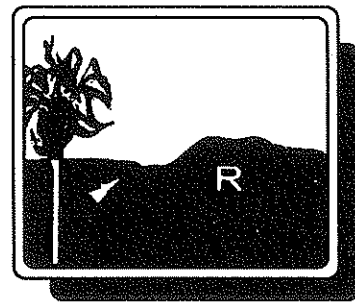


REDLANDS AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

# REDLANDS CHRONICLES



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May, 2008

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## Old House Group Meeting

Wednesday May 21, 2008

7 pm

505 Chestnut Avenue

Ellen and Gary Paytas will host the May meeting of the OLD HOUSE GROUP in their 2007 Heritage Award-winning Craftsman Style home. The property is located at the southwest corner of Ramona and Chestnut Avenue in one of Redlands' first subdivisions known as 'Residence Plat'. In 1901, Julia B. Green, the wife of a local orange grower, purchased the land and hired M. E. Davenport to build the house. The home was completed in 1903 at a cost of \$2,000. City directories list the Greens at this address until 1912. Julia and Worthington Green later built a larger home on Walnut and Pacific Street. From 1914 until 1947 the house had several tenants and was vacant for a number of those years, which would indicate it was a rental. From 1947 until 1990 the home was owned by Ted and Nina Banek. The two large trees at the front of the house were planted by the Baneks in the late 1940s.

Old homes have many stories and some are more interesting than others. During the late-1920s this house had illegal activities going on - something prohibited was brewing. Can you guess what it was? Arrests were made and Ellen and Gary have the *Redlands Daily Facts* article which tells the whole story. Come to the meeting to learn more about how the house was being used and what was going on.

In the eighteen years that Ellen and Gary have lived in their home they have completed many projects, always keeping true to the style and character of the original design. They have added a bathroom, a beautiful sitting room, home office, and new garage. The most recent projects include a new kitchen and fresh interior paint. A lovely garden with fruit trees and vegetables tended by Gary complete the backyard.

Ellen and Gary take great pride in their lovely restored Craftsman Style home and look forward to sharing it with the OLD HOUSE GROUP on May 21.

The next OLD HOUSE GROUP MEETING will be the Gourmet Pot Luck Dinner in September.

## A Letter from your President...

I thought my newsletter responsibilities were over with the April issue this year. But, alas Sandie Green reminded me we needed to inform the Old House Group of the May 21st meeting at 505 Chestnut, which is the home of Gary and Ellen Paytas. So, I just did that but read the informative Marsha Vega item for more details. She has steadfastly sent items to Dr. Nathan Gonzales, our newsletter committee chair and newsletter layout editor.

The Redlands Historical Society Board of Directors met May 5 and reviewed our latest PowerPoint production for the Heritage Awards June 10th at the Carriage House in Prospect Park. I remember 33 years ago how the board suggested we "honor" homeowners with "heritage awards." Howard Eden and I were then indexing the Citrograph and thought the individual history of each home could be part of the award. The index process gave us access to building lists and dates of construction on many Victorian homes.

The process for the Heritage Home selection has remained much the same the last 33 years. I asked members of the board to nominate homes for the awards at our January board meeting. During Winter Break I drove the streets and byways of Redlands with my wife, Nanci, and she photographed many possible nominees. Some of the selections we reviewed this year came from homeowners in Redlands and members of the historical society. We evaluate all the suggestions and then vote on the nominees. Each home that we selected was then assigned to a board member to research. Kathy Beall volunteered to photograph the selections and Ron Running enjoys placing the PowerPoint slides together.

Homes not selected this year remain in a folder and are reviewed again next year. It does save the board time if we know the homeowner is in favor of receiving the award. Once we receive a favorable response our research begins. Walker Price is the chairman of the Heritage Awards committee but the entire board has been involved in the process. Depending on the home, research can be a daunting task. The board held a research workshop on one Saturday at the beginning of the process. Some of the board are pros and some are freshman in research.

Board members work very hard to be accurate in their research. We critiqued our work May 5 and I can say this is a wonderful experience leading professional, dedicated Redlanders.

