



REDLANDS CHRONICLES

September 2010

Jack Brown and Stater Bros.

Monday, September 27, 2010, 7 p.m.
Assembly Room, A.K. Smiley Public Library



Jack H. Brown, Chairman of the Board, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Stater Bros. Supermarkets, will be the guest speaker for the Redlands Area Historical Society's September meeting. He will speak about the impact of Stater Bros. in Redlands and the growth of this very successful business enterprise. The company has a long history of philanthropy in Redlands, and is a major employer here, in the San Bernardino Valley, and throughout Southern California.

(Continued on page 3)

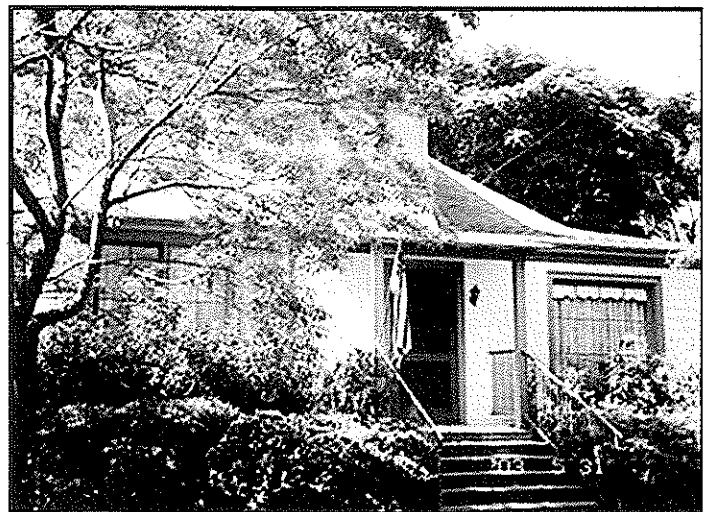
The Old House Group Presents its

Annual Potluck

Wednesday, September 22, 2010, 6:30 p.m.

136 East Hilton Avenue

The annual Old House Group Potluck will be held at the home of Terri Tavis. The house received a Heritage Award in 2003. Known as the Charles Wood Hobbs House, 136 East Hilton Avenue may have been moved to the current location from the corner of either Perley Avenue and Franklin or perhaps Hilton and Franklin. Some believe that



Terri Tavis Home on Hilton Avenue

(Continued on page 7)

A Letter from your President...

Highland Historical Society celebrated its 30th anniversary at the Rock House April 17th with an open house and two guest speakers. I spoke on James S. Edwards and Nick Cataldo spoke about the Earp family in the San Bernardino Valley.

Thirty years ago I spoke to their newly-formed historical group about Highland history. Iola Threat, retired education professor from the University of Redlands, asked me to speak. I could not turn her down since she was my former education department mentor. Her husband spent years as a volunteer working with the photograph collection at the San Bernardino County Museum.

Iola and her family were San Bernardino Mountain pioneers. Several members of her family spent the summers perched on the top of tall pines watching for wild fires.

I met with Mrs. Bowles in May. She is related to the Horton Family that settled in San Timoteo Canyon at the turn of the century. Sid Horton was a San Bernardino County supervisor and pushed for the Rim of the World Highway construction in 1912.

Mrs. Bowles has several family photograph binders. One contains photos of Kimberly Crest in 1909-1910 with family members posed in the gardens at different locations. Members of her family taught at both Mission School (1904) and Barton School (1901). The school photos include front views of the buildings and class photographs with the students and teacher. The photographs are remarkable. She plans to donate them to A. K. Smiley Public Library for its Heritage Room.

Heemstra Signs is beginning to produce some 40 plaques that will be installed along the banks of the Mill Creek Zanja by the Redlands Conservancy.

