



# REDLANDS CHRONICLES

September, 2009

## Redlands Historical Postcards

Ron Running

Monday, September 28, 2009, 7pm

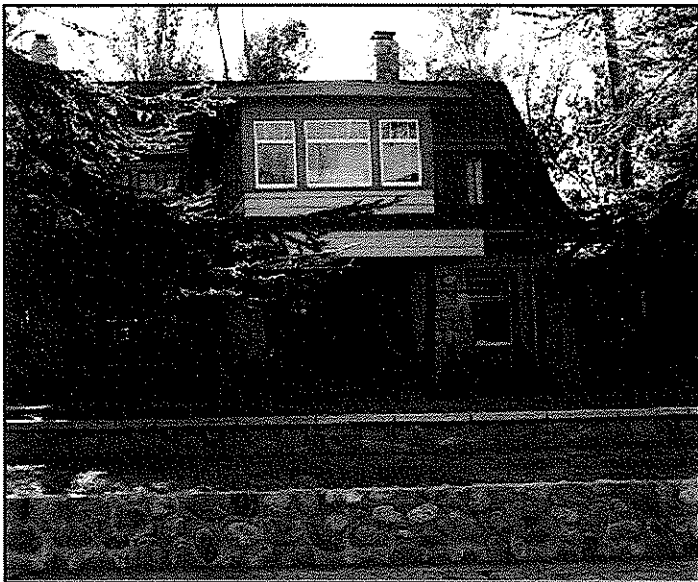
Assemble Room, A.K. Smiley Public Library

The Redlands Area Historical Society's September program will feature Ron Running and his "Redlands Historical Postcards."

Ron Running is a city planner for Hemet and joined the Redlands Area Historical Society in January of 1981. He is presently serving his second stint on the Board of Directors. In the mid-1980s, Running served as vice-president and as president for two years. He has served on the Heritage Awards Committee and has the complete society archives of every award given by the group. He is currently the chair of the Genealogy Society. The past two years he has led tours of Hillside Memorial Cemetery and photographed thousands of headstones for Find A Grave. Running was the society leader for the recent Eagle Scout project completed by John Paul Frehner at Hillside Cemetery.

Running served for eight years on the City's Historic and Scenic Preservation Commission in the 1980s.

*Continued, page 3*



## Annual Potluck

### The Old House Group Meeting

Wednesday September 23, 2009, 6:30pm

Daniel N. Findlay House

360 Lakeside Avenue

This year's annual potluck will be held at the home of Daniel and Diana Cozad. The Craftsman bungalow style house has a bell cast gable roof and received a 2006 Heritage Award. This Southern California style of building was influenced by the English Arts and Crafts movement but spread quickly throughout the US by the use of pattern books and popular magazines.

*Continued, page 3*

A Letter from your President...

This summer I experienced two road trips. One with my dad encompassed four national parks and traveled to 3,028 miles. Visiting Zion and Bryce were first-time visits for me. My first trip to the Grand Tetons was in 1964. I went down the Snake River by canoe and ended up in the frigid water with my uncle and dad thanks to an over active beaver. The beaver had chewed a tree down in our path and this overturned the canoe.

My second trip to the Tetons was in 1989. My family was chased out of Yellowstone by the lightning fires that year. We camped in Jackson Hole and couldn't even see the nearby mountains shrouded in smoke. We ventured down the Snake again but this time in a rubber raft. My sons still talk of the rapids and thrill of adventure. The Colorado is in my book for a future raft adventure.

The other road trip this summer headed north along scenic highway 395. A required reading list will bring this trip alive. Begin with reading *Desert Bonanza: Early Randsburg, Mojave Desert Mining Camp* by Marcia Rittenhouse Wynn. E. I. Edwards, the uncrowned king of desert history and literature, anointed this book to his top 20 for a desert library. This book brings the high desert to life with the mining history of Randsburg, Red Mountain, and Johannesburg. The author grew up in Randsburg and then effectively brought the people there through the turn of the century to us all. Unlike most local history, Wynn uses personal narrative and research to enliven her classic book. She understands the miners, their work, their families, and the mining town culture.

For mood understanding, read Mary Austin and her classic *The Land of Little Rain*. You'll see the Owens Valley along highway 395 with a new sensitivity.