We have another Historical Society event scheduled this month. Don't forget we have a scheduled walking tour of Orange Street May 17th. We plan to park in the Von's lot and proceed north on Orange to Lugonia Avenue. The tour begins at 9:00 a.m. and penetrates the heart of Lugonia. If you are lazy like me, park another vehicle at the Redlands School District parking lot for a quick return to Von's.

Your President, Tom Atchley

## Hillside Cemetery Project

### Upcoming Genealogy Events

Date: Saturday, May 17, 2008, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Hillside Memorial Park

1540 Alessandro Road, Redlands, CA

### Southern California Genealogy Jamboree

Date: Saturday, Jun 28, 2008, 8:00 a.m.

Place: Burbank Airport Convention Center

Join our carpool and attend the 34th Annual Genealogy Jamboree that is sponsored by the Southern California Genealogy Society. Contact Ron Running at (909) 798-1289 if you would like to join the carpool for the day.

After the Orange Street walking tour in the morning work will continue on the photographing of the gravestones at the Hillside Cemetery. Great progress is being made. To date over 6,000 photos have been taken.

Volunteers are needed. Bring a broom, brush or digital camera and join in the fun. For further information contact Ron Running at (909) 798-1289 or via email at ronrun5@yahoo.com

## Eagle Project a Huge Success

On Friday and Saturday, April 25 and 26, John Paul Frehner's Eagle Scout project involving the cleaning and restoring of the 1958 mausoleum at the City's Hillside Memorial Park took place. The project involved cleaning and painting of the building and stonework, re-landscaping of the center court, cremation garden area, and front facade, purchase and installation of several concrete benches on newly-poured concrete slabs, sanding and repainting the lower portion of the flagpole, planting of 4 Italian Cypress trees, purchase and installation of 4 new commercial grade walk-off mats, and restaining of the teak wood bench, as well as sanding and painting 20 folding chairs and cart used for services.

The project involved more than 150 hours of work on John Paul's effort. Approximately 422 total volunteer hours were contributed by an amazing 70 volunteers made up of Troop 11 Boy Scouts and their families, members of the Redlands Area Historical Society and the RHS Junior Historical Society, and members of the Redlands High School Water Polo team. Work on the project actually finished 3 hours early and some of the scouts and their families were able to work with Ron Running on the continuing work of the Find-a-Grave project. Over \$18,000 in contributions were raised, \$11,000 of which were in-kind donations. While John Paul's Eagle Project is completed, there remain 3 more sides to the Mausoleum building that are in need of professional cleaning and painting, as it turns out that the building has never been painted in 50 years! Cost to complete this work is estimated at approx. \$14,000.

Everyone should go by and take a look. Special thanks go to the over 40 companies, groups, and individuals for their donations, among those:

Redlands Area Historical Society  
Friends of Hillside Memorial Park  
Redlands Horticultural and Improvement Society  
Redlands Street Tree Committee  
Rotary Club of Redlands  
Morning Kiwanis Club  
Jack and Laura Dangermond and ESRI  
Ronald Running  
Clara Mae Clem  
Janet Cosgrove  
Cecelia Breyer  
Larry Glass

UST  
Tara Reilly  
Dr. Craig and Vicki Chamberlain  
Joe and Leah Carlson  
Charles and Leslie Levine  
Debbie Cooke  
Beverly Buoye  
Judy Miller  
Jane Hawkins  
Ben and Darla Dillow  
Creative Tile Design and Jeff Hart  
Beall Design Group  
Don Beall  
Richard Beall  
Gay Gill Beall  
Paul and Julie Foster  
Mark and Liz Beguelin  
Neva Harmon  
Frank and Ann Tolerico  
Thomas and Kay Dobbertin  
Dr. David Nutter and Dr. Bertica Rubio  
Greg and Ann Andrews  
Luc and Kathy Cyrot  
Don and Susan McCue  
Newell's Nursery  
Home Depot  
Redlands Paint Store  
Sam's Club  
Nestle Water

### One Hundred Years Ago...

Reprinted from *The Citrograph*

A mortgage of \$1200 against the Redlands Y.M.C.A. was ordered cancelled by the superior court this week. Some years ago Mr. and Mrs. Teel, residing here, loaned to the Y.M.C.A. \$1200 with the stipulation that interest on the amount should be paid as long as either lived, but at their death the mortgage should be cancelled. The executor of the estate refused to cancel, but brought suit to enforce payment. The case was properly and promptly decided in favor of the Y.M.C.A.