This past summer I began reading the *San Bernardino Guardian* newspaper at the County Archives office near Hospitality Lane. The *Guardian* began publication in February of 1867. The first issues are filled with reports of the posse sent to punish the Indians for killing three cowboys on the Los Flores Ranch. The posse found the Native Americans at Rabbit Springs in the Lucerne Valley. Arrows flew and bullets careened off the rocks but the Indians were never really dislodged from their positions. A monument placed by E-Clampus-Vitus marks the skirmish location as the "Last Indian fight in Southern California." Ironically, the issues of the *Guardian*, are filled with attacks by Indians in Owens Valley, Mojave Desert, Colorado River and Arizona.

Stories abound about gold and silver mining, which was in high gear throughout the Owens Valley, Panamint Mountains near Death Valley, Lytle Creek, Holcomb Valley, and the Colorado River near present Blythe and La Paz.

I'm excited about our September and October historical society speakers. We have Jack Brown, President of Stater Bros. in September and Sherli Leonard, Executive Director of the Redlands Conservancy in October.

Your President, Tom Atchley

(Stater Bros., continued from page 1)



Twin brothers Cleo and Leo Stater mortgaged their Chevrolet in 1936 to purchase the W. A. Davis Market on Yucaipa Boulevard. Just one year later, the ambitious brothers had stores in Redlands, Colton and Bloomington. In 1937, the Redlands Olive Avenue Market became a Stater Bros. Grocery & Market under the management of Leo Stater. Mrs. Mary E. Stater, their mother, managed the Yucaipa store.

The biggest market competition for the brothers came from A & P on Central Avenue and Gerrard's Market located on Orange Street. Safeway had two small stores in 1947, with one located at 20 East Citrus and the other at 811 Orange Street. Almost two dozen small "mom and pop" stores saturated the downtown and residential sections of Redlands.

The grand opening of the Highway 99 (Redlands Blvd.) and Texas Street store was held January 12 and 13, 1951. Howard Woodstra managed the modern 10,000 sq. ft. store that offered "free parking," ice cream cones, balloons, nesting shopping carts, and a popular coffee fountain. Free downtown parking was a real plus for Redlanders who were harassed with downtown parking meters.

The architectural novelty of the arched roof eliminated the necessity for pillars. The building contained large meat, grocery, vegetable and fruit departments that awed the populace, assuring that the grand opening was a huge success.

The market gave Redlands a modern appeal to prospective travelers on Highway 99. Today this building is owned by ESRI and has been converted into classrooms.

The Colton Avenue store, built in 1956, rests on historical turf for Lugonia and later Redlands. The Wilson and Berry business block, built in 1886, was Lugonia's first brick building. Redlands High began here and an opera house provided entertainment. In 1895, the Casa Loma Hotel was built on the site. The old hotel served its last days as a girls dorm for the University of Redlands. Redlanders could now choose to shop at the Hwy. 99 market or the newer Colton Avenue store.

Milton Sage opened his combination supermarket and department store complex in 1959 on Redlands Blvd. and Cypress Avenue. Redlanders voted with their pocket books for Stater Bros., Sage's and Gerrard's in that order.

Redlands' fourth Stater Bros. market

celebrated its grand opening Oct. 16, 17, 18, 1980. The Lugonia-Wabash market is located on the northeastern edge of Redlands serving east Redlands, Mentone, Crafton, Greenspot and Highway 38 mountain communities. This is the 91st store and boasts 30,000 square feet. Ernie Huckaby was the new store manager.

This new store was the first to have scanner check-out equipment, and came with an electric-eye door, enlarged frozen food department, a variety of cut flowers, and a gardening department. Over 70 new positions were created.

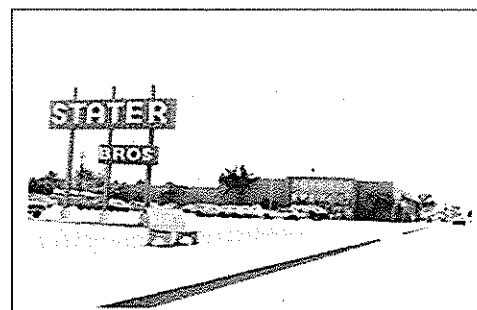
The 100th store was given special attention for its October 1988 opening. Cleo Stater attended along with the Terrier Marching Band, Mayor Carol Beswick, Redlands Chamber of Commerce, Jack Brown and other Stater Bros. executives, and even the Lone Ranger cowboy, Clayton Moore. The Barton Road and Alabama complex was the latest Redlands jewel in the Stater Bros. business empire. Cleo said, "Redlands played an important part in getting our organization started."

