY SAN DIMAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Chartered - June 6, 1966

2024 - 2025

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 Historic Walking Tours - Dave Harbin
 Photography - John Davis, Margie Green

OFFICE, MUSEUM & GIFT SHOP

121 N. San Dimas Avenue, San Dimas
 Walker House, 2nd Floor

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 871, San Dimas, CA 91773
 Office Telephone: (909) 592-1190
 Email: office91773@sandimashistorical.org
 Web: www.sandimashistorical.org
 Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

Office, Archives, Museum and Gift Shop
 Tuesdays & Thursdays - 12:00 to 3:00 pm

Museum/Gift Shop

Friday & Saturday 6 to 9 pm

Second Saturday

Museum & Gift Shop - 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Second Saturdays Tours

Historic Downtown Docent-led walking tour
 or Docent-led Walker House Tour 10:00 am

(which tour varies by month)

Call 951 990-3395 for information and
 reservations

President's Message By Sue Davis



Susan Davis

As with any historical society, we are always looking for more pictures of early or maybe not so early San Dimas. The years where we have the biggest gap in pictures are the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. Please, dig through your old photographs and see if you can find a picture or more to share with us. If you are bringing photos to us, please bring a USB drive and I will return your photos and give you a digitized version. If you already have your photos digitized, please email them to office91773@sandimashistorical.org using the subject line Photos for Sue.

I had the pleasure of meeting with Bill Burrows who is the great-nephew of Jerry Voorhis. Bill had some books from Jerry's library to donate to us. My favorite is a Poetry Anthology By Pupils of the Voorhis School for Boys. For those of you who may not be familiar with Jerry Voorhis, in 1927 he founded the Voorhis School for Boys in San Dimas. He taught at and ran the school until 1938 when he gave the property to Cal Poly Pomona. Jerry turned his political passions into action in 1936, when California's 12th District elected him to a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. He represented the District for a total of five terms. On a side note, one of our past mayors, Don Haefer was a student at the Voorhis School. The Tzu Chi Academy is now located on the campus of the Voorhis School for Boys.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our Spring Dinner on Saturday, May 17th, in the Parish Meeting Hall at the Faith Lutheran Church. We are planning a wonderful program that I'm sure you will all enjoy. Also, set aside Sunday, July 13th as we are bringing back Antiques From Your Home show.



THIS DATE IN HISTORY:

*From the February 14, 1907 San Dimas Eagle
 Chemical Engine Arrives*

The first of the week witnessed the arrival of the new chemical fire engine for our town. This event marks another step in the forward progress of this community and has been made possible in the liberality of our citizens.

The need of additional protection from fire has been felt here for a long time and the new apparatus, which is a forty gallon Stempel machine manufactured by the Robinson Fire Engine Works of St. Louis, MO, it is thought will insure this.

The cost of the machine is considerably over \$400, a goodly amount of which has been donated by the San Dimas Citrus Union and the San Dimas Lemon Association.

After a shelter has been furnished for the new machine, the next step to take will be the organization of a volunteer fire department.

Curt's Corner

By: Selina Garcia

Curt's military journey is one that began with a simple conversation and led to remarkable experiences across the globe.

Curt's story starts in high school with a pivotal interaction with one of his teachers. "I had a PE teacher who also taught history," Kurt recalls. "He was running a summer program for teachers, and he suggested I should go to Stanford University. I told him, 'No way. There's no way I can go to Stanford.' His name was Mr. Van Kinkle, and he said, 'Yes, you can.' He told me about a program called Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC), which had two parts: regular and contract. After taking the test and passing, I was chosen for the program, and that was the start of my journey."

At the time, only 52 colleges in the U.S. offered the NROTC program, and Curt became one of the few to attend Stanford as part of it. He had no idea that his decision would lead him to not only graduate with a degree but also embark on summer cruises that would be full of unforgettable experiences.

During his time at Stanford, Curt didn't just focus on academics; he also dedicated time to naval science classes. The summers were even more thrilling, as he embarked on summer cruises that allowed him to travel across the Atlantic and beyond. One of his first cruises took him to Scotland, Denmark, and the Azores, offering him experiences that few could dream of. "We went from Norfolk, Virginia, all the way to Scotland. We stopped in the Azores, and our route took us around the Shetland Islands before docking in Edinburgh. We tied up at the Port of Leith, a small but picturesque location where we would cross tiny drawbridges".

The journey wasn't just about sightseeing. As part of the cruise, Curt was stationed on a destroyer and got a taste of naval life firsthand. "We went to places like Denmark and we encountered mine-sweeping operations in the waters. Occasionally, a loose mine would be spotted, and they would blow it up using rifles," Curt recalls. "One time, I witnessed a mine being detonated."



Curtis Morris

The summer cruises gave Curt the opportunity to visit many different countries, including Guantanamo Bay and Roosevelt Roads, and experience various aspects of the military. The most thrilling part of his training came during his second summer when he spent three weeks at the Naval Station in Corpus Christi. There, he was introduced to naval aviation. "We were able to fly a T-33 fighter jet. It was incredible—two-seat planes, with the pilot giving us full freedom to explore the skies. We also got to fly a seaplane and fire rockets from it," Curt says.