#### *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.

## Five Lugonia Schools and Counting

Two items have placed Lugonia in my historical gun sights lately. The first was researching the Lugonia kindergarten and library facility for a Heritage Award this year. The second was preparing for the Orange Street tour on May 17th and reacquainting myself with Lugonia history. I found myself confused about the locations of the Lugonia schools and the life story of each building. What follows is a remuddling and reorganization of my confusion into hopefully some coherent history of the Lugonia School.

The Lugonia District was formed out of the much older Mission District February 8, 1877. Charles R. Paine, future Superintendent of the San Bernardino County Schools, suggested the name because his neighbor in Crafton, William Craig, had applied the name to his wine brand. The name captured the Lugo family name that had acquired the original San Bernardino Land Grant in 1842. Myron Crafts, William R. Tolles, and C. E. Brink were elected as the first trustees. George W. Beattie was the first teacher for the new \$400 school. Beattie failed the first grade teacher test twice before passing with a score of 80. His family home on Pioneer Street was close to the school located on the northwest corner of Church Street and Lugonia. Chances are good that young Frank E. Brown tutored Beattie in passing the test. Brown passed the first time with a score of 95 and was able to teach both first and second graders. A Yale education was valuable but Brown's father was a principal of a private academy and pedagogy was in his soul.

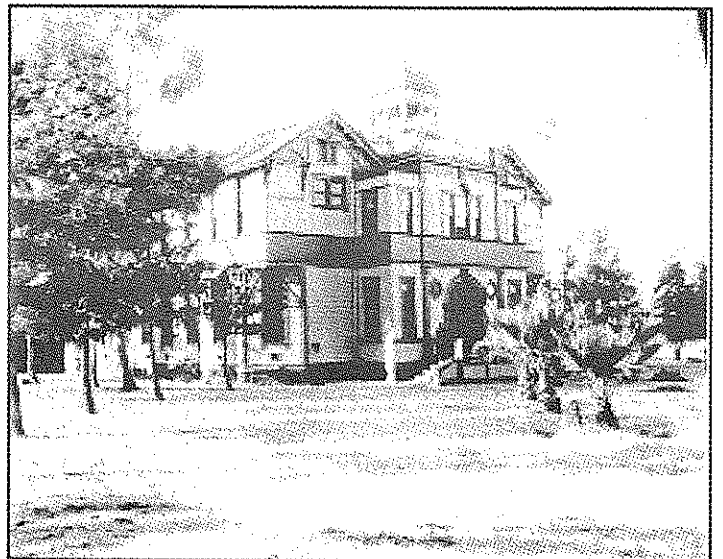
School opened for the first time in Lugonia in October of 1877.

The First Congregational Church of Lugonia met in the school house until their church was completed in 1883. The church is still standing in modified form on the southwest corner of The Terrace and Church Street.

The Lugonia School District voted to issue bonds in the amount of \$6,000 in 1884. A new school building was completed in 1885 on the southwest corner of Lugonia and Orange Street. Redlands District formed out of a portion of the Lugonia District in 1884. The two communities were beginning to compete for official recognition and both wanted to attract the attention of the newly arrived Santa Fe Railroad in