History will come alive reading *The Story of Inyo* by W. A. Chalfant. His 1933 work explores Owens Valley with mountain men, Joe Walker and pathfinder, John C. Fremont. He summarizes the mining period and Paiute Indian battles with clarity and historical accuracy. The purchase of land and water rights by the Los Angeles Water Department illustrates just how precious water is in our state. Chalfant loses his historical balance in the chapter named 'Betrayal of Owens Valley.' He sides with the valley settlers as they demonstrated and blew up the Los Angeles aqueduct at the Alabama Hills pump station. His work became evidence in the 1970s that led to the saving of Mono Lake and conservation efforts to return more water to the Owens Valley.

At Olancho and Cartago, Chalfant's work has us picture a steam ship plying Owens lake with its steam engine. The engine burned charcoal created by burning cottonwoods along the lake streams. The kilns are still there if you read and follow the historical signs after Olancho.

In Lone Pine we visited the new Forest Service visitor center. We stayed in Lone Pine and picnicked at Whitney Portal, a respite from the hot valley. Be sure to visit the Movie Museum and view all the films set in the nearby Alabama Hills. Westerns since 1914 with numerous stars used this setting. The cult favorite comedy-horror flick Tremors starring Kevin Bacon was filmed in the Alabama Hills. My favorites Bengal Lancers and Gunga Din were filmed in the hills.

Like Monte and Nelda Stuck, we can't pass up a museum. The Eastern Valley Museum located in Independence has Native American artifacts, settlement history and a new presentation of photographs on the Japanese internment camp at Manzanar.

We visited Manzanar, which has a very large museum now and driving tour of the site. Looking south, the Alabama Hills can be seen from Manzanar. The Park Service presentation at Manzanar presents the story of the camp from 1942 to President Reagan's apology in 1985. Foreigners visiting while we were there expressed surprise, learning of the ten Japanese internment camps located in the west during World War II. Seeing the interpretive film shown every hour is a must. We took the driving tour as well, which shows the dimensions of the camp.

In Bishop, we visited the Laws Railroad Museum six miles out of town. This museum was a little passive. We viewed each of the buildings and railroad depot. I bought some books, of course, but really

*Redlands Historical Postcards, continued*

During this time, he advised the commission with his planning expertise and helped the City of Redlands adopt the present Historic Preservation Element of the General Plan and adopted the Historic and Scenic Preservation ordinance.

Running lives in Redlands and moved the 1890s Jerome Seymour cottage from 115 Fourth Street to 132 San Jacinto in 1982. He completely restored the home and won a Heritage Award for his efforts.

Running began his historic postcard collection when fellow society member Doug Hairgrove sold some of his collection at a garage sale. Hairgrove amassed a huge collection while attending the Rose Bowl Flea Market monthly for years. Running has combined his collection with Tom Atchley's and Marie Reynolds's collections for this presentation.

His presentation will take place September 28<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7pm in the Assembly Room of A.K. Smiley Public Library and is open to the public.

*President's Letter, continued*

wanted the story of railroads in the Owens Valley told.

Lee Vining has a new interpretive center just north of town overlooking Mono Lake. This center offers a video presentation that is also interesting. Mono Lake is on the mend now and more water ensures its future. They have a great bookstore and Forest Service information booth.

Gardnerville, Nevada has a wonderful museum. I like cluttered museums with plenty to see. This museum offers a variety for the history buff.

We ventured off 395 for a quick trip to Genoa, Nevada, the oldest settlement in Nevada. Mormons settled the Carson River valley in the 1850s. The oldest Nevada saloon is in Genoa two doors from their museum courthouse. Each room of the courthouse presents a different story on the history of Genoa. The \$5 fee was well worth the visit.

Carson City, the capital of Nevada, has the Nevada State Museum and Nevada State Archives within four blocks of each other. This was the target for the road trip. I mined Mentone history from the archives and the Nevada State Museum. Temptation is found across the street with dozens of casinos in Carson City. We avoided the temptation with the exception of a tasteful visit to the saloon in Genoa.

Your President, Tom Atchley

*Old House Group, continued*

The building permit for the home was issued to W. T. Ferguson for D. N. Findlay with an estimated cost of \$3,000. Findlay was born in Ontario, Canada, but moved to Redlands in 1882. Records indicate that in 1907 he purchased 9.5 acres of land and immediately planted Washington Navel Oranges. A year later a carriage house was constructed followed by the house. At the time, Findlay and Edward D. Reid operated a men's clothing store on Orange Street (Reid & Findlay).

The two-and-a-half story home is constructed on a raised concrete foundation with wide, exposed eaves and triangular brackets. A concrete porch is asymmetrically placed at the front door and is flanked by flared stone columns. Though the date isn't clear, a room was added to the top of the port-cochere which spans the circular driveway in front of the home.

