



# REDLANDS CHRONICLES

March 2013

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## “Elias F. Everitt and his Photographic Studio: 1897-1924”

Michele Nielsen, speaker  
Monday, March 25, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.  
Assembly Room at A.K. Smiley Public Library  
125 W. Vine Street

In 1897, Elias Everitt became the manager of a Redlands photographic studio at the age of 60 years. His advanced age along with the loss of his left eye would seem to make this sort of venture difficult. Mr. Everitt was also unique for Redlands in that he was a dedicated Socialist. However, his immense talent as a photographer helped him create some of the most notable early images of Redlands from 1897 to 1924. Everitt gained fame earlier by photographing the aftermath of the famous James brothers bank robbery in Northfield, Minnesota in 1876.

Michele Nielsen will speak on the Everitt Photographic collection that is housed at the San Bernardino County Museum. Michele has been the Curator of History/Archives for twelve years. Her area of interest is the material culture of the post-Gold Rush in California. With the generous financial assistance from the Historical Society, the Redlands Camera Club and private donors, the museum will be mounting a six month display of Elias Everitt's photos starting in the fall of this year. Additionally, volunteers from the Society and the Camera Club will be scanning the collection photos and digitizing the catalog for future access on the museum's website. Anyone interested in participating in this effort is encouraged to submit a volunteer registration form on the museum's website and stipulate that you would like to work on the Everitt project under Michele Nielsen.

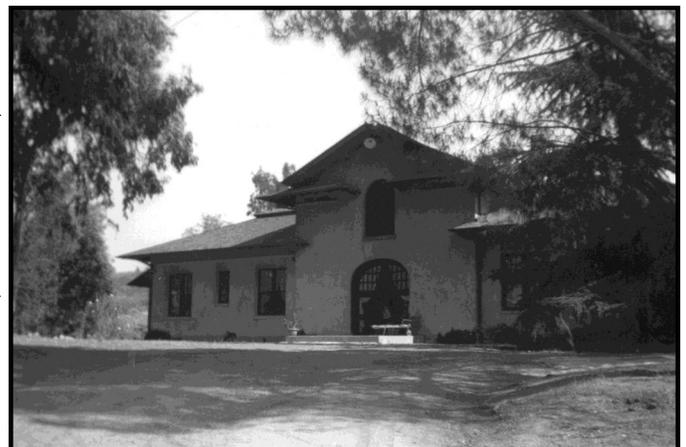
Michele states that “The Elias Everitt photographic collection is a wonderful look back in time to gain insights into the lives and stories of those represented in the photographs.”

## Old House Group

Wednesday, March 27, 2013, 6:30 p.m.  
333 Poppy Road

Jamie Daniels has invited us to tour the Stokes sisters' carriage house which has been her family home since just before Thanksgiving of 1959. Many people may have fond memories of the home and the Daniels family and it is a great pleasure that Jamie has agreed to host our meeting this March.

In preparation for our meeting Jamie has shared the research of the home as well as the account of the purchase of the home as written by her mother, Billie Daniels. Billie begins her research with an account in the Daily Facts. Excerpts tell us that the entire estate including the main house was nearing completion in November of 1908 under the supervision of H. A.



*Daniels home on Poppy Road.*

*(Continued on page 7)*

## A Letter from your President...

I would like to begin by thanking all of our loyal Redlands Area Historical Society (Society) members who have renewed their 2013 dues and would especially like to thank the members who have not only renewed their dues but also became a 2013 level sponsor of *Contributing, Donor, Patron and Corporate*. In addition, I would like to welcome all of our new members who have recently joined the Society.

In the last month the Society has been very busy with its continued education of the many significant treasures of Redlands by hosting Historic Walking Tours on Palm Avenue which were led by Past President and **Redlands Historian, Tom Atchley**. The Palm Avenue Tours were very crowded and took place on February 9<sup>th</sup> and the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Upon the success of the Palm Avenue Tours the Society hosted tours on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and March 9<sup>th</sup> on Fern Avenue and they were also a great success. I would like to thank Tom and all of those who joined the tours.

The month of February also brought to our members a special presentation to help mark Redlands 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The presentation was titled **Early Redlands Buildings: 1866 – 1888** which was presented by our **Vice President, Ron Running** and **Board Member and Past President, Tom Atchley**. The program took a retrospective look at the earliest structures that were built in the Redlands area. Also in the month of February, the Old House Group led by **Society Board Member, Leslie Irish** treated our membership to a once in a lifetime opportunity to tour the England Family home which is located at 301 West Palm Avenue and was constructed in 1892. This home has never been open to the public. I would like to thank **the Heeney Family** who have owned the home since 1951 and were so gracious to give our members this special opportunity.