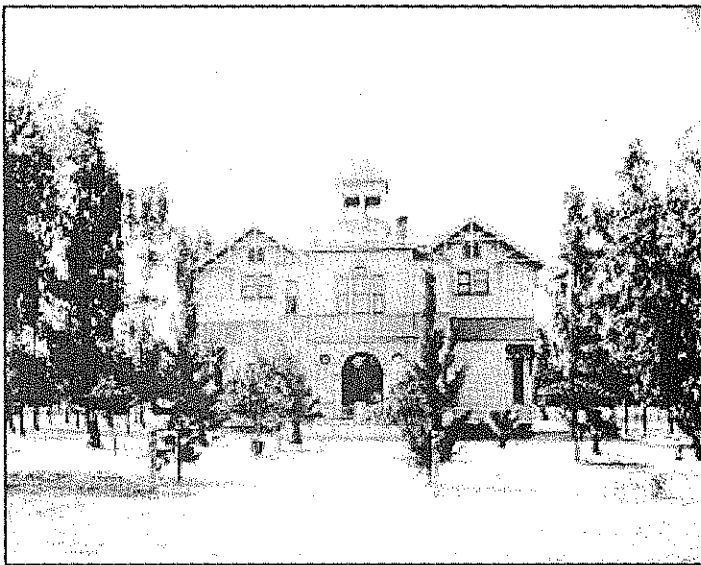
San Bernardino. Building schools attracted settlers and that in turn created more farm freight for a railroad connection. The bonded debt the few hundred settlers were willing to accept is a credit to their desire for modern schools and investment in their children. These were the first of many successful school bonds for the East San Bernardino Valley.

Truman Reeves purchased the school house in 1885 and made it part of his home on Lugonia Avenue. The first school only lasted eight years. Residents moved the school to Orange Street, the principle street with the Lugonia Store, post office, meat-market, telegraph and telephone connection, and the Judson and Brown real-estate office. The monument erected on the northwest corner of Church and Lugonia was dedicated by the Daughters of the American Revolution in April of 1935 to commemorate the location of the first Lugonia school. The plaque names the first trustees, first teacher and the first pupils. They were Betty Ball, Belle Ball, Ellen Ball, Elmer Ball, Lucy Ball, Mary Ball, Gilbert Brink, Erwin Brink, Anna Boley, Mattie Barton, Minnie Barton, A. C. Carter, Gertrude Clough, Steve Covington, Charles Crafts, Ed Glover, Ida Glover, Virgie Glover, Camilla Gernish, Sarah Harrison, Mertie Hicks, Winifred Paine, Gertrude Paine, Chapman Reeves, Ed Reeves, Albert Rivera, George Sexton, William Sexton, Lucy Sexton, Lulu Saunders, Kitty Shaw, Matt Shaw, Alice Valdez, Alex Valdez, Lottie Valdez, Addie Tyler, Ray Tyler and Jessica Weimar.



*Lugonia School, constructed in 1885.*

The 1885 school became the Sunday home of Rev. C. W. Gregory and his congregation. The school census of 1888 lists 62 students at Lugonia and 120 in Redlands. New school improvements were bonded in 1888-1889 for the 87 children in attendance that year. J.S. Hale and C. H. Lathrop were trustees for the district. J.S. Hale would initiate the Lugonia Academy in 1886 to educate students in high school. Professor Handsaker was principal in 1891 and ably assisted in teaching by Miss Josephine Grant and Miss Palmer. School began on October 1 each year and ended in mid-June with picnics at Crafton Retreat, Live Oak Canyon, Rabel Springs, Urbita Springs, and other natural wonder locations.



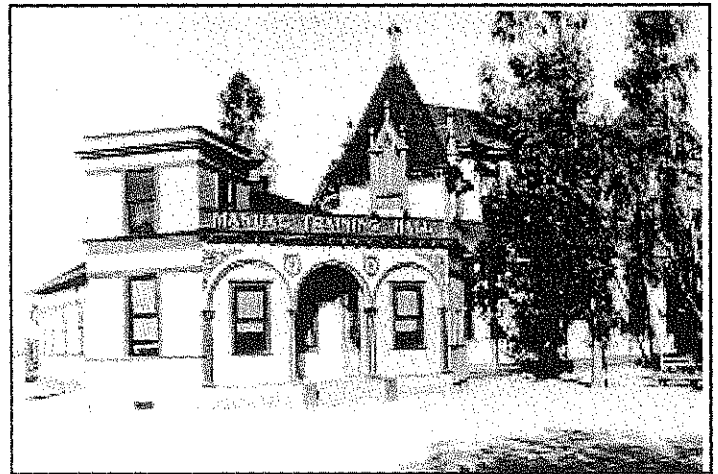
*Second view of the 1885 Lugonia School*

Another bond election passed in 1893 for an addition of \$1500. George W. Beattie returned to visit the school in 1894 and took photos. The school held a social benefit to buy books for the school library. By 1895, T. R. Griffith, architect, designed yet another school addition completed by F. A. Shorey, contractor. Enrollment reached 150 before the year was over. Griffith would find time, before drawing plans for A.K. Smiley Library, to complete another addition in 1897 for the Lugonia 166 students. Winifred Paine returned to Lugonia School in 1896 to become a teacher with principal C. E. Hughes and A. B. Martin.