Sometime during the 1920s the address of the property changed from Fern Avenue to Lakeside Avenue. Apparently the name Lakeside was derived from the regular inundation of an excavated clay deposit used by A.E. Taylor for manufacturing at his local brickyard.

Daniel and Diana purchased the house in 2004 and began an extensive restoration of the home and the grounds. In 2008 the Cozads celebrated the home's centennial with a program of jazz music, home tours, and a display of historic photographs. Collages of the restoration process and historic photos are on display at the home and may be viewed during our visit. Come celebrate the care and rehabilitation of this historic home and help us congratulate and encourage the Cozads' efforts.

Those wishing to attend should bring a covered dish. For organization purposes we are asking for the following division, by last name.

A-M please bring a salad or a side dish

N-Z please bring a main dish

Table service, drinks, and dessert will be provided.

\* Note the board has decided it may be best to change the meeting date from the 3rd Wednesday of the month to the 4th Wednesday. Please make a note of this.

# Prospect Park History Part III: George W. Meade

by Tom Atchley

George W. Meade was the third owner of Prospect Park after the Southern Pacific Railroad and Judson & Brown. He was born in 1851 and first appeared in newspaper reports of Southern California in 1883. The *Riverside Press and Horticulturalist* reported that George W. Meade, San Francisco capitalist and "Raisin King," had purchased five shares in the Bear Valley Irrigation Company. Meade helped raise \$360,000 to construct the Bear Valley Dam, purchase the reservoir property in the San Bernardino Mountains, and construct the Bear Valley Irrigation Company canals, pipelines, and reservoirs.

The Articles of Incorporation of the Bear Valley Reservoir and Bear Valley Irrigation Company indicate that Frank Morrison invested \$100,000, Edward Judson \$50,000, Frank Brown \$50,000, and Meade \$50,000. Meade was part of the Romulus and Remus plan to irrigate the East San Bernardino Valley as promoted by Judson & Brown, the founders of Redlands.

Meade was already successful when he began investing in Redlands. He opened the George W. Meade packing house in Riverside in 1883 and this was one of the first packing houses in the country. His daring packing and shipping endeavors enabled him to establish George W. Meade & Company of San Francisco. He held contracts for packing and shipping fruit, vegetables, and farm produce throughout the state. Known as the Raisin King, this reference was due to his long-standing shipping of raisins in the Central Valley and especially in Fresno. As Riverside grew agriculturally, he began to seek out produce from Southern California to ship and pack. It therefore would be a natural investment to promote the development of the Eastern Valley with Judson and Brown in a future Redlands.

Meade met both Judson and Brown, while they were managing the Lugonia Fruit Dryer. Meade had the same type of business in both Riverside and Fresno. Brown and Judson dried mostly apricots and peaches while Meade dried tons of grapes to ship raisins.

With the absolute explosion of fruit growing in the San Bernardino Valley, in 1884, Meade invested again. The construction of the Bear Valley Dam in 1884 enabled the new company to irrigate the entire

eastern end of the valley and Alessandro or San Jacinto Valley (Moreno Valley) in the near future.

Meade became a director of the Redlands Fruit Company incorporated with \$500,000 in stock. He joined a fraternity of developers famous throughout the early history of our area. H. L. Drew of San Bernardino, Hiram M. Barton, George H. Fullerton and E. F. Kingman of Riverside, Judson and Brown, and George W. Meade, still of San Francisco.

In 1885, the Riverside paper again mentions Meade agents scouring San Bernardino County buying dried fruit. He purchased two carloads of dried fruit from the Judson and Brown Lugonia fruit dryer in September 1885. Papers always mention his mansion on Knob Hill in San Francisco, which was impressive for a man 34 years old. He undoubtedly found much in common with 27 year old Frank Brown, newly married and one of the brains behind the vast irrigation and land development scheme.

These early years in Redlands, Meade must have stayed at the Prospect Hotel. He probably could not guess he would own the property surrounding the Prospect Hotel within a decade.

Ingersoll Century Annals records some interesting history in the 1904 book on San Bernardino County. Ingersoll credits Meade with formulating rules for packing fruit and measurements for field boxes, etc. Packers of Southern California agreed in Riverside December 28, 1887 to follow these rules for packing oranges. The rules included the length of the stem cut, 70 pound boxes, 176 orange standard box and established what was a "cull." Most of the rules formulated at this meeting were industry standards for decades. Meade was respected and his experience in fruit packing was already legendary in the state.