March will bring to our members our monthly General Membership meeting and the Old House Group meeting that are both further detailed in this month's newsletter. Finally, I would like to inform all our members that the **2013 Heritage Awards and Ice Cream Social** will be held on **Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>** at the **Burrage Mansion**. This year's event will begin at 6:00 PM where we will recognize approximately ten owners of local residences and their businesses for their careful stewardship of these fine examples of historic Redlands architecture.

Again, thank you to our loyal members and welcome to the Society our newest members for 2013. I will look forward to seeing you at one the many events that we hold each month.

*Bill Blankenship*

# HERITAGE AWARDS

2012

## Westerbrook Residence

756 Cajon Street

Built 1926



This home was built by Garret Huizing for Herman and Lessie Westerbrook, in 1926. The Provincial Style home is a good example of the period between World War I and World War II when this “revival” style was made popular by service personnel returning from Europe.

The front multi-pane door of this home is offset below a low gable and recessed within an arched porch. The typical balance is achieved via a pair of distinctive windows which are broadly arched and divided vertically into four panes with two mullions, each, of which the center section is a double hung casement window. Interest is achieved via the addition of two other steeply sloped gables to the left and right of the door. A rectangular window is placed near the center under a low exposed rafter roof line which affords a pleasant outdoor space. This corner house has a second entrance under a fourth gable and this is contained within an arched porch which is just visible from behind the large tree. The rear elevation has contrasting roof lines and levels and an additional gable. The original ribbon driveway lines are visible leading to a small garage with a flat roof. The home construction is of plaster, painted light brown with white trim, blue detaining and has a composition roof.

Herman Westerbrook was born in Holland in 1882 and immigrated to the United States in 1899. He became a naturalized citizen at the Superior Court in San Bernardino and on September 12, 1918, he registered for the World War I, draft. In these records he described himself as having all his arms and legs, of tall-slender build with brown hair and brown eyes and the husband of Lessie Belle.

The original building permits are not on file at the city, however, Herman and Lessie are listed as living in the home in the 1933 and 1936 city directory. While no information is listed as to Lessie’s occupation or personal interests outside the home, Herman is listed as the Redlands City Engineer, and was a licensed surveyor. Of the published list of licenses issued between 1901 and 2001, Herman held license number 826. He is known to have urged the city to acquire, secure and preserve the watershed of the high meadows lands of Mill Creek Canyon east of Mountain Home Village. As a result the city of Redlands now owns the "Eyes of the World Meadow" just east of the village to Monkey Face Falls and the Forest Home intersection with Highway 38.

Other owners of the property and their approximate dates of residence include the Melchers (1943-44), Commander I. W. Thompson (1945-49), Col. J. G. Richards (1955), Dr. Charles J. Dougherty (1968-1976) and Louis Barlow (1985-1986).

John and Joan Benson purchased the property in 1986 from the Barlow family and while they lived away from the home for a short while in the mid-1990s, their care and consideration of this great example of a Huizing home is quite obvious. Over the years they have removed improvements made in earlier years including a spa and wooden desk and updated the kitchen. They have upgraded the fencing and the landscaping and added heating and air conditioning which were not present when they purchased the home.

The Redlands Area Historic Society is very pleased to present a Heritage Award to John and Joan Benson as a tribute to their effort to preserve and safeguard this historic home.

