



ODYSSEY

CITY OF SAN BERNARDINO
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 875
SAN BERNARDINO, CA. 92402

Editor

FRED HOLLADAY

Business Manager

CHRISTIAN R. HARRIS
Phone: 883-7759

Associate Editors

ARDA M. HAENSZEL
RICHARD D. THOMPSON

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The City of San Bernardino Historical Society was founded on November 16, 1977 and was incorporated by the State as non-profit on July 20, 1978.



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EDITOR'S COLUMN

THIS month we honor our society's first president, Christian R. Harris, who retires from that office in February.

Chris, who has also served as president of the San Bernardino Society of California Pioneers since 1969, tried for many years to interest other local citizens in establishing a city historical society. Many organizations were also approached, but in almost every instance they were more interested in promoting their own group than sponsoring a local historical one.

Finally in November, 1977, a nucleus of spirited citizens answered Chris' call and came forth to spawn our City of San Bernardino Historical Society. None was interested in promoting his or her self -- they championed a common project and the society was formulated in that vein.

Of course our charter members and officers deserve praise for their part in organizing the society, but it was Harris who led the crusade.

After the die was cast, our local city government gave us a one-time grant to help publish our first Heritage Tales and Thelma Press became our advisor. Santa Fe Federal, who has always sponsored local historical efforts, came forth with their representatives, E. George Webster and Larry Harvey -- to whom we are indebted for another grant to help publish our bi-monthly Odyssey.

All of these diverse men and women, business and governmental organizations, gave us the impetus to start our historical society and we thank them all for their part in our birth.

But we reserve a special niche for Chris Harris for persevering with that decade-long dream of his, until the City of San Bernardino Historical Society became an actuality.

-F.H.

