

REDLANDS CHRONICLES

February, 2010

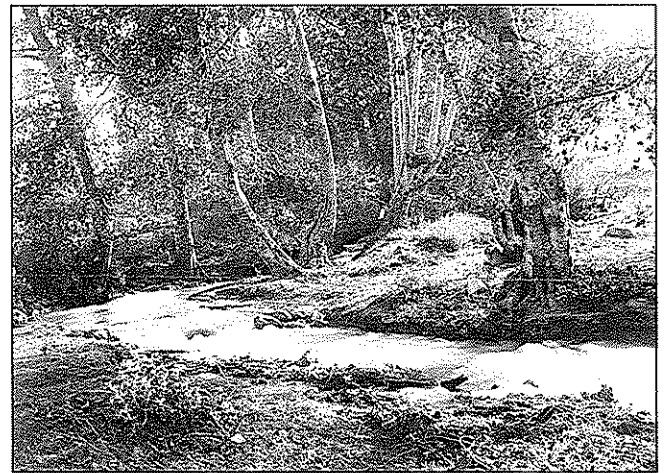
History of the Mill Creek Zanja

Monday, February 22, 2010, 7 p.m.
Assembly Room, A.K. Smiley Public Library

This slide show presentation by Tom Atchley encompasses the "History of the Mill Creek Zanja" along its entire twelve mile length. The presentation will take place in the Assembly Room of A.K. Smiley Public Library on Monday February 22 at 7:00 p.m.

The Mill Creek Zanja celebrates its 191st year this spring. The Redlands Conservancy plans for a linear park, walking paths,

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Mill Creek Zanja



Chandler Furniture Company on State Street

The Old House Group Presents A Stickley Antique Roadshow

Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 7 to 9 p.m.
Assembly Room, A.K. Smiley Public Library
Doors open at 6:30

Mike Danial, Stickley Corporate Historian, will tell the fascinating story of the foremost company associated with the Arts and Crafts movement in the United States. Mr. Danial, direct from the Stickley Furniture Company of New York, surveys locally owned Stickley furniture.

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A Letter from your President,

I had two archaeological experiences in January. I spent half a day with Britt Wilson locating an Indian wickiup site below Seven Oaks near the Santa Ana River. I was working for the Forest Service in 1970 and a previous Clark's Ranch owner was kind enough to take me to the Native American structure.

The late Dee Simpson, archaeologist for the county museum, recorded the site in September of 1970. I joined with the University of Redlands students and Dr. Roger Baty, our first newly organized historical society president, to survey and dig the site. Finding any structure that was built by Native Americans is truly rare. It took three or four wrong trails and turns to finally find the wickiup site. Thirty years can play tricks on the memory and I thank Britt Wilson for his GPS instrument and patience.

I repaid Britt with a quick trip to Politana, the supposed historical site where Father Dumetz built a *capilla* and said mass for the natives in May of 1810. We found a Native American scraper while walking on the site.

On Saturday January 9, I was able to tour the Scott and Marie Reynolds property on Crescent Avenue. Scott is a modern archaeologist. He is digging up the foundations of his 1891 carriage barn, South San Mateo Street driveway, irrigation reservoir, and backyard bowling alley.

The Reynolds' "treasure box" of artifacts includes military dog tags, a 1934 chauffeur's license, a 1910 bottle, square nails, and an Arizona-Redlands Copper Company emblem.

This Crescent Avenue property dates from 1891 and was constructed for N.S. McAbee by Lynn & Lewis. The widow of George Bowers improved the original home with Philippine mahogany. Bowers was co-owner of the Harqua Hala gold mine of Arizona with Redlander Anthony Hubbard.

Scott and Marie will be digging for years and are finding so much in their backyard that each find will bring a new set of questions. I thought the only private bowling alley was in the Holt house on West Olive. But Scott and Marie had a bowling alley complete with an automated pin-setter in their backyard as well.