- by *Leslie Irish*

# Zanja (Zahn-ha) v. San-key—Spanish Garbled Over Time

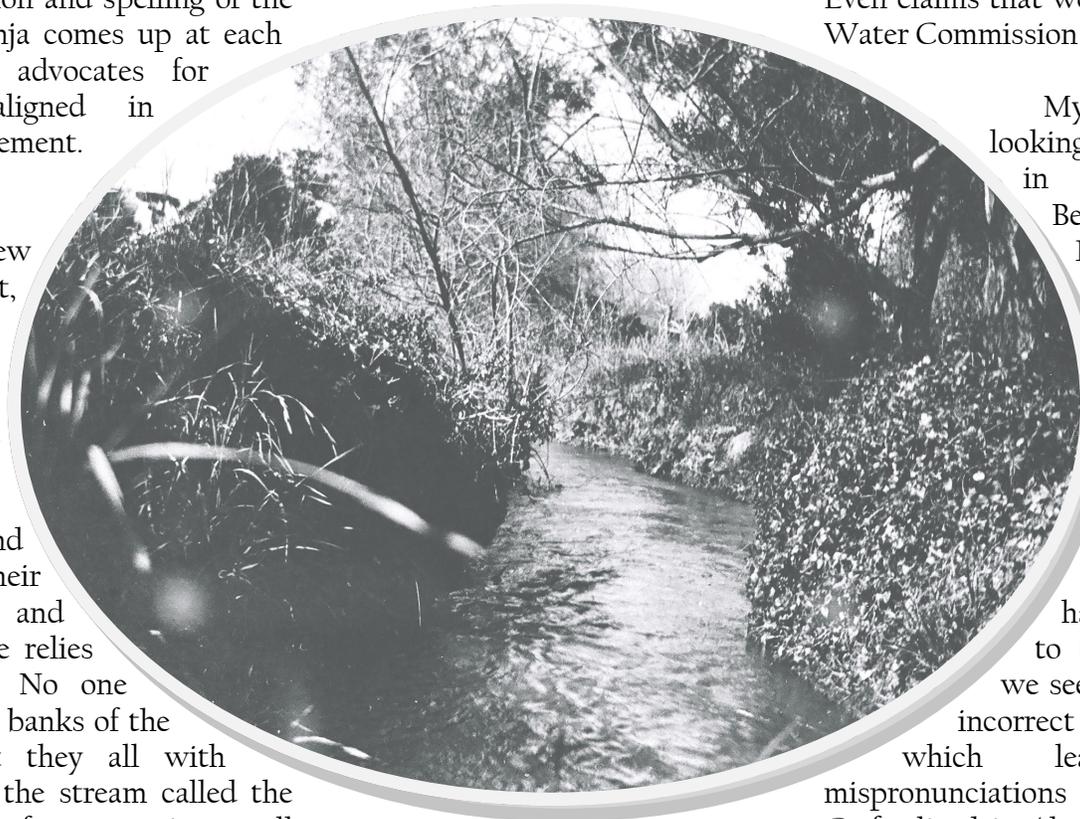
- by Tom Atchley

Writing the Mill Creek Zanja Driving Tour in 2009 and serving on the Redlands Conservancy Zanja Committee the last four years, the pronunciation and spelling of the Mill Creek Zanja comes up at each meeting with advocates for each side aligned in friendly disagreement.

Sankey advocates grew up in Greenspot, Mentone, Crafton, Redlands and in the Mission District between Redlands and Loma Linda. Their pronunciation and spelling defense relies on tradition. No one grew up on the banks of the (Zahn-ha) but they all with pride point to the stream called the Sankey and in fact sometimes call every ditch in Redlands a Sankey. Most of the time these folks are pointing to storm water ditches built in the 1890's. One common error is the Mission Storm Water Ditch which parallels West State Street angling towards Jenny Davis Park. This ditch was a Works Progress Administration project during the Great Depression.

Research indicates the error of our ways began over a century ago. In 1855, the newly created San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors organized a Water Commission Board following a new State law to apportion streams and water ditches throughout the county. The San Bernardino Water Board consisted of

three Mormon men that were all new to California and the Spanish language. They did continue to call all public water ditches zanjias and required each ditch to elect a water



overseer to allocate water and suggest the annual fee for maintenance of the ditch. The "overseer" position was later called a zanjero or one who tends the ditch. This last name remained unchanged throughout zanja history.

The San Bernardino Valley had many Spanish speaking pioneers living in San Timoteo Canyon and especially San Salvador or South Colton along the Santa Ana River. These individuals helped for a while to keep Spanish names used correctly.

Water records were especially important and the county required the county recorder to name the owners of each zanja, the hours of water they

claimed, the rotation of hours and any sale of shares that would take place during the year. Each zanja gave an annual report and new water locations or claims were recorded. Even claims that were rejected by the Water Commission were recorded.

Myron Crafts was looking to buy 480 acres in the East San Bernardino Valley in 1858 and he wanted to know about the Mill Creek "Zieca" as a source of water for the land. The county recorder informed him that he would have no legal claim to the "Zieca." Here we see the first of many incorrect spellings of zanja, which lead to the mispronunciations of the present. Crafts lived in Altoona, Pennsylvania in 1858 and can be excused for his misspelling. The county recorder used the Crafts spelling for the duration of his term.