Jack Brown showered \$1,000 checks on the Terrier Marching Band, A. K. Smiley Public Library and the University of Redlands. Brown announced, "We're pleased to be opening this 100th supermarket in Redlands, just nine miles from the company's first store. To have Cleo Stater here makes it even more special."

Today Stater Bros. is one of the largest employers in Redlands. Their history of fair labor management, high quality groceries, low competitive prices, community philanthropy and commitment to serve Redlanders continues since 1937.

Jack H. Brown leads this billion-dollar business of 167 markets. In September 2007 the Stater Bros. family of 18,000 members opened the largest food distribution center in America with a 2.1 million sq. ft. distribution center on Tippecanoe in San Bernardino.

Redlands Area Historical Society meetings are free and open to the public.



Great Depression was Good to Redlands and its Schools

-by Tom Atchley

Both State and Federal government aid poured into Redlands-area schools during the Great Depression. Respected architects designed buildings that have stood the test of time. Government created jobs by investing in infrastructure. Relief work was not limited to schools but extended to roads, bridges, flood control, storm drains, rock walls, and the Asistencia. The Old City Hall on Cajon Street will become our museum and the police department building is still occupied on Fifth Street. Redlands also acquired the Post Office on Brookside Avenue, a real Spanish Revival project.

Works Progress Administration (WPA) had 3,950 people working on 97 projects in the county in 1935. Over 700 men and women worked in Redlands for the State Emergency Relief Administration (SERA). SERA workers completed the San Timoteo flood control project, built the Church Street and Judson Street flood control stone walls, and worked on the storm drains for Central Avenue and Eureka Street - all for 45 cents an hour!

George Hinckley, past city engineer, led the WPA to rebuild the City of Redlands Police Department on Fifth Street and Lugonia Kindergarten on Orange and Lugonia. The 1935 Lugonia Kindergarten building was designed by Riverside architect G. Stanley Wilson and received a Redlands Area Historical Society Heritage Award two years ago. Wilson has been recognized nationally for his contributions to Mission Style or Spanish Revival architecture. He contributed much to the Mission Inn in Riverside.

WPA built the concrete bleachers on the south side of the track and concrete retaining walls around the tennis courts at Redlands High in 1936. SERA built a 300-foot long wall near the athletic field and cement walks around the high school. California Work Administration (CWA) seeded the football field on Citrus and Church Street, installed a water system to irrigate the upper field and painted Redlands Junior High in 1934.

Mission School was built on the corner of California Street and Redlands Blvd. in 1936 for \$186,000. A. E. Taylor, local brick contractor, received the biggest share of this contract. Taylor also built the Santa Ana bridge on Orange Street in 1937. The bridge was washed away in the March 1938 flood.

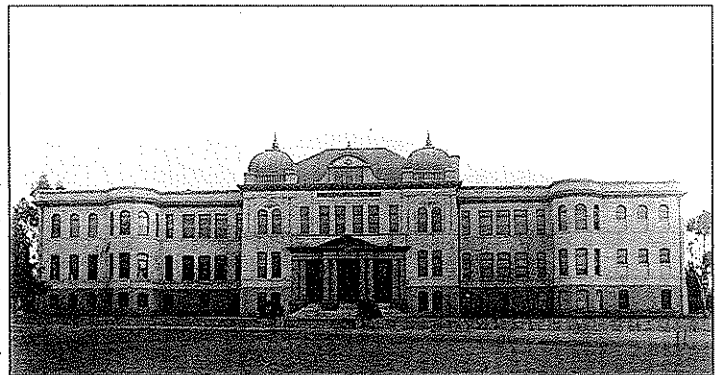
The Redlands Unified School District plans to reopen Mission School, since nearby elementary schools have become crowded. This gift of the Depression will again see active duty.