I suspect their land was irrigated with Redlands Heights water or from the Bear Valley Irrigation Company high line completed in 1891. Down under Crescent Avenue the Mound City line of 1887 brought water to Loma Linda and the Morey House in 1890.

Redlands has many historical archaeological sites. Those rolling hills in Sylvan Park are mostly dump refuse from the early Lugonia Heights neighborhood. Terracina dropped its refuse into San Timoteo Canyon.

Native Americans lived along Mill Creek and the old Lockheed site and Stater Bros. on Barton Road. The Cram furniture factory in Crafton dates to the 1850's, Crafton Retreat to 1860 and no archaeological work was ever completed on the 1840's Maria Armenta and Jose Bermudez home near the present Braswell Retirement home on East Highland.

The little archaeological work completed in Redlands involved the Chinatown neighborhood on Oriental Street. Pottery, an opium pipe, jewelry and other Chinese items were recovered in the trenches.

Maybe my New Year's resolution should be to dig more. U of R professor, Dr. Gil Becker is smiling in heaven just seeing me write that last line.

Still wondering how much your dues are for this year? Individual/family is \$25. Contributing is \$35. Donor is \$50. Patron is \$100. Corporate is now \$150.

My new grandchild arrived January 25th at 4:15 a.m.. Her name is Anna Josephine Atchley. One great-grandmother and one grandma are captured in that name. Can you see my grin?

Your president, Tom Atchley

Residence of Newton S. McAbee



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historical plaques and other features to be completed for the 200th Anniversary in 2019.

The Mill Creek Zanja is a Bicentennial Landmark of the California Resources Commission and is California Registered Landmark number 43. The Zanja has been recognized by the Redlands City Parks Department, San Bernardino County Museum and has a National Register designation as well. The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors was presented a certification that the Zanja was a Historic Civil Engineering Landmark in 1972.

Zanja history was first celebrated by Edith Parker Hinckley in her book titled, "On the Banks of the Zanja." The Redlands Conservancy received a grant last year from the History Channel to research Zanja history, write historical plaques, and prepare a Power Point program for 4th graders in the Redlands Unified School District.

Historical plaques were researched by the Redlands Junior Historical Society Club of Redlands High School. The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians has agreed to pay \$30,000 for the plaque installation.

In the process of research and club activities, Tom Atchley gave four bus driving tours of the Zanja last year for the Redlands Area Historical Society. The text for those driving tours was printed into a "Driving Tour of the Mill Creek Zanja." Citrograph Printing indicated the tour booklets would be available through the Redlands Conservancy for \$10.00. Booklets will be for sale on the evening of the presentation.

Tom Atchley is the current president of the Redlands Area Historical Society. He is a social studies teacher at Redlands High School and advisor for the Junior Historical Society. He is a member of the Save the Zanja Committee of the Redlands Conservancy. Atchley has presented walking tours of historic neighborhoods, downtown Redlands and teaches a class on Redlands History with Dr. Larry Burgess twice each year.

The Power Point program follows the course of the Zanja from Mill Creek above Greenspot to Loma Linda and Mountain View Avenue. Native Americans, Spanish priests, Mexican land grant owners, mountain men and some of the first settlers of the San Bernardino Valley all played a role in the history of the Mill Creek Zanja. This irrigation ditch is the oldest remnant of history, outside of Native American settlements, we have left.

Tour booklets will be available for \$10. The program is free.

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Carriage Barn at the N. S. McAbee Residence



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

All RAHS members are encouraged to submit articles for the *Redlands Chronicles* to Marie Reynolds at scmarie@yahoo.com by the 1st of each month.