Frustrated by the Spanish written language of "zanja" the Water Commission, began to simply call the 1819 ditch "Mill Creek." This eventually led to Myron Crafts in Cave v. Crafts 1875-1876 to claim a riparian right to this "natural stream" since he owned land bordering along the banks. He lost the lawsuit when mountain man Daniel Sexton and Francisco Alvarado testified on the digging of the zanja in 1819.

This suit resurrected the Zanja

(Continued on page 5)

name but with the pronunciation error of Sankey. The Spanish language was less spoken in the East San Bernardino Valley by the 1880's when Redlands began. No Spanish speaking owner was ever listed as a share owner for the Zanja.

The County Recorder spelled Zanja incorrectly because the water overseers and respective ditch owners lacked reading and writing skills and often butchered the spelling in their annual reports. Water Commission Records listed from 1864-1886 spell Zanja "Zanka, Sanka, Sanja, and Zanke" to name a few. A few educated recorders edited the annual reports to reflect the correct spelling.

Clinging to tradition is a natural inclination. The incorrect pronunciation and spelling are now part of the historical record too. The Mill Creek Zanja will have a 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary in seven years no matter how we pronounce it. I note that my computer places a red underline every time I print the name. -T.A.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| March 2   | Fern Avenue Walking Tour part I, 9:00 a.m.   |
| March 9   | Fern Avenue Walking Tour part II, 9:00 a.m.  |
| March 25  | Program, 7:00 p.m.<br>Elias Everitt ~ Michele Nielsen<br>Assembly Room, AK Smiley Public Library |
| March 27  | Old House Group, 6:30 p.m., 333 Poppy Road   |
| May 8—11  | National Genealogical Society 2013 Family History Conference,<br>Las Vegas, Nevada               |
| May 13—19 | Historic Preservation Week   |

*Don't forget your dues!*



*Plummer family home on West Fern Avenue in 1892. Tom Atchley collection.*



## Fern Avenue Walking Tours

-By Tom Atchley

Redlands Area Historical Society will continue to celebrate Redlands' 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary with two more walking tours in March.

On March 2 at 9:00 a.m. the first half of the Fern Avenue tour will begin at Redlands Blvd. and East Fern. The tour will end at Alvarado Street. The second tour will take place March 9<sup>th</sup> beginning at Alvarado at 9:00 a.m. and end at San Mateo Street.

Fern Avenue is a new tour for the Society. Fern Avenue features early construction with its Victorian citrus ranch homes. East Fern has some the best examples of Spanish Revival architecture in Redlands.

dominate Fern Avenue with variety from the beginning of the bungalow period to the end. Craftsman homes are also present with plans completed by several noteworthy Redlands architects. The historical society has recognized fifteen structures on Fern Avenue with Heritage Awards.

Fern Avenue was part of the original street grid designed by Judson and Brown in 1881. No residence tract was located on Fern Avenue but Redlands residents found the proximity to downtown Redlands a tempting reason to build there.

Following incorporation in 1888, Fern Avenue was addressed by the first city council. Ordinance #29 proscribed the width of the street, sidewalks, street trees, curbs and

gutters. Only the newly elected City Street Superintendent could alter the streets of Redlands.

The Redlands Street Railway, at first mule drawn and later electrified, provided quick transportation to the downtown and residence tracts. Trinity Episcopal Church moved from East Olive to Fern in 1904 building a spectacular Gothic Church. Alfred Cameron Burrage donated funds in 1902, to build the University Club house on Fern and Cajon. Dr. Meredith Beaver bought land in 1939 on Fern Avenue to begin a clinic. He wanted to consolidate medical services like The Courtyard on Vine Street did in 1927.

The tour fee is \$10 and is conducted by Tom Atchley and board members of the Redlands Area Historical Society.

California bungalows

(Old House Group, continued from page 1)

Albertson of Seattle, representing the New York architectural firm of Howells and Stokes. The account indicates that selected and suitable furnishings were waiting in two large railcars for the completion of the final waxing of the hardwood floors.

Olivia Egleston Phelps Stokes and Caroline Phelps Stokes' spent their summers in the Berkshires at the family home "Shadowbrook" which was built by Andrew Carnegie and slept 80 guests. Anson one of three brothers became a priest in the Episcopal Church and later the canon of Washington Cathedral. The sisters spent several winters in Redlands before buying the 30 acre property. It is said they traveled by private railcar, except on Sundays the "Lords Day" when they would insist the car stand on a siding.

