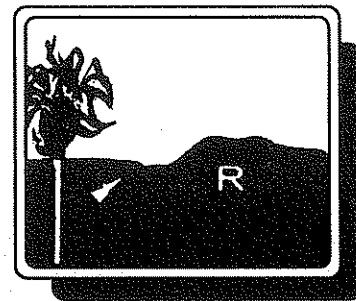


REDLANDS AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

# REDLANDS CHRONICLES



May, 2007

## Old House Group Meeting

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

671 West Cypress Avenue

Maureen and Jerry Fairchild will be graciously hosting the May 2007 OLD HOUSE GROUP Meeting on Wednesday May 16, at 7 pm in their lovely turn-of-the-century home at 671 West Cypress. It was built in 1901 by the renowned Redlands builder D. M. Donald for Margaret and Dietrich Holsten who lived in the home until 1928. It is believed that the house remained in the family as a rental until it was sold in the 1950s. There were as many as three owners until Jerry purchased the home in 1967.

Much of this beautiful 2800-square-foot 4-bedroom 2-bath house is in its original condition. The downstairs white fur woodwork still has its initial finish and there remain three sets of double pocket doors with original hardware that still open and close perfectly.

In 2006, Maureen and Jerry began a new and exciting project on the property and after careful thought and research a carriage house was constructed. Every detail was thoroughly researched so it would look as though the structure was built at the time of the construction of the house. These details included reproducing the original windows, doors, corbels, peaks, eaves and gables of the house as well as the fish scale siding to mention a few. It is a beautiful carriage house and looks as though it was constructed in 1901 alongside the house.

Maureen and Jerry love everything about their beautiful home and its history. They look forward to sharing it with the Old House Group.



*Dietrich and Marguerite Holsten in front of their new home at Cypress Avenue and Center Street, about 1903.*

## *Letter from the President . . .*

It is unbelievable, but this will be my last "Letter from the President" to all you loyal members of the Redlands Area Historical Society. Three years (yes! three years) have flown by and now it is time to bid you all adieu. This is my sixth year serving on the board but my third as your President. The RAHS by-laws clearly define a board term as three years with the possibility of a second three year term. So I must go, as of June 30, 2007.

This is definitely a bittersweet time for me. All the usual questions regarding what I accomplished and whether I have served the Society well or merely existed as your President are going through my mind but one thing I know for certain, I have totally enjoyed every minute as your President. This has been so much fun! I have had such a great time interacting with all of you and helping answer your questions. You have taught me so much during this period. Hopefully, we have all benefited from our time together.

It is really important that I thank all of you whom have helped me through this experience. First I would like to thank and acknowledge my board. Susan Rettig (the only board member excluded from the three year plus three year by-laws provision) must come first because she predated me and is the hardest working Treasurer I have ever met. Next is Ernie Dierking whom came on the board at the same time I did. Kathy Beall is the only board member remaining from our 2002 class. Then there are Ron Running, Sandie Green and Janet Cosgrove. These board members all came on in 2004. Next is Tom Atchley in 2005 and finally Walker Price III; our 2006 member. All of these board members have contributed in their own way and kept the flame burning for historical awareness in our community.

Additional thanks go to Nathan Gonzales, the President prior to my term, whom paved the way and made my transition smooth. Liz Beguelin has helped to keep me informed regarding the historical goings on in Our Town so for this I am grateful. Many new friends I have made along the way and old friendships which have grown deeper. One in particular (you know who you are) who always has time to listen and has often asked how I am doing. Thank you so much for your help and concern!

As I continue to do my other volunteer duties around town we will, no doubt, see one another often. But I must admit that this time, as your President, has been such a delightful experience and one I will always remember. Thank you for letting me serve you for these past three years! Hugs to you all for being such great people.

