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Oroville, California



# The Southside Chronicle

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**October 30, 2010** 1pm  
Board of Directors meeting New Home Missionary Baptist Church.

**November 5, 6, & 7** Get  
*The Job Done Reunion Weekend.*

**November 5th** 6pm-9pm  
Meet and Greet.

**November 6th** 9am Tour of Oroville, 4:30pm Social Hour, 5:30pm to 7:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm to 8:30pm Oral History DVD Presentation, 8:30 to 9:30pm Legacy Awards Ceremony.

**November 7th** Church Services offered by various churches in the community.

For more information on the Reunion weekend visit our website at [soaahs.org](http://soaahs.org), e-mail us at [soaahs.lj@att.net](mailto:soaahs.lj@att.net) or call 530 533-7388.

**President's Message**

**By Dr. John H. Rivers**

I want to thank all those friends and supporters who have enabled the Society to achieve most of our goals during the past two years. I especially want to thank two people that helped us collect valuable information on African Americans who lived in Oroville: Mr. Bill Macutahen, Liberian at Oroville High School, and Cheryl Smith, Manager for Oroville Cemeteries. Both of these good people have helped us in our research work.

Don't miss the second annual Southside Reunion which will be held on the first weekend in November, 5,6.&7. Go to our web site at [www.soaahs.org](http://www.soaahs.org) or call LaJuana Jordan at 530-534-1595 for detailed information and registration forms. We still are waiting for the State to decide on our grant to build our Center and Park. The delay in approving a state budget pushed back the grant announcements. We can only wait and pray. More later.  
Be well,

John

**"If Struggle is Necessary, Then Struggle We Must."**

Two African American women heard those words and then charted a path toward achievement. Sally Walker-Glaude and Brenda Berry-Harris are the focus of our continuing story of personal struggle, progress, and contributions.

**We start with Sally Walker -Glaude**

Sally was born in Little Rock Arkansas on November 18, 1937 to Myrtis and Robert Childes. The family, which included her two sisters, Irma and Ruby, moved to Oroville in 1942 to join other members of their extended family. Her parents were Seventh Day Adventists, so Sally and her sister went to the Adventist school in Gridley. She graduated from Oroville Union High School in 1955, along with Mary Thomas, Tommy Brown, Valtee Belcher and Gracie Lacey. Sally attended Yuba College for three semesters.

Robert Childes worked as a skilled marble cutter in Arkansas but was unable to be hired in his skilled trade in Oroville. He, like many other African American men, found work at the Feather Falls sawmill in 1942. Work in the local saw mills was a strong pull for African American men to leave their segregated home towns and low paying jobs. Sally's mother, Myrtis, worked at Shockley Van Camp Cannery along with a significant number of African American women and men. African Americans expected to improve their family's future by coming to a place where their relatives and others had jobs that could provide a foundation to build a more socially free and stable life.

Sally married Rodale Walker, who served in the military. Consequently, Sally moved to various locations in the world. When Rodale was stationed in Germany in 1961, Sally had to come home to Oroville with no



Mrs. Sally Walker-Glaude

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## Membership Committee's Corner

### by Van Bilbo

I would like to remind members who have not renewed their membership to please do so. As we move forward on our mission of collecting and preserving historical information of African Americans in South Oroville, the needs of the society are growing. We need membership support in the form of time and resources as well as monetary support. The job of recording the history of our community will take time and the efforts of many. The support that we receive from members and the community will go a long way in ensuring that we reach our lofty goals.

Since our first board meeting back in September 2008, we have done research at local high schools, collected historical photos, held the first ever Legacy Awards Ceremony and completed 25 oral interviews of residents

and former residents of the South Oroville community. Prior to SOAAHS's efforts there has been very little representation of African American history in and around the Oroville area.

Membership support and fundraisers are what makes our historical investigation possible. At this point we do not receive any public or private funding. Maintaining and growing our membership is extremely important to SOAAHS. It will enable us to continue our historical journey of discovering the past so that the generations to come might have a brighter future. Current members are encouraged to renew and for those who are not members we would love to have you join and support us in our efforts.

*(If Struggle is Necessary Continued from page 1)*

money and she only had military transportation from Germany to New York. She arrived there with no money and five little children. The Red Cross bought Sally and the children tickets to Oroville.

Sally was able to live in one of her sister's apartments and she began to look for work. Sheriff Larry Gillick gave her a job working in the concession stand at the little league baseball park on Wyandotte Ave. across from the "Front." This job had become available because of the passing of Jimmy Black (Mama Jimmy), who helped Sheriff Gillick construct the ball park and concession stand. Sally was paid \$100 per month, of which \$50 had to be paid for rent. Encouraged by Sheriff Gillick, Sally applied for a Deputy Sheriff position at the Butte County Sheriff's Dept. She was selected for the job and began training in a six week Law Enforcement Academy program. Sally had a big problem in getting to the training sessions because she did not have transportation from her home to the municipal auditorium, she had to get her children fed and ready for school, and she had to be on time to start training at 8:00 am.

Sally was able to complete the training and graduated first in her class at the academy. She gave the graduation speech for her class. On September 18, 1962, Sally became the first African American sworn law enforcement officer in Butte County, as well as the first sworn African American female officer north of Sacramento to the Oregon border. Sally served as a deputy sheriff with duties as a dispatcher for 15 years, jailer for one year, and a court bailiff for Judge Lloyd Mulkey for several years. She was also involved with surveillance and drug enforcement activities. Sally was selected by her colleagues as Officer Of The Year on February 11, 1970. She received this historic award at a Chico Exchange Club meeting, which was attended by 100 people, including a large group of her fellow law enforcement officers.