From 1887 to 1890 Meade visited Redlands regularly during the fruit-packing season. He purchased large lots of oranges, grapes, apricots, and other deciduous products. He became enthused with the development of the community and slowly invested time and money in all aspects of Redlands. In constructing the Arcade building on West State he employed J. Lee Burton as architect. This three story building was located next to the Windsor Hotel. J. Lee Burton also drew plans for the Academy of Music block. He

employed the contracting firm of Lynn and Lewis to build the "Academy of Music" block in downtown Redlands on the northeast corner of Citrus and Orange. It furnished Redlands with new city hall offices and a 500-seat theater housed on the second story. Within a year, the Bear Valley Water Company, Domestic Water Company, City Hall, and W. T. Prine Real Estate, all were located in the building. Until the completion of the Wyatt Opera House in 1904, all Redlands High commencement programs took place in the theater of the Academy of Music.

Meade built three major brick blocks in the downtown area in the early 1890s. One major construction project was building five cottages on Cajon Street and selling them for \$1600 each. He seemed to have kept his San Francisco home as well as his New York residence. The *San Diego Sun* noted the visits of the "Raisin King" in the spring of 1891 at the recently completed Hotel Del Coronado. The *Sun* credited Meade as the largest producer of raisins in the United States. One article recalled Meade's trip in 1888 to southern Europe visiting Spain, Italy, and Greece, as well as North African countries of Morocco, Algeria, and Egypt. He possibly went with Frank Brown, co-founder of Redlands, who made a similar trip.

In 1891, Meade sold the George W. Meade Fruit Company to Joe Steiner of Scharf, Lemcke and Steiner of San Francisco. He left with his wife on a second tour of Europe in November of 1891. His connections with Redlands increased when he hired J. S. Edwards's men to remove weeds from his ten acres located on Cajon Street. He visits his family home in San Francisco regularly and also his native New York, where the paper indicates he was born penniless but had earlier developed the "American Grocer" concept. Meade lobbied Congress during this time to support trade tariffs barring importation of Spanish raisins, French prunes, and almonds and walnuts. The McKinley Tariff of this period must surely have been influenced by his work. Meade's Lion Brand agents at this time were Rossiter and Skidmore, the largest raisin firm in the country. He began 1892 with the sale of his Fern Avenue property for \$8,000.

Triumph and tragedy followed Meade throughout 1892. His daughter was born April 30th. He rented the home of B. F. Hyde on Fern Avenue and began staying regularly at the rental while building a new \$20,000 residence at 25 Summit Avenue. News of his family home in San Francisco burning was reported in the *Citrograph* November 5, 1892.

Meade helped form the Redlands Hotel Association in 1893. The project was connected with the formation of the Redlands Board of Trade (Chamber of Commerce) the same year. Businessmen wanted a first class hotel built in Redlands and were spying out the Redlands Heights area for possibilities. The Redlands Hotel Association deeded Anna Meade, his wife, six lots in Block 26 of Redlands Heights. This block became Bow A, Bow B, and Bow C of today. The view looking west over Redlands Blvd. is still very good and homes were built on these streets from 1900 to 1910.

As vice-president of newly-formed Redlands Board of Trade, Meade took the steps, which connected him to Prospect Park. On April 22, 1893 Meade purchased 60 acres in the Williams Tract (Citrus Plaza Mall) from Frank Brown. He bought another 60 acres in Crafton - 25 acres of citrus for \$35,000, and the remaining 35 acres of bare land for \$26,000. Meade also bought Prospect Hill for \$27,000 from the Redlands & Alessandro Improvement Company, which was owned by Frank Brown.

Confusion in the newspapers accelerated with these multiple purchases. Articles reported that the Prospect Hill property was an investment by Meade for the future Redlands Hotel Association's tourist hotel. By May, Meade planted orange trees on his property and christened his future home site "Monte Vista." The papers said his home site was within full view of the whole valley. Obviously, Monte Vista is the knoll on the left side of Summit Avenue after turning left from Cajon Street, today listed as 25 Summit Avenue. However, the Bryne Ranch property in Crafton that Meade bought was also called "Monte Vista" in the papers.