Judith Hunt, President

A CITY HALL FOR REDLANDS [reprinted from *The Citrograph*, May 4, 1907]

*At the meeting of the city trustees Wednesday [May 1, 1907], Trustee Hargraves made the most extended argument for the proposed city hall:*

Some time, about a year ago, A.K. Smiley requested the Board of City Trustees to meet him at the Public Library to discuss plans for a further addition to that building. He disclosed to us on that occasion his intention to increase his already munificent donation by an extension of the then existing structure, that would cost approximately fifteen thousand dollars. Mr. Smiley also called our attention to the very evident need of more ground to the south of the Library building, to carry out the design for the beautiful and more complete edifice that he has planned, and asked that steps be taken at an early date to acquire such property as might be needed for that purpose. Architects tell us that the building as proposed, in its completeness, will be one of the most beautiful examples of the Mission style in the State, a credit to the donor and the community.

I think that we will all agree that the Library is a part of our educational system, belonging, as such, to all classes, the rich and the poor alike. Should we not, then, be proud of its noble proportions and be justified in an anxious regard for its welfare.

The purchase of more ground was talked about on the street and in the homes, and the suggestion was made at that time by some of the "politically wise ones" that a proposal of the kind would hardly meet with the approval of a majority of our taxpayers, unless joined with a provision for an equal expenditure in other sections of the city. Inquiries were made about the probable cost of suitable land for parks in Lugonia and at the east of town. But finally the matter was dropped, the sentiment seeming to be that however much we might be in favor of a park or parks, the acquisition and care of three would entail an expense for which we are not at present prepared.

On Mr. Smiley's return to Redlands last fall, it seemed proper as an act of courtesy to one who had done so much for the city, that some one of our number should explain the situation to our friend and try to devise some plan to carry out his wishes. I therefore called on Mr. Smiley at his residence in Canyon Crest Park, and after some conversation about the municipal needs, asked permission to suggest a method of procedure that might accomplish what he asked of us, meet with the approval of our voters and be of lasting benefit to our city. The following is the proposition submitted, and which I will ask the Board of Trustees and the citizens generally to consider:

#### NEED OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS

The time is not far distant, probably within the next five years, when the people of Redlands will be called on to provide more suitable quarters for the public offices. Those of us who have attended trials in the Justice's court or seen the crowded condition of our Trustee room on occasions, must have had evidence that, with the growth of the city, other accommodations will be required. At the present time valuable maps and instruments in our engineering department are unprotected, which, if destroyed or lost, would cost the city hundreds, possibly thousands, of dollars to replace. The increasing amount that must be paid for rent under the present arrangement consequent upon the growing needs of the different departments, should also not be forgotten. We may therefore assume, and I think we will all admit that a public building or city hall will be one of the requirements in the near future.

A public building should have two values, one purely utilitarian, the other aesthetic. An example of ignoring the aesthetic may be seen at our county seat, where costly county offices and a library are poorly placed, while the reverse may be seen at Riverside, and Santa Ana, where valuable buildings are so situated in an open space and amid proper surroundings, that value is added to all the property in the city. I wish you might go with me and see the glaring and notable examples I have mentioned.

Viewing the probable rise in land values as a not remote possibility, the question that concerns us now is, not when we are to build, but where. In years gone by different locations have been proposed. One, the old Methodist church property at the Triangle, since sold and now worth probably forty thousand dollars. My we not say, then, that a suitable site will probably cost twenty-five thousand dollars? I think so.

Years ago Mr. Smiley gave to the city the tract of land between Eureka and Grant streets, to be used exclusively for park purposes. It is safe to say that this land will never be used for any other purpose without his consent.

