



REDLANDS CHRONICLES

March, 2010

Redlands Historical Postcards – Part II

Monday, March 22, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

Assembly Room, A.K. Smiley Public Library

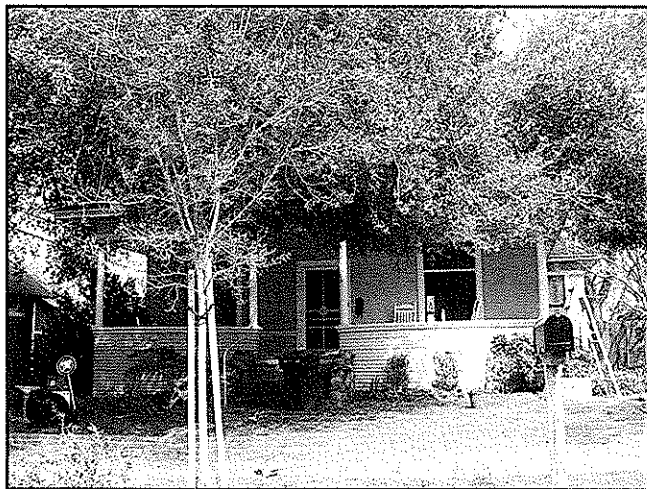
Last September, Ron Running presented the first part of an assembled collection of historical postcards of early Redlands. The postcards were from the collections of Ron, Tom Atchley, Walker Price, Ron Burgess, and Marie Reynolds. The collection is sufficiently large enough that it had to be split into two sessions.

Part I showed the earliest of the postcards with depictions of the valley, downtown streets, public buildings and

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La Casada, the Sterling Residence on West Crescent Avenue



Ruffo Home on South Eureka Street

Old House Group Meeting

Wednesday, March 24, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

417 South Eureka Street

The March meeting of the Old House Group will be held at the home of David Ruffo. The house at 417 S. Eureka Street was built in 1902. David purchased the property in June of 2005, after searching for the perfect home for a number of years. He indicates the huge oak tree in the front yard was the initial attraction but that he also was drawn to the large front porch, really an outdoor room, where he enjoys spending time.

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A Letter from your President...

All are invited to the Loma Linda Historical Society Fair on May 16th. The fair will be held at the Senior Center in Loma Linda, located behind the main fire station and Loma Linda City Hall. The Redlands Area Historical Society will have a display at the fair.

We have three board members that leave the board due to term limits this year. Sandie Green has filled the role of hospitality chair and Old House Group chair faithfully and with constant dedication. She has brought edible goodies to both the Historical Society monthly meetings and Old House Group meetings. She arranged all Old House Group meeting locations and always planned the potluck each September. We need to fill her hospitality functions this coming June. Sandie is also our contact for the telephone. Please contact anyone on the board if you are interested.

Janet Cosgrove is selling the Morey House and also has served six years on the board. She has volunteered several times researching homes for our Heritage Awards, helped Sandie with chairs and tables for the potlucks, and participated with valuable enthusiasm at our board meetings.

Ron Running has served decades on the board and is past program chair, vice-president and president. He promises to continue our Heritage Award PowerPoint and address file. He, too, will be difficult to replace but rotating board members was deemed a good idea long ago.

Nathan Gonzales stepped down as newsletter chair the beginning of this year. Our secretary, Marie Reynolds, has ably taken over this position.

Please don't hesitate to express your interest in getting more involved in our Historical Society. The board meets once a month at my house on Buena Vista Street. We begin at 7:00 p.m. and are usually finished with our business in an hour and a half.

The board chooses and researches the Heritage Award winners each year. We discuss Old House Group activities, plan walking tours, bus tours, monthly meeting speakers and other fund-raisers. Board decisions set policy for Redlands Area Historical Society each year. We write the newsletter and provide website documents to RedFusion Media. We decide yearly the organizations we will help financially. We plan publishing projects in the near future.

I confess to enjoying the camaraderie of the meetings. Each board member loves Redlands history and brings a fresh outlook on directions the society should take.

Your president, Tom Atchley

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residential streets. Part II will focus on postcards of various homes that made Redlands a favorite tourist destination. The collection has been added to with postcards from Robin Grube and Barbara LeClaire.

Ron is concluding his second tour of duty on the Redlands Area Historical Society Board of Directors. His most recent endeavor has been coordinating the transcribing of the gravestones and posting over 18,000 of them on the findagrave.com website.

The conclusion of the presentation will take us to the more modern era where the automobile and modern Redlands was emphasized. Come and continue our journey through memory lane.

The presentation will take place on March 22 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room of A. K. Smiley Public Library and is open to the public.

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Walking Tour of Downtown Redlands

Sunday April 11, 2:00 p.m. at Ed Hales Park

The Redlands Area Historical Society will sponsor and lead a downtown walking tour of Redlands on Sunday April 11th. The tour will begin at Ed Hales Park located on East State and Fifth Street. A contribution of \$10 per person is collected for the Historical Society preservation fund.

The tour was researched and written by Tom Atchley, president of RAHS, for the City of Redlands. Atchley will lead the tour on Sunday and present many unknown and unusual features of downtown Redlands. The tour follows a winding path that will be an easy stroll for about an hour and a half.

Come and see where fly traps caught the "Redlands Fly" because city officials wanted Redlands to become the first fly-less city in America.

Redlands was one of the first cities in California to deal with regulatory ordinances for automobiles. Downtown speed limits could only be adopted when the city council decided just where downtown Redlands was located.

Where could illegal alcohol be obtained after Redlands voted to become dry? How were Chinese vendors punished by downtown business ordinances? Has Redlands always had a downtown parking problem? What role did the Chamber of Commerce play in the early downtown of the 1890s? What do the alleys of Redlands reveal? These and other questions will be discussed during the tour.

REDLANDS

OWNERS

house for sale occupied by Nellie Chilson, a widow, and her son Dale, a manager of a local paint store. Census records indicate a declared value the house at \$6000.

By 1947 the house was occupied by Holly and Omar Cofer. In 1986 Sandra Banks was in residence and after her, Katherine Barker. Between 1993 and 2005 when David purchased the property the home was owned by at least one other family headed by a local doctor whom David noticed putting up a "For Sale By Owner" sign on the property.

This 1411 square foot Victorian enjoys a wondrous sunrise through many east facing kitchen windows and has Douglas fir hardwood floors which David is restoring himself. David researched stone laying techniques online and covered a particularly damaged section of the floor in the central portion of the house with travertine tiles. He reports that this material, while not period, is beautiful and feels exceptional underfoot.

Several projects have been completed including the "re-hanging" of some of the windows, accomplished from the inside via molding removal and re-hanging of the weights and from the outside, while some repair work was accomplished on the exterior.

Visitors will notice some floors are works-in-progress with carpeting removed and the first round of sanding completed, while others will be scheduled for completion at a future date.

One project David accomplished early on was the removal of a fireplace that appeared to have been installed in the house around the 1940s and while he wants to replace the fixture at a future date he is pleased that the oddly inconveniently placed and rather unattractive brickwork has been removed.

David is accomplishing all of this work himself and has wonderful details to share with the Old House Group on his methodology. Come join us in a tour, meet David and enjoy his stories of restoration.

-Leslie Irish

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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