The greatest gift to Redlands High during the Depression was the girls gym. Once again, G. Stanley Wilson drew the plans. Bernard W. Shaper, principal, had campaigned for a new gym since his arrival from San Bernardino in 1930. He believed strong sports programs built student morale and led to better student participation in school. Shaper allowed "yells in the auditorium if in an orderly manner."

Boys were the only students involved in Citrus Belt League (CBL) sports. Football, basketball, baseball and track were the only sports played. The 1903 administration building had a dressing room and make-shift shower room in the basement. Davis Donald built the "Field House" for \$15,000 in 1927 along with the cobble-stone ticket booth on Citrus Avenue. This building had lockers, a dressing room and an unheated, drafty shower. During football season the hot days did not discourage shower use. The building remains condemned on Citrus Avenue and is used for storage today.

Charles Milton Brown, packing house manager and rare democrat in Redlands, was the Federal Emergency Administration fund manager for the county. His close ties to the Roosevelt Administration and New Deal programs proved vital for the Redlands schools. Federal money was swayed to SERA and Brown then chose the projects according to his priorities and those of Washington.

The January 1935 SERA gym plan was for a \$75,000 girls gym. By December of 1935, the contract had risen to \$97,736. When completed, G. Stanley Wilson's improvements, school board suggestions and Brown's



Administration Building of Redlands High School built in 1903

political connections allowed for a state-of-the-art \$115,000 facility on East Fern.

The new gym would follow Spanish Revival architecture with terrazzo flooring tile in the entry, hallways and shower room. The structural frame of the building was published in the Redlands Daily Facts on March 17, 1936. Two classrooms adjoined the main structure, offices for physical education staff and a concrete balcony for sports observation overlooked the 100 x 70 foot inlaid wood floor. Everything about the new building complimented the architecture of the Fine Arts Building (1910), Manual Arts Building (1910), and new Clock Auditorium (1928).

The school board was pleased with the new building. Since 1920, physical education had become a state curriculum requirement for both girls and boys. Inclement weather would no longer interfere with P.E. classes.

The gym officially opened in September of 1936. The school board announced at its regular meeting December 8 that the boys would not be allowed to use the dressing room or showers in the new gym. The December 9th issue of the Redlands Facts read "Redlands High Students go on Strike, 300 Students not Attending." Ralph Reynolds and Harold Rickert, basketball players, had appealed to the board the night before to allow boys to use the dressing room and showers.

A piece of paper sign was posted in the morning on the tennis court fence announcing a rally at the Redlands Bowl at noon. Some 200 students gathered outside the main school building and began to chant "showers" while parading around the building. The poorly organized chants enticed another 100 students to join the protesters. When the bell rang for classes to begin, Principal Shaper, repeated the board decision not to allow boys from RHS or neighboring schools to use the girls dressing room or showers. "Boys could use the old dressing room only." This led to an "indignation" meeting on the tennis courts. Without specific leadership the crowd of students headed west on Citrus Avenue towards the downtown.

Superintendent of the Redlands Schools and past RHS Principal, Henry Clement met with students in the Bowl during lunch. Associated Student Body members agreed to meet with Clement to discuss the matter. He reminded all the students that their actions would be held to account.

The evening Facts included an editorial deploring the student strike of the day. The next morning students again met at the tennis courts and decided that the strike would continue but they would go to class until student representatives met with either the school board or Superintendent Clement.

On December 10 the Facts reported that the business community represented by Fred Arth, Milton Gair and F. R. Barron unofficially announced their support for the student athletes. Business people felt the school board had struck student pride. The basketball team won CBL league in both 1934 and 1935. Basketball was expected to do well in the 1936-1937 season. Redlands, the smallest school in CBL, bated in community pride when any of the sports was successful.