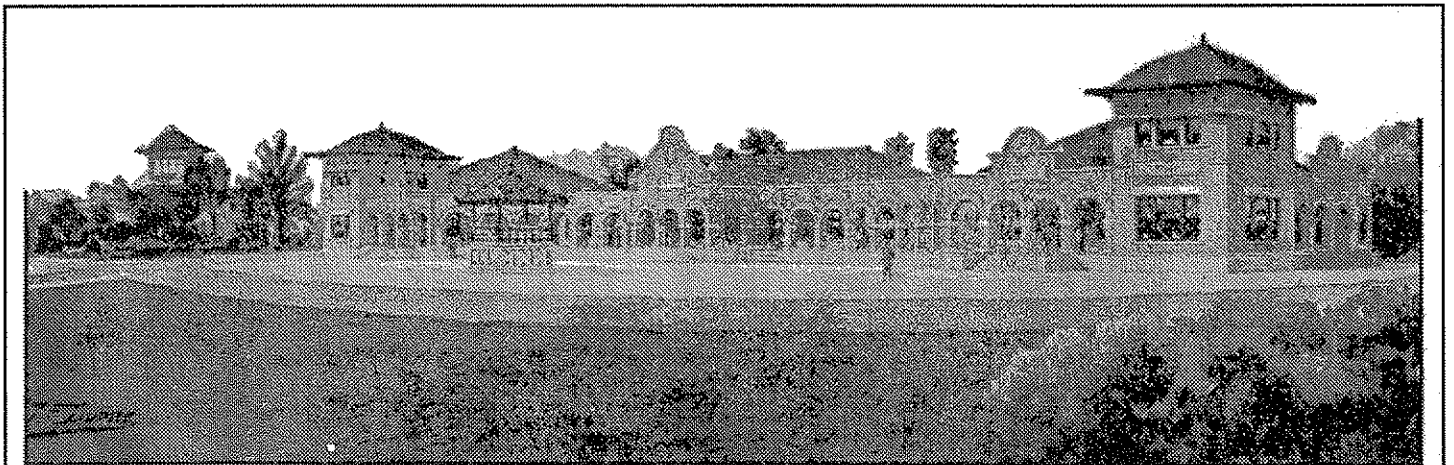
This, then, is the proposition submitted to Mr. Smiley, and to which he has agreed:

That the city purchase the required lots for the extension to the Library grounds, and that he consent to the use of the park between Eureka and Grant streets for public buildings. Is this not a very one-sided bargain, in which the city gets the most? We purchase a piece of land which we can all see is very much needed, and avoid the necessity of buying a city hall site, the cost of which can be devoted, when the proper time comes, to the construction of the building itself.

A petition which has been on file in the office of the City Clerk for several months, is today again presented, asking the Trustees to call an election to vote bonds for an amount necessary to buy the land required for the Library extension. I am heartily in favor of it, and ask for a favorable consideration by the other members of the Board. If I may be allowed, I will at this time present to the Board a plan for public buildings that shows how the proposed site can be adapted to the public use and what that public use may be.

I have already mentioned the probable official requirements. Another public necessity that is being demonstrated is the need of a place for out-of-door meetings. At this moment our Fourth of July celebration committee is looking for a place where a self-respecting orator may deliver the Fourth of July oration and not ask the people to stand, or sit on the curbstones. We should also have an open space where band concerts may be given, as at Pasadena; or where religious services may be held in the open air. In the plan submitted I have attempted to satisfy all these requirements by providing for three small buildings, namely, an executive, a legislative and a judicial, so placing them, far apart, and connected by a colonnade, or series of arches that, while comparatively inexpensive, they would present an imposing and harmonious elevation. A band stand or rostrum has been indicated by the architect, near the center of the plan, in the open. This will suggest the uses to which the cemented area between the driveway and the broad steps, and the steps themselves may be put. All this may seem a long way in the future. I believe, however, that it is only by planning for the future that anything can be done towards making this "The City Beautiful", about which we are all so fondly thinking, and that we should take steps at once to secure this concession, of which I have just spoken.

*[Editor's note: Isn't it interesting how Redlands might be different if this plan, conceived with Albert Smiley's blessing, had been implemented? This City Hall site is today the site of the Redlands Bowl - although the formation of the Redlands Community Music Association was still seventeen years away. The architecture of the proposed building is also very similar to that of the Library, creating a uniform design style for public buildings. The needs of our community are little-different today, except that civic-minded philanthropists seem too few and far between.]*



PROPOSED REDLANDS CITY HALL

THOMAS CARROLL  
**ICE CREAM PARLOR,**

121 Orange Street Redlands, Cal.

*Newsletter Deadline*

All RAHS members are encouraged to submit articles for the *Redlands Chronicles* to Nathan Gonzales at [ngonzales@akspl.org](mailto:ngonzales@akspl.org) by the 1st of each month.