The 1900 City Directory lists Harvey Hewitt, A. E. Brock, and J.W. Gore as the Lugonia trustees. The teachers were Miss Emma L. Jackson, Anna O. Hendrie, Anna Keagle, Maude J. Doss, Mrs. Minnie R. Pollock and John W. Shaw as physical director.

Advances in education led to the State Normal

School in Los Angeles which trained teachers for the classroom. Physical education in the elementary schools began in the mid-1890s, but was not required in every district. Wood shop or Sloyd was first introduced in the Crafton District in 1894 and followed by the other districts before the century ended. Manual Arts training for both boys and girls in elementary school was part of the "learn by doing" philosophy of progressive education proposed by pragmatists following the ideas of John Dewey.



*Manual Training Hall*

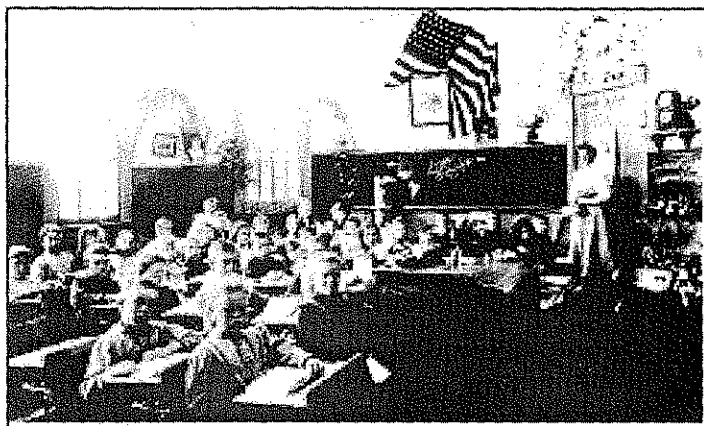
The Sloyd Building was constructed at the Lugonia District in 1898. The Elias Everett photo was taken June 7, 1899 in the Manual Training Hall. This building stood in the current parking lot of the District Board of Education and survived to this century.



*Interior view of the Manual Training Hall*

The interior view of the Lugonia classroom with Longfellow framed above the blackboard was

taken in 1899. The two exterior views of the 1885 school were most likely taken by a photographer of the Redlands *Citrograph* newspaper, in February of 1904. The pictures ran in the paper along with other schools that were photographed that year.



*Interior of Lugonia School.*

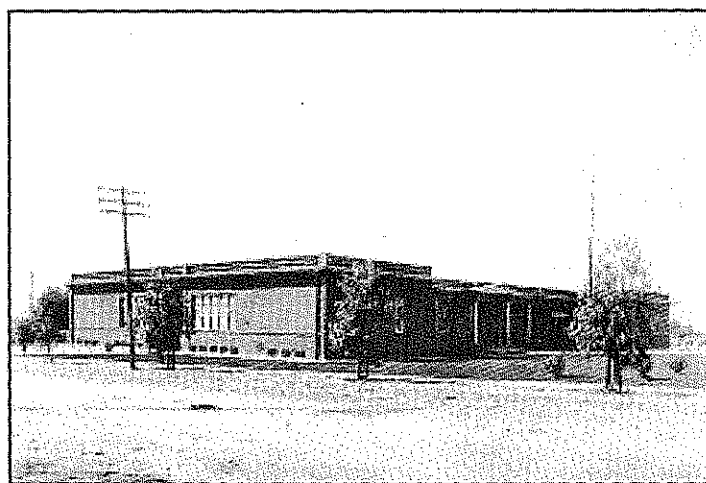
The three elementary school districts of Redlands, Crafton, and Lugonia set a State of California precedent in 1891. All three united to form a single Union High School District and inaugurate a public high school. The State Supreme Court heard the arguments and ruled the new Union High formation legal. This was the first union high school district in the state. The school opened its doors to 40 students October 1, 1891, in the second story of the Wilson-Berry Block in Lugonia. This business building was constructed in 1886 on the northeast corner of Colton Avenue and Orange Street. One year later, the school moved to its new site at Church and East Citrus Avenue with a newly-passed bond to build a two-story brick building.