Sally would not have completed the training program had it not been for the enormous help of Barney and Katherine Gabriel. The Gabriels would have a cab waiting to take Sally to her training sessions each morning. She did not ask them for the help and the Gabriels did not request money for the rides. The Gabriels heard about Sally's situation and opportunity. They quietly helped her to overcome the one obstacle that could have derailed the opportunity to make history and to provide for the needs of her family.

Sally's interest in law enforcement stems from the fact that she needed a job to support her family. She refused to sign up for welfare and was determined to work and maintain her independence. While a career in law enforcement was not a passion or conscious goal, she did

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enjoy her work, as well as interactions with co-workers. She loved the part of her job where she helped individuals and contributed to the efforts to maintain a safe and orderly community.

Sally retired in 1992 after a 30 years successful career as a Butte County Deputy Sheriff.

### ***Brenda Berry-Harris***

Brenda Berry Harris was born in Berkeley, CA in 1945. Her parents were Irma and Earl Berry. The Berrys, Clarks, Gills, Colvins, and Spencers combined to make up one of the historic extended families who migrated to Southside and helped the community to begin its magnetic pull of other African American families to Oroville. Papa Berry (Big Papa), Earl's father, moved his family here from Oklahoma. Papa Berry's motivation to leave Oklahoma was to find better work and a favorable place to nurture, protect, and grow his family. Big Papa worked in many of the local sawmills along with other African American men. Between 1920 and 1960, sawmills provided most of the unskilled job opportunities in Oroville. Brenda settled in Oroville and started in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Burbank Elementary School in Southside. She went on to attend Central Elementary and Bird Street Middle School, and graduated from Oroville Union High School in 1962 along with Billy Jones, Virginia Toney, Tommy Woodson, Maxine Johnson, Joyce Charles, Hilliard Parkinson, and Pat Wright. She earned a BA degree from Chico State University and a MA degree from La Vern University. Both of her degrees are in the field of Psychology. She is currently working on a Ph.D. in clinical Psychology from Columbia Pacific University in San Raphael, CA.

Brenda met and married Mr. Odell Harris in 1963. They have two children, Camille and Chandler. Brenda and Odell owned a very successful auto detailing business in Chico, CA. They operated the business for 23 years. Brenda managed the business and cared for her husband until he passed away in 2000. In addition to operating the business, 48 foster children came through their small farm in Thermalito, where the family also grew and sold vegetables, eggs, and chickens.

Brenda is a rare duly elected official of African American descent in Oroville and Butte County. She currently serves on the Board of Trustees for the Oroville High School District, and is the second African American to serve on the trustee board. Her record of service to Southside and the broader communities throughout Butte County is extensive, beginning with perhaps her most important contribution in 1982 during the Great March to protest the presence of hate acts. Nazi flyers had been distributed on the campus at Central School. This and other acts of intimidation caused the parents of African American children to organize to resist these acts of intimidation and to protect African American children from possible harm. The March started in downtown Oroville and proceeded down Myers Street into Southside and ended with a rally held at Central School. Brenda was a leader in the Concern Parents of Southside, which called for the march. Several other leaders worked with Brenda and the parents to insure that the march was peaceful and achieved the desired objective. Rev. Carl Fowler, Pastor of New Home Baptist Church, Dick Bjork, and Sherman Tobias worked with other city leaders to denounce the hate acts and to support the parents' aims.

Working as a teacher's aid at Las Plumas High School, Brenda along with Edwina Gibbs, organized the students into a B.S.U (Black Student Union) at both local high schools. They saw the need for students to organize in order to better respond to threats and to strengthen their identity and pride. She was active in the B.S.U. while attending Chico State University. Her record of fighting for recognition and fighting against injustice networked her with other like minded African Americans leaders in the community, such as Anetta Bell, Mert Thomas, and Edna Taylor. She has consistently demonstrated care and concern for youth development as evidenced by her work with youth in a long-running mentor program, and as the Director of the Adrian Hill Memorial Camp and Mentoring Project Summer Camp Program which operates through her church, Winn Memorial Church of God in Christ.

Brenda's long tenure in education and counseling includes another first. While there have been other African Americans who have lived and grown up in Southside and who have gone into education and counseling, Brenda is the first and only one to work at an historic Black college, Fisk University in Nashville, TN. Brenda continues to be active in the community and currently works for the Thermalito Elementary School District in counseling and anger management. She is a fourteen year breast cancer survivor, and her work in educating minorities in breast cancer detection extends nationally.

Both of these women have experienced many life challenges, and have demonstrated the ability to struggle, overcome real obstacles and to achieve. Each has received important and timely support from others. They have had the shared experience of living in a community



Mrs. Brenda Berry-Harris

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where achievement was expected and highly regarded. These women are models that our youth can emulate today.



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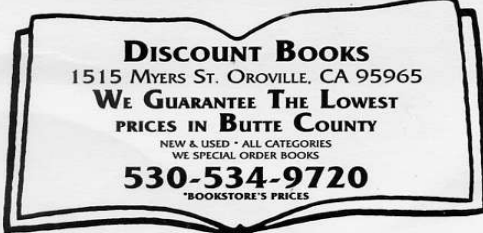


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