Historical Society 110 Years Old This May

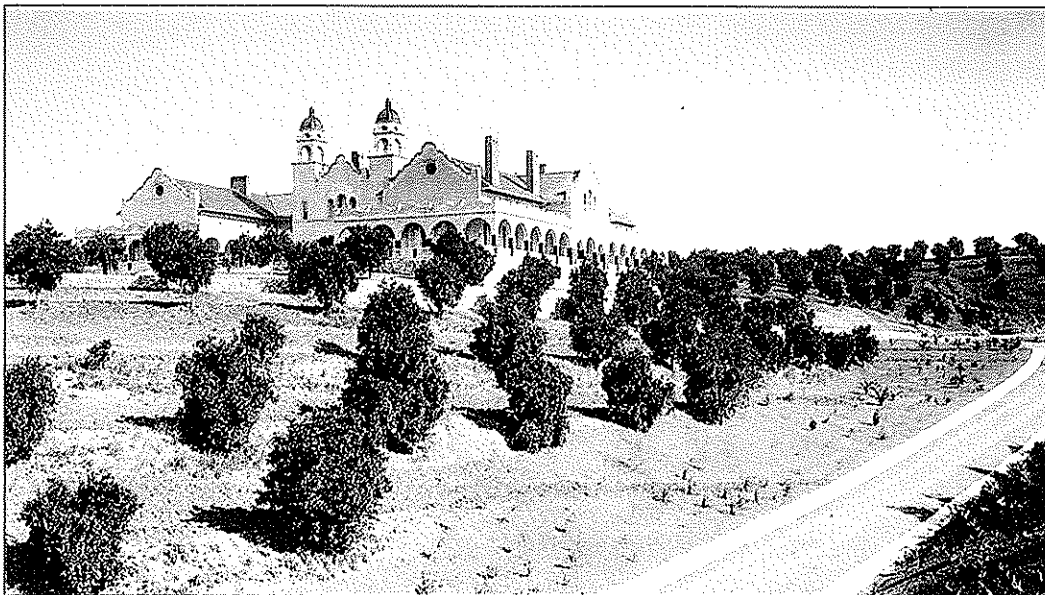
While researching the history of the Albert C. Burrage home this month, I came across the announcement in the *Redlands Daily Facts* of our historical society. On May 10, 1900 eighteen Redlanders met at the Presbyterian chapel in Redlands to organize the Redlands Historical Society. They passed a resolution of objectives and slate of elected officers for the new club. Obviously, some of the founders discussed in depth what a historical society should do and drafted the agenda. So, 110 years later, I thought a comparison of what they did then and what we do now would be interesting.

They chose the name "Redlands Historical Society." In 1972, our new constitution revised the name to "Redlands Area Historical Society." The board felt a broader name would allow us to have programs on Highland, Mentone, Crafton, Yucaipa, Old San Bernardino, Loma Linda and other local areas to attract more members. The original society felt the same. The committee on American Settlement wanted information on the "founding of Redlands, neighboring villages, biographies, narratives and souvenirs of pioneers and prominent citizens."

The founders listed the objective of the society as "the collecting and preservation of all records and materials on the surrounding country." Most of all the early records collected are now in the Heritage Room of A.K. Smiley Public Library. Scipio Craig, editor of *The Citrograph* 1887-1908, would not donate his collection of photographs, pamphlets and newspapers unless the Redlands Historical Society promised to archive his donation.

The board originally consisted of a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and curator. It was the curator's responsibility to preserve items donated to the society. Today we have the benefit of the library and Museum Association with trained archivists carrying out this goal.

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A. C. Burrage Estate on West Crescent Avenue

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The by-laws were short and sweet. A $\frac{3}{4}$ vote was necessary to amend the by-laws. Seven members was a quorum. Our board today has a five member requirement. Local meetings must be published. We do this with the monthly newsletter and the *Redlands Daily Facts*.

Dues in 1900 were fifty cents. Today the dues are individual/family \$25. Contributing is \$35. Donor is \$50. Patron is \$100. Corporate is now \$150. Notice how I was able to get this information into the newsletter just one month later. Probably would have been useful last month when you paid the dues.