The school lost \$200 in average daily attendance, since 351 students were absent December 9th. The average absence rate for a December day was 25. Board member E. M. Cope refused to talk about the controversy. Board member Walter Hentsche was in Los Angeles. Mrs. Agnes F. Lewis, school trustee, did not want to, "turn boys and girls in together." Fred H. Clock said board policy had set the rule. The board always intended boys to use the gym but not when girls were present. Bad weather basketball games were played at the YMCA building (1927) on Citrus Avenue. The new gym would allow the school to save money and not pay the "Y" fee any longer.

The December 14th Facts announced that a compromise had been reached. "Boys would be allowed to use the dressing room and showers in games that did not interfere with the use of the building by the girls." This was a major concession by the school board as Redlands was a conservative agricultural community.

Speaking to the class of 1937 in 1987, for their 50th class reunion and bus tour of Redlands, these graduates recalled with glee their defiant stand in December of 1936. Nearly all the class was in their late sixties and when the Strike of 1936 was mentioned; they rose to cheer with broad grins and satisfaction. The alumni also proclaimed they had the Junior-Senior Prom of 1937 in the gym. *Makio*, the yearbook, confirms this claim. This is perhaps the first school dance on the grounds of Redlands High leading to a social revolution.

The boys would wait patiently for a new boys' locker and shower room provided in 1951. The \$75,000 building was constructed by Sooy and Jackson and designed by Harold Gemino. This building stands on what used to be the Roosevelt Road or Ocean to Ocean Highway truck-trap just northeast of the girls gym. A

pond filled with sand and water was designed by George Hinckley to stop runaway trucks from plowing through the high school after losing their brakes coming down Yucaipa Canyon. A thick concrete wall still adjoins the entrance to the boys dressing room, this was the last barrier of defense to stop vehicles. Two parallel stands of palms were planted to guide the trucks to the pit and they still adorn the grounds just outside the baseball field.

Gender equality was not a concern of the school board of 1936. The girls did begin the Girls Athletic Association in 1915 and remained outside Citrus Belt League competition until the late 1970s. Boys and girls electives were gender specific. Boys took metal shop, auto body, wood shop, mechanical drawing, drafting, and other male deemed courses. Girls had homemaking, cooking, sewing, stenography, and courses thought appropriate for the ladies.

In the late 1960s the girls gym became the administration building for Redlands High. Administrative, attendance and counseling offices were divided along the gym floor. Makio was advised by Lou Beemer in the side classrooms and social studies, English and other classes used the gym rooms.

Seventy-four years later, the Girls Gymnasium is the Great Depression gift that keeps on giving. How many high schools can boast two gyms on their campus? On Tuesday, April 27, 2010, Redlands High boys and girls track teams defeated REV to win the CBL crown. It is noteworthy that the final competition was between Redlands East Valley and Redlands High. Our biggest competition in nearly every sport is with ourselves in our own district.

Both boys and girls sports are fully accepted now with gender issues settled in the mid-1970s. I have the Girls Athletic Association gavel with the imprinted names of the past presidents on the handle. The gavel keepsake retires with me next year and will be placed in the Redlands Historical Museum.

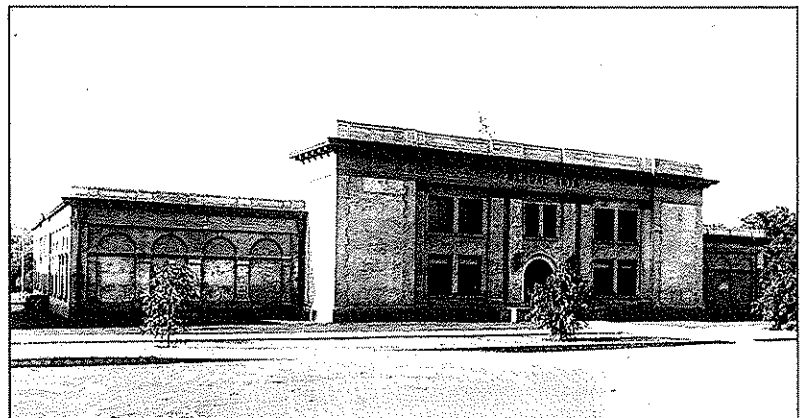
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Redlands Area Historical Society
welcomes the following new members:

Helle Bjornsson
Churck & Maggi Brummett
Jayne Conrey
Pete Garrettson
Marilyn Larson
Constance Mazurek
Sue & Chalmer McClure
Thor Ramsey & Dinika Sides
Rita Reading
David Ruffo
John & Christy Salazar
Cindy Smith
Matthew Wiers



RHS' Household & Fine Arts Building, above, Manual Arts Building, below



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.

(OHG, continued from page 1)

around 1892 the original address was 153 East Hilton Avenue though certainly, Charles W. Hobbs owned the entire block for many years.

While the exact origins of the home are not a part of the public record plenty of oral history is available. Judith Hunt described the house for the Heritage Award as: Shingle style (that) does not emphasize decorative detailing but rather is a continuous design of wood singles without interruption at the corners; however, Terri indicates she discovered the house was actually covered with slatted boards when she removed some of the shingles during a renovation project.

The front of the house is asymmetrical in design with the porch and front door slightly off center. Originally the four dormers, one on each side of the house, were identical but above the front door we see an expanded version done in the 1930s by Charlie Hobbs. Two lovely gazebos are on the property. The 1991 hip-roofed gazebo the Brombergers built in back mirrors the front gazebo, built in 1911 by Charlie Hobbs. True to the architecture, the 1991 two-car garage has a hipped roof and dormer as well. Charlie Hobbs did a great job dating each building project. Not only is the gazebo dated, but also the 1932 exedra (in ancient Greece and Rome, a room for relaxation or conversation, especially a semicircular recess in a larger hall with a continuous bench along the wall) and a 1938 brick walkway.

Frederick and Josephine Hibbert deeded the property to Kate Potts Hobbs in 1903. Then in 1929 Kate and her husband, Charles, gave the property to their son, Charles W. Hobbs, Jr. Charlie and his wife, Hazel, resided in the home until 1934, when Hazel died from a brain tumor at the age of 51. This was the same year her husband commissioned the Mary Queen of

Heaven window for Trinity Episcopal Church. Hazel Hobbs was a relative of Frank Brown, co-founder of Redlands. Charlie continued to live in the home until 1943 when he sold the property to Charles and Violet Burris.

Subsequent owners were Anthony and Grace Figueredo, 1945, Volney and Ruth Kincaid, 1950 (they removed the groves and subdivided the land), James and Virginia McCormick, 1968, Fritz and Corrine Bromberger, 1990, and now, Terri Tavis. Terri has completed a number of restoration projects inside the house and has interesting stories to tell us about her efforts.

Please join us for the annual potluck and visit this wonderful property. Dessert, table settings and drinks will be provided by the Old House Group. Please bring a covered dish to participate, as follows: Last names starting with A - M bring a main dish and last names starting N - Z bring a side dish. We hope to see you there!

Call Leslie Irish with questions (951) 201-5742 (cell).

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GENEALOGY NEWS

Date: Saturday, September 18, 2010
Time: 1 p.m.
Place: Yucaipa Branch Library
Speaker: Diane Wright
Topic: "The 1930 Census Taker"

Date: Sunday, September 26, 2010
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Redlands Family History Center
5th and Wabash
Speaker: Dawna Lund
Topic: "Google as a Genealogy Tool"

Date: Saturday, October 23, 2010
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: Hemet Simpson Center
305 E. Devonshire Avenue
Hemet, CA
Topic: The National Archives in Perris, CA
Speakers: Kerry Bartels & Lisa Louise Cooke
Cost: \$20 pre-registration
\$25 at the door
Sponsor: Hemet Genealogy Society
(951) 765-2372