Fifteen teams were busily grading Prospect Hill in June 1893. Meade presented new street plan to the City Council in June and Hotel Street was closed. "Eldorado Street" was named and grading completed in July along with Prospect Hill Street. Eldorado Street was probably the street that became Kimberly Crest driveway and now proceeds by the Carriage House in the park. Also in July the Meades hosted a 4th of July lawn and card party at their residence on Summit, followed by a private fireworks display. The residence of Meade on Redlands Heights was featured again in the papers when visitors arrived in October. Charles Randolph of New York was mentioned as Meade's visitor throughout November 1893.

*The Citrograph* listed Meade's 1893 investments

in Redlands Meade spent \$25,000 on the new Windsor Hotel block on State Street, and \$10,000 in the yearly building list speaks volumes. The \$10,000 for Prospect Hill improvements would construct many of the cobble-stone walls and concrete gutters located along the drives. Grading for the roads was accomplished with Fresno scrapers, following the street plan laid out by Isaac Ford, surveyor and engineer. Isaac Ford's map of the Belle View Tract 1896, in which Prospect Park is located, notes Meade definitely had a plan for a tourist hotel in Tract 4 of the Belle View subdivision. Valvista Drive, Prospect Drive, and Eldorado Drive were all leading to this central highest knoll atop Prospect Hill.

Meade set the tone and park-like atmosphere with winding roads taking advantage of the natural terrain of the hill. Meade never recovered his investment when he sold to the England family. Perhaps he was enthralled like many Redlanders with the Smiley Brothers' Cañon Crest Park, which was being developed at the same time as Meade's improvements. Meade has never received the recognition for the part he played in making Prospect a showplace in Redlands. No doubt Meade was influenced by his contemporaries the Smileys, in what they had started in 1889 just a few hills to the west.

Isaac Ford became well known for his terracing of the hills of south Redlands for citrus. Meade planted citrus in 1893 following the lead set by Breed in 1886.

The \$2,000 for "Monte Vista" improvements and additions were probably a carriage barn for his Summit Avenue home. Long range plans called for a tourist hotel which would be located on Prospect Hill. Meade was improving the land for a tourist hotel but unforeseen health problems ended these plans. His private residence on Summit overlooked Prospect Hill and eventually was purchased by the E. M. Lyon packing house family from Crafton and eventual donor of the Lyon Wing of Smiley Library.

Desiring a board of trade that was truly active, Meade wrote *The Citrograph* November 4, 1893. He congratulated Redlands on its accomplishments but lamented "at the same time, what Redlands needs is a more thorough advertising and more manufacturing establishments of various kinds." Meade became an advocate for a cannery, annual citrus fair, tourist hotel, and good roads. He was elected the first vice-president of the newly reorganized Board of Trade. He traveled with pioneer Redlands orange grower E. J.

Waite to the Midwinter Citrus Fair representing Redlands with a display.

On the good roads committee he promoted Sylvan Blvd. as a scenic road. This Zanja-lined street just happened to lead to his 60-acre ranch property in Crafton. To further cement relations with Highland, Meade fostered the connection of Alabama Street across the wash. His Williams Tract property just by coincidence was located at the Redlands end of the connection. Alabama Street helped Redlands become a center of trade for Highland residents. Active members on the Board of Trade credit Meade with advertising brochures that were first distributed in January 1895, boasting Redlands' climate, city, culture, schools, and citrus growing industry. President A. B. Ruggles, Frank Meserve, J. Lee Burton, E. G. Judson, and Major Diss all believed Meade the most important asset of the new Board of Trade.

The Redlands Hotel Association organized in 1893 just after the formation of the Board of Trade. The Hotel Association launched an immense hotel scheme aimed at the Meade property on Prospect Hill. The Association deeded Anna Meade a part of lot 6 in block 7 for \$200 and six lots in block 26 of Redlands Heights once owned by the Redlands Alessandro Improvement Company. This land, plus Prospect Hotel stock to be granted to Meade, was enough to garner his promise to further the hotel project. "The hotel was to rival the Raymond in Pasadena."

In February 1894, Meade suffered a bout with La Grippe, which today we call the flu. He recovered by March and was reported planting another 30 acres on his Crafton Ranch, hustling a tourist hotel, cannery, and electric street car railway. Meade moved his real estate office and teamed with the firm George Kelsey and C. T. Gifford in the new Windsor Annex, which he had financed and built. His display there of Redlands' horticultural products predated the displays of the Board of Trade on Orange Streets at the Railroad stations and Board of Trade headquarters located in the Phinney Block.