One of the by-laws was that papers presented would be preserved. The Fortnightly Club, founded during the same period had the same by-law. Hopefully, the Heritage Room has those papers presented in the first meetings. I've never stumbled onto them, however. We now record each meeting and a DVD copy is given to the Heritage Room. From 1972 to 2006 we were woefully irresponsible and did not record our meetings.

The founders included a committee on "Science." They wanted to pursue the study of geology of the mountains, San Bernardino valley, minerals, water sources, flora and fauna, and climate conditions. We did have Horace Hinckley give us a program on water rights history. Dr. James Sandos could be connected to anthropology. Britt Wilson, the January program, is an archaeologist. But science overall hasn't been emphasized since 1972.

The Antiquities Committee threw a large net that included aboriginal inhabitants, their Spanish successors and the preservation of the remains of these people. Other than the *Estancia*, the Spanish rancho settlement, little of the Spanish occupation here was preserved. In Redlands, we could have preserved the Maria Armenta Bermudez ditch but it was gone before the turn of the century. The Mill Creek Zanja is our last chance to meet this Spanish preservation requirement. No Native American settlement within Redlands or the surrounding communities has survived. Even the Crafts Indian cemetery in Crafton was vandalized and bodies removed by 1895.

We have emphasized 'Civic Progress' just like the 1900 founders. They wanted "the growth of the town, streets, parks, prominent buildings, water supply development, newspapers, post office, schools, library, clubs and reform groups like temperance" discussed in their meetings and events recorded. Our Heritage Award selections recognize residences, significant buildings, architecture and historical preservation. In our tours, we gleefully advertise our number of clubs, civic-minded citizens and civic history. Our program on past mayors of Redlands hit this target well. The classes Larry and I teach do this twice a year.

The last committee the 1900 club listed was "Religion." They wanted a record of all denominations, hospitals, sanitariums and cemeteries in our area. Ron Running and I do have October Hillside cemetery tours. Leora Mudge wrote a short history of religious groups in Redlands. I do not recall a specific program on the early religions of Redlands since 1972. Eliza P. R. Crafts wrote a chapter on religion in her 1906 book. *Illustrated Redlands* discussed the founding religions and presented a photo of each early church to 1897. So, the founders placed more emphasis on religion than we have lately.

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The first president of the Redlands Historical Society was Charles R. Paine. He lived in Crafton and so have I. He was an educator like I am. He was the former Superintendent of the San Bernardino County Schools. Paine founded Paine's Academy in San Bernardino and was a director of the Crafton Water Co., Crafton Packing House and an expert horticulturist. Obviously, our current president doesn't measure up to the leader 110 years ago.

Mrs. Harriet Shepard was vice-president in 1900. I know little about her but I'm sure Ron Burgess, the owner of Red Fusion, matches her talents but not beauty.

The secretary was Mrs. F. L. Cross. I know little about her as well. She arrived in Redlands in 1899. So she is not exactly a long-time pioneer. We are definitely ahead today with Marie Reynolds, our secretary. She is preserving an historical home, is active on our board, researches Redlands history, and gives Heritage Auxiliary Tours. The last two newsletters, Marie helped design for all of us to read.

The treasurer in 1900 was Mrs. L.L. Phillippi. She came with her husband in November of 1889 and founded the Illinois Photography Studio. Early photographs of Redlands were taken by Mr. Phillippi. One of their daughters married a son of Frank Brown. Frank Brown's son divorced his first Phillippi wife and then married her sister. That tidbit belongs on a Redlands version "Extra, Extra" or Entertainment Tonight.

Our treasurer today is Susan Rettig. She is so good we have her on the board forever. She has kept us in the black for over two decades. That is something neither the national government nor our state can do.

We do not have a 'curator' like the founders had in 1900. Her name was Mrs. W. M. Smith. She came to Redlands in 1896. If we count Nathan Gonzales and Dr. Larry Burgess we are covered for curators. Nathan is a past president and Larry a past board member. We certainly agree both Larry and Nathan are well-qualified curators.