The estate was a part of a subdivision by Dwight and Mable Johnson and sold in 1902 to Henry and Lillian Easton Ely who sold to the sisters approximately 6 years later.. Cost of the construction of the mansion was reported as \$60,000 and the carriage house was estimated at an additional \$10,000 according to builder J. E. Fairchild.

Unfortunately Caroline died only a short time after the completion of the house, in April of 1909 but Olivia continued to spend winters in Redlands until her death in December of 1927. Both sisters were cremated and are now interned near each other in the Hillside Cemetery where the two sets of gates bear their names. In memory of her sister, Olivia left 18 acres of land to the city of Redlands, as Caroline Park. The remainder of the estate was left to Barnard College, of New York. In September of 1929 Barnard College sold the estate to a syndicate with Dr. Walter B. Power as trustee. Following this the property changed hands a number of times until 1945 when Leo and Dorothy Conklin bought only the barn and carriage house. In January 1946 the Conklin's installed an electrical meter and are thought to have made the conversion to a residence.

What had started as an afternoon drive to "just look at the Pink Palace" advertised in the *Daily Facts* became a wonderful place to raise their children and the dozen or so other young people that happened along

### Newsletter Deadline

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

Do you have a favorite local roofer, plumber, electrician, handyman, painter, etc. who likes to work *gently* with old houses?

Kathy Behrens is compiling a list of your recommendations.

Contact [kathybehrens@verizon.net](mailto:kathybehrens@verizon.net)

and needed a temporary home. Eventually the Daniels later purchased the adjacent lot and from this combined property they would cherish solitude in front of the fire, family gatherings, dinner parties with friends and drama cast parties.

Clearly this home is the basis of many happy times and warm memories of the family and guests who have occupied the property over many years.

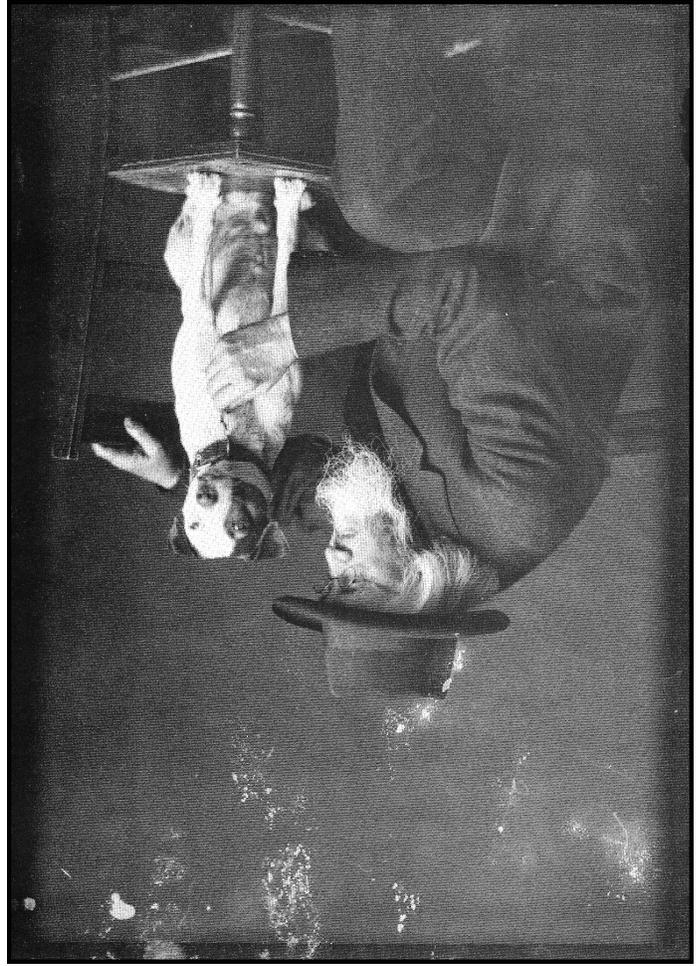
The Old House Group meetings are open to members of the Redlands Area Historical Society and membership applications are available at the regular meetings and by request. Leslie Irish (951) 201-5742.



### ORDER YOUR DVD VIDEO

All of our monthly programs and Heritage Awards ceremonies are dutifully recorded by Gerry and Linda Brassfield of Blue Eagle Video. Videos are \$20 each.

To order a video contact Blue Eagle Video at: (909) 882-2003 or email: [blueeaglevideo@aol.com](mailto:blueeaglevideo@aol.com).



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Founded 1972, Incorporated 1974

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