Redlands, Crafton, and Lugonia Districts joined to establish the rules for admission to the new Union High School. Admission was determined by an 8th grade test given to the graduates of the three elementary school districts. In 1894, five Lugonia students passed the high school entrance exam, which was considered excellent. The Union High School admission requirements were stiff on attendance, tardy history and academic promise. Taxpayers wanted to fund a free education to those students with a history of success. Stanford Junior College would accept any Redlands Union High graduate because of the high standards the new school followed. Students were required to purchase their own textbooks.

Lugonia District passed another school bond for a modern brick building in 1908. Construction

was completed on the northwest corner of Lugonia and Orange Street for the beginning of school in September of 1909. Architect Fred T. Harris drew the plans and the Taylor Brothers completed the \$30,500 contract. The irony of Redlands clay manufactured into bricks from the corner of West Olive and Lakeside should be mentioned. I'm sure die-hard Lugonia pioneers grimaced at the thought of Redlands compact red clay becoming a Lugonia school.

The Grecian architecture followed a one-story plan and boasted twelve classrooms, library, lunch room, assembly room, teacher's room, showerbaths, and a bicycle room in the basement. The six-pillar entrance copied the Grecian style or Greek Revival of the newly built University of Redlands Administration building and the Orange Street Santa Fe Depot. The photo of this school was taken in March 1912 and was the third Lugonia School. The school had everything but a kindergarten. Students desiring that luxury went to Redlands schools.



*The Third Lugonia School*

Superintendent Henry Clement was able to remedy the lack of a kindergarten in 1937. State Emergency Relief Administration (SERA) would provide the labor if the district would provide the materials during the height of the Great Depression. The combination library and kindergarten was completed in 1937 on the southwest corner of Orange and Lugonia. G. Stanley Wilson, Riverside architect, designed the Mission Style building.

In July of 1947, the Greenleaf District was annexed to Redlands that had also included the Lugonia District. Greenleaf students would be bused from Greenspot and the school on Greenspot Road near Mill Creek would be abandoned. No elementary



school was built in Mentone until 1950, so all these "new" students would be taken to Lugonia School. Crafton could not house the additional students in its 1927 buildings.

To remedy this overcrowding situation, the land adjacent to the 1937 kindergarten was cleared and L. P. Scherer, general contractor, built a five-room concrete terrace ultra-modern design building in June 1948. The old school had become a cafeteria. Land for the 1948 rooms gobbled up the old playground but provided one kindergarten, a library, two first grade rooms and two second grade rooms. The architectural firm of Marsh, Smith, and Powell of Los Angeles came up with the plans. Herbert Powell was a graduate of Redlands High and his firm designed hundreds of schools throughout Southern California. These buildings would be the fourth Lugonia School.