The charter members of the Redlands Historical Society with the month and year of their arrival are as follows:

<u>Charter Members</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year</u>
Mrs. Eliza P. R. Crafts	January	1858
Mrs. Rosa B. Canterbury (daughter of Crafts)	July	1861
Mrs. Ellen B. Seymour (doctor)	August	1881
Mrs. Isaac Newton Hoag	March	1887
Mrs. Charles R. Paine	November	1870
Mrs. Margaret E. Love	October	1886
Charles R. Paine	November	1870
Mrs. Philo R. Brown	May 10	1882
Mrs. David Morey	April	1882
David Morey	April	1882
Mrs. L. L. Phillippi	November	1889
Mrs. G.T. Greenleaf	June	1897
Mary B. Sanborn	November	1887
Mrs. T. MacPatton	October	1896
William Stowe Devol	January	1892
Harriet A. Shephard	October	1895
Mary M. Cross	April	1899
Mrs. William M. Smith	December	1896

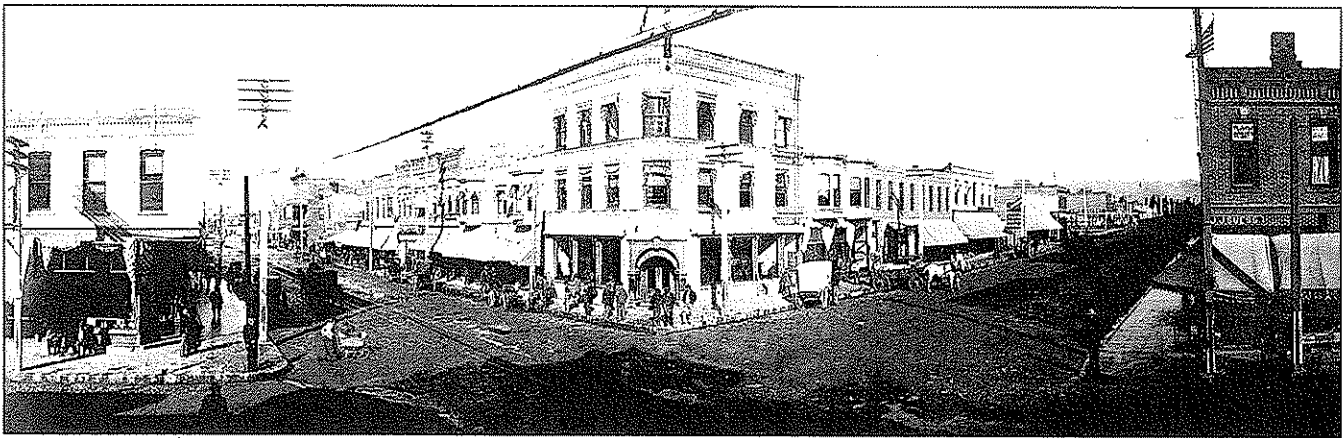
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One noteworthy comment about the charter members is the number of recently arrived Redlanders in the Historical Society. Our membership ranks today continue to be filled with new arrivals in Redlands. They are fascinated with the number of Victorian homes, Sunday *Daily Facts* history pages, YMCA home tours, the old downtown, and the number of clubs and organizations in our community.

Our club died off from around 1920 until revitalization in 1972. When many of the dynamic leaders passed away no one came forward to fill their shoes. Now history in Redlands has spawned the Museum Association, Friends of Hillside Cemetery and the Redlands Conservancy. Each is still interested in preserving the Redlands we all love.

-by Tom Atchley



Downtown Redlands at State and Orange Streets circa 1906

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If you believe you own a piece of authentic antique Stickley and would like Mike to review it, feel free to contact the RAHS at 793-5308 or bring a photo to the event.

There will be refreshments and door prizes. Guests are encouraged and admission is free.



McAbee Block in downtown Redlands