After graduating from Stanford, Curt's naval career continued with another significant milestone: his time on the battleship *Wisconsin*. His service took him to various places, including Chile. "We went through the Panama Canal and docked in Valparaiso. It was a massive naval force, the biggest south of the equator at the time," Curt remembers. The fleet consisted of a battleship, three cruisers, several destroyers, and an aircraft carrier, and they were all working together to patrol the region.

Curt also shares an interesting tale of a fundraising event back home, where a community raised money for war bonds during World War II. He vividly remembers how "everyone was mobilized for the war effort," and how gasoline rations and other commodities were restricted. "It seemed like everyone, not just a select few, was affected by the war. Everyone knew what was going on, and you could see the impact on daily life."

Whether it's the thrill of flying a fighter jet or the time spent in foreign ports, Curt's journey is definitely a story worth telling. Thank you Curt for your service, as well as all the other men and women who have served in our military to keep our country safe.





Kay Hoveland

In our last newsletter I shared the fact that last year was a great year, now here are some of the wonderful experiences we have had receiving donations and selling the "Vintage Treasures" to our patrons. Please remember all our sales income goes to the San Dimas Historical Society to help cover the expenses required to preserve the History of San Dimas!

Jewelry whether it be costume, silver or gold plated is the most common and the most donated. Pieces come from donors when their family is not interested as well as from retirees who no longer belong to the work force and do not dress the same as when they worked. With our special pricing, many of our customers love to browse and buy earrings, bracelets, necklaces, even watches and men's cuff links. Everyone has their own design and taste. We are happy to see the enjoyment when that special piece of jewelry "speaks" to them!

Crystal pieces come in the form of cut glass serving dishes, vases, sugar and cream sets, candle holders and even punch bowls with cups plus the serving plates that go with them!

Most of these pieces belonged to another generation who do not entertain the same way today. There are really customers who buy these! One young lady bought two punch bowls with cups, one for a friend and one for herself to use for parties. Some crystal pieces are purchased as gifts or for a special occasion and we get to hear those stories,

Porcelain of various colors, ages and collectability appeal to many. Teacups, tea pots, vases, plates, coffee cups, vases and figurines fill our shelves. We have had many ladies, tea drinkers for sure who collect teacups and tea pots. They keep coming back to find a new treasure. And there are those who are "mid-century" decorators always happy to find that perfect piece to reflect their furnishings.

Many, many miscellaneous items: Old books, magazines and sheet music, newspapers, small and large nick knacks, pictures framed and unframed, always spark an interest. Hankies, washed, ironed and mostly of age have always been a great seller, we have sold hundreds. Always nice to give as a gift or have in your purse or pocket.

Donations are always appreciated.

Please call and leave a message, my cell 626-592-2002 or the office 909-592-1190. We can arrange for delivery or pick up at your convenience.

Dear Historical Society Member(s)

It is time again to vote to fill Board of Director seats of the San Dimas Historical Society. All current members of the society are eligible to participate by filling out the enclosed ballot and mailing it back to the society office. This year three seats are open to fill. One member is running for reelection to a second term and two are seeking a first term. All seats are for a three-year term.

As a member you are entitled to three votes. You may cast one vote for each of the three candidates, three votes for one candidate or any combination of the three votes you desire. Please mail your ballot back to the Historical Society no later than May 2, 2025.

Cheryl Avelar: Cheryl is seeking a second three-year term to the board. For the past three years she has served as Corresponding Secretary and has been a tireless volunteer in the gift shop and museum. Cheryl's good nature and enthusiasm has made her a valuable member of the board.

Julia Bourbois: Julia holds a Ph.D. in Public History from UC Riverside. She has worked in Archives and Special Collections since 2016, including Claremont Heritage and the Pomona Public Library. She is a former Board Member of the Historical Society of Southern California. Julia is seeking election to her first three-year term on the Board of Directors.

Julie Draayom: Julie has served in the past on the Historical Society Board in a variety of positions. Her knowledge of San Dimas (both past and present) makes her a valuable asset. Julie is a Society Life Member and Patron and is seeking election to her first three-year term on the Board of Directors



Save the Date!

Saturday, May 17th for the San Dimas Historical Society's Spring Dinner. Invitations to follow in a separate mailing.



Please Join the San Dimas Historical Society With A Membership

Membership Benefits include:

Quarterly newsletters, invitations to two membership dinners with special speakers and programs, invitations to hosted annual Ice Cream Social, and other Historical Society Events.

Check your membership type:

Individual.....\$25 ___ (annually) Family (two or more).....\$35___ (annually) Sponsors / Business \$100 ___ (annually)
 Life Membership...\$500 per person ___ (one time fee only)

Additional Support / Donation for your Society are welcomed and are tax deductible. We are a 501(c) (3).

Name (s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____ Would you like to receive our newsletter by e-mail? Yes ___ No ___



Please MAIL TO: P.O. Box 871 • San Dimas, CA 91773 • call: 909 592-1190

Our Valued Patrons - A Very Special Thank You

Members that have made donations of \$1000 or more to the Patron Program are: (listed in order of participation)

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Their generous gifts allow the San Dimas Historical Society to purchase specially needed items to enhance our ability to save and share our history that otherwise would be unavailable due to limited funding. To find out how you too can become a patron call the office at (909) 592-1190. Your donation is tax deductible. We are a 501(c) (3).

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