By May 1895, Meade was elected director of the Redlands Orange Grove and Water Company. As water director he purchased 18 shares of Redlands Heights water to use for citrus irrigation or the tourist hotel. The same month he directed Walter Raymond on a tour of Prospect Hill trying to convince the huge eastern tour director to build a tourist hotel on the property. Meade wanted to sell Raymond 12 acres for a 100-room hotel site and 3 acres on a small knoll for



stables, all for the consideration of \$15,000.

Raymond was enthusiastic about the Prospect Hill site. Everyone knew that "Raymond" and "Green" hotels in Pasadena were responsible for the growth in that city. Rumors spread of a deed of escrow on the sixteen-acre hotel site. The Hotel Association launched a campaign to raise \$30,000 for a one hundred-room hotel. Raymond sounded excited in the press but had reservations concerning the distance from the railroad depots to the hotel site. Without an electric street-car line the hotel would not be feasible.

Predicting the Walter Raymond transportation problem, the Board of Trade invigorated the movers and shakers in town to form a subcommittee called the Tourist Hotel and Street Railway Committee. Dubbed the "Committee of Fifteen," these men were bankers, business owners, electrical pioneers, founders, city councilmen, water company presidents, and leading citrus growers.

The committee ended its meeting in April passing the motion to raise \$15,000 in subscriptions for an electric street railway. E. G. Judson and most others on the committee were adamant about the Prospect Hill location. In fact, Judson was quoted saying that, "If any man would say Prospect Hill was not a good site for a hotel, he was not the proper man to run a hotel, and we do not want him here." Aggressive sentiment was then echoed by many members of the tourist hotel committee.

In September, the citizens' committee asked to postpone action on the tourist hotel and take up the electric street railroad first. Subscriptions for the \$30,000 towards the hotel had not been met, owing to the fact many residents had left Redlands and had not been available until the end of the summer. The Union Ice Company of Mentone offered to meet all the obligations toward the \$30,000. All this good news was negated by the fact that Walter Raymond backed out on his assurances to manage and build the new grand hotel.

The Street Railway Committee proceeded to argue where the street railway would be built. Which streets would be favored? City bonds were suggested as a way to fund the electric street railway. Slowly but surely the Prospect Hill hotel idea ebbed because technology was two years too slow. Southern California Power Company, which would build a hydroelectric power plant in Santa Ana Canyon, would not complete this work until 1897. Redlands would have its electric streetcars in 1899, three years

after the Casa Loma Hotel at Colton and Orange Streets was built.

Meade became frustrated by all the commotion and depressed by Walter Raymond's non-support for the Prospect Hill hotel location. Meade left for deep sea fishing and rest.

Meade caught 672 lbs. of fish in August 1895 on a trip with R. J. Waters and Judge Perham. His six-year-old son, Harold, died suddenly in Barton of membranous croup and was buried at Hillside Cemetery in Redlands. Meade began to spend more time in Los Angeles and less in Redlands. He sold 37 acres of the Williams Tract in October 1895 to Matthew Wormer. It would appear that Meade lost heart due to the failures of the Redlands Hotel Association. However, this was not the reason for his disengagement with the hotel project or the Board of Trade.

By February of 1896, ominous financial transactions began to appear in the newspapers. W. D. Turner and Sarah Turner filed suit against Anna W. Meade and the Redlands & Alessandro Improvement Company for collection of a \$4500 note. In April, Mrs. George W. Bowers purchased the large Meade Tract in Crafton. Mrs. Meigs purchased the Summit Street property, Bow A, B, and C Streets, consisting of lots 7, 8, 9, 19, 20 and 21 in Block 18.

The remaining six months of 1896, George W. Meade disappeared from Redlands. What happens can be traced back to his contraction of the flu in 1894 and the loss of his son in 1895. Meade became infected with a stubborn case of bronchitis and without the modern medicines of today died at his Estrella Avenue home in Los Angeles on January 1, 1897, leaving three children and his wife. The obituary mentioned that Meade was born in 1851 and was 46 years of age. He had moved to Los Angeles to seek further doctors' care. The papers lamented that "Redlands had lost a true friend who was warm hearted, generous, confident, honest, upright and energetic."

Meade passed out of the history of Prospect Park, leading the way for the England family's purchase of the property. Meade was the first to see the possibilities of Prospect Hill for a fashionable tourist hotel. His untimely death and the distance and location of Prospect Hill from the railroad stations prompted the Board of Trade to locate the hotel "Casa Loma" on Colton and Orange Street in 1896. Meade's \$10,000 investment in road building, citrus planting, cut-stone work, and hill contouring no doubt helped attract the England family's interest in Prospect Park