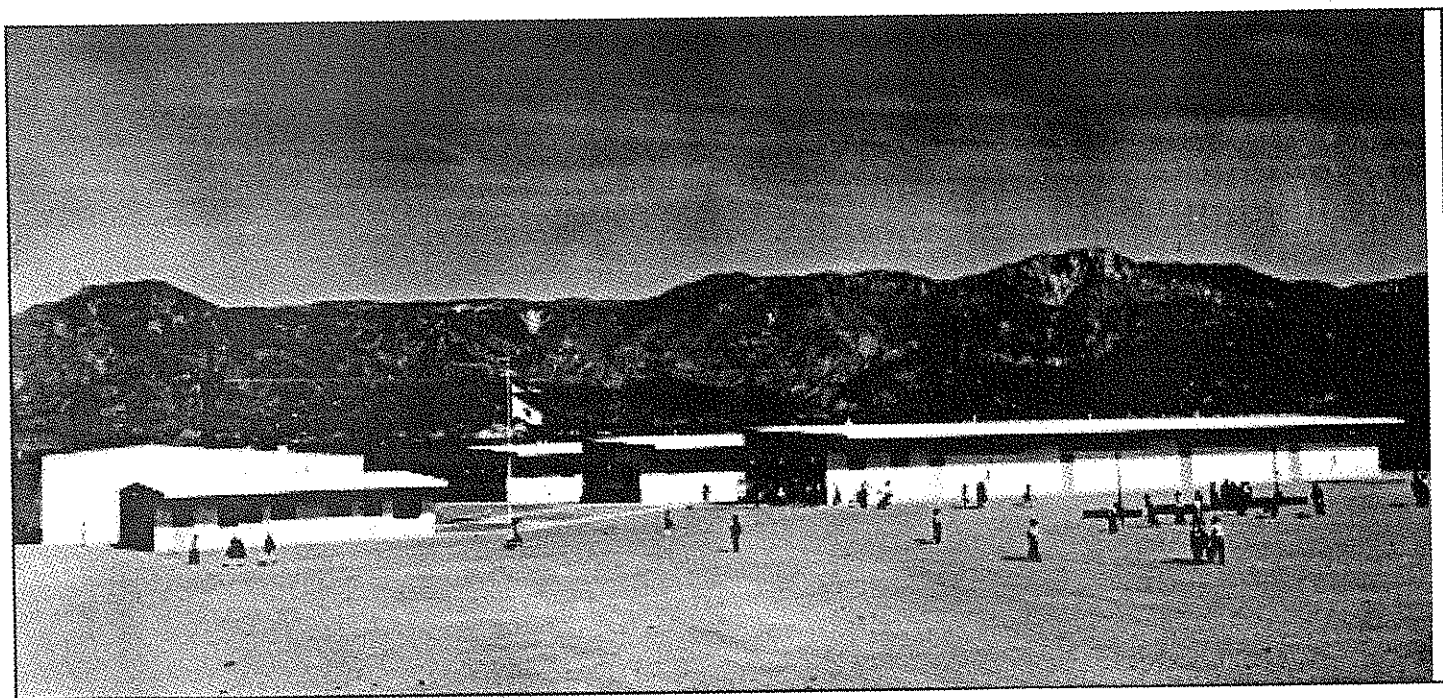
After the 1937 Long Beach earthquake the State of California deemed non-reinforced brick school buildings a public hazard. This was one reason the district didn't want to add on to the 1909 Lugonia School. State engineers dubbed the Lugonia 1909 building unsafe in December of 1952. Superintendent Russ B. Speer ran into many objections for a bond election to support a new school on the northwest corner of Orange and Lugonia. Lugonia Avenue was now State Highway 38 and Orange Street a major thoroughfare to an expanding north Redlands. Federal Housing was just completed on the northeast corner of Orange and Lugonia. Traffic was not a problem in

1909 but was now a problem in Redlands with a growing 20,000 population.

The board solved the problem by purchasing 10 acres on East Pennsylvania Avenue for \$7600. Marsh, Smith, and Powell submitted plans for an eleven classroom complex for 330 students. Work was completed on the \$231,985.53 school January 3, 1956. Students were escorted by their teachers to the new school in January and vacated the 1909 building. The *Redlands Facts* photographed the new building in 1956 before the grass was planted. Another photograph on the front page of the January 3rd edition shows a sixth grade class leaving the old school. On January 23, 1956 Dr. Fred Heisner, Superintendent of the Redlands School District, dedicated both Lugonia and Lincoln schools on the same day. Frank Moore, editor of the *Facts*, was the featured speaker at Lugonia School. His talk was titled "Were you There," a history of the Lugonia School.

Lugonia celebrated its 125th anniversary six years ago. The "new" school is now 52 years old and has remained on the Pennsylvania site the longest. To the east, also on Pennsylvania Avenue, the newest Redlands elementary school, Judson and Brown, was dedicated in 2007. The new school is the fifth Lugonia Elementary School.

--Tom Atchley



*Lugonia School on Pennsylvania Avenue, soon after completion.*