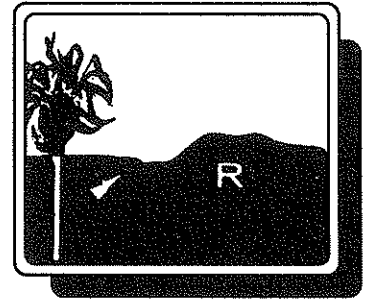


# REDLANDS CHRONICLES



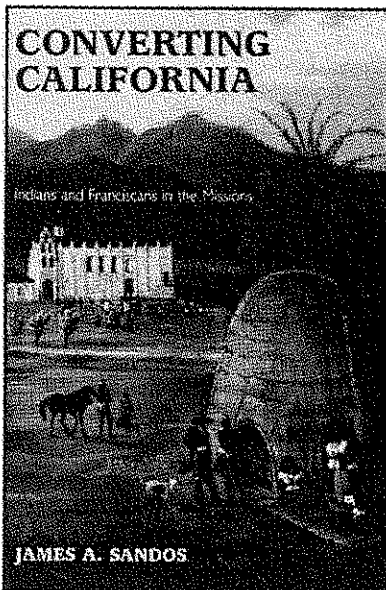
September, 2008

## Converting California

Dr. James Sandos

September 22, 7pm

Assembly Room, A.K. Smiley Public Library



Dr. James A. Sandos will be the featured speaker at the Redlands Area Historical Society meeting September 22. His latest book, *Converting California: Indians and Franciscans in the Missions* was published by Yale University Press.

Sandos is University of Redlands' Farquhar Professor of the Southwest. He is an eminent authority on the American West. The book traces the history of the Franciscan missions from the founding of Mission San Diego in 1769 to their final demise in 1836. His scholarship addresses the theology of the Franciscan order and especially Father Junipero Serra.

Sandos discusses the two major fields of historical California Mission thought. One group of historians has nothing but praise for the mission efforts in California and applauds the padres as architectural wizards, economic stewards of efficient fiefdoms, and protectors of Native Americans. This group of historians contends that Father Serra and the mission system he founded were superior to the English wars of extermination conducted on the East Coast of America. Following this line of interpretation, Native Americans became good Catholics, citizens of Spain, artisans, vaqueros, farmers, and loved the founding padres for their benevolent gifts of civilization.

*Continued, page 2*

## Old House Group Meeting & Gourmet Potluck Picnic

Wednesday, September 17, 6:30 PM

511 Chestnut Avenue

The annual Old House Group's Gourmet Potluck Picnic will be held on Wednesday, September 17, at 6:30PM. This kick-off to the year will be held at the home of Walker and Renie Price, located at 511 Chestnut. The house was built in 1904 and is a modified California bungalow. The picnic will be held in their lovely back yard. Renie is quite the gardener.

Please bring:

Last name starting with A to M Main Dish

Last name starting with N to Z Salad, etc.

Table service, drinks and dessert will be provided by RAHS.

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A Letter from your President...

The summer went by amazingly quickly. By the time you receive this newsletter, Redlands High will be in its 4th week and nearly time for progress reports. Redlands Unified has report card records back to 1892 covering the high school. Let that be fair warning to any Redlands High alum, that transgressions of today can be repaid with embarrassments from your past.

The Save the Zanja Committee continued to meet during the summer in the warm offices of the Episcopal Church. Sherli Leonard and The Redlands Conservancy are the lead in this project slated for final triumph in 2019, the 200th anniversary of the building of the Zanja. Judith Hunt and Liz Beguelin are also on the committee. That makes a total of two former and one current president of the Redlands Area Historical Society on one committee. Judith has volunteered to collect personal stories on the Zanja for future publication. So write up your experiences and send them to her. Liz Beguelin is the current chairman of the Redlands Historic and Scenic Preservation Commission and is our committee liaison with the City of Redlands on the Save The Zanja Committee. So far we are getting positive vibes from the City and that is good news.

Last May the Save the Zanja Committee completed a History Channel Grant Application and out of 500 applicants we were selected one of the lucky 9 to be funded. The Redlands Junior Historical Society, a new club formed last year at Redlands High, will research and designate points of interest for historical plaques along the route of the Zanja. Sherli Leonard deserves much praise for coordinating the final draft of this successful application at the last possible moment. The research will be fun and also much work. A good rule of history is this: If it looks easy it ain't, and if it is easy you missed something.

The historical society participated in the City of Redlands' request for a proposal to consider restoration of the Barton School House now on Nevada Street. The plan is to move the 1903 school building to the land owned by the city in the future Heritage Park. Grove Charter School would use the building as a classroom, the city would have a heritage park office, The Conservancy would have a place to meet and we also could meet there, display Barton School items and gain storage space. We were asked to commit to volunteer hours and historical research regarding the Mission School District and the Barton School. Barton School is the oldest education building in our community. We have torn down everything that was vintage brick or wood because of the Long Beach Earthquake and subsequent State laws concerning school safety.

We had a successful Heritage Homes presentation and Ice-cream Social this past June. All the board members did an amazing job. The power point was a Ron Running production. Kathy Beall arranged for the plaques. Sandie Green did research for several homes and Walker Price was more than up to the master of ceremony position.

I'm looking forward to the new season and programs of the Old House Group and Historical Society.

Your president,

Tom Atchley

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*Sandos, continued*

The other group of historians condemns the Mission System as nothing more than "slavery" under a clever disguise. They quickly note the dismal record of Indian deaths at the hands of the padres. Most of the civil authorities in Spain and later Mexico found the Franciscans, like the former Jesuits, controlling and anything but enlightenment thinkers. Bashing Catholic theology and concluding the complete failure of the California Missions is foremost in their work

Dr. Sandos discusses these two fields of historiography but adds an additional scholarship missing in the previous histories. Sandos delves into the Native American point of view and with balance discovers new primary source evidence to reach a refreshingly well-supported conclusion concerning the California Missions.

Dr. Sandos and Dr. Larry Burgess wrote *The Hunt for Willie Boy* in 1994. This historical account also incorporates Native American perspectives in the 1909 sensational killing here in Southern California. He is also the author of *Rebellion in the Borderlands: Anarchism and the Plan of San Diego, 1904-1923*, and will have copies of his latest book *Converting California* available following the program.

# Time for Dues!!

September 6, 2008

Dear Society Members,

We have made it to September, which for the Redlands Area Historical Society means membership drive time. The board voted last year to begin membership renewal at the beginning of our meeting season in September. Waiting till the new year, in January, complicates the budget process and leaves us guessing more than we like. We thank each and every one of you for your support last year. One of our goals last year and this year is to attract new members. So bring friends to our monthly meetings and the Old House Group gatherings and Genealogical Society presentations. Then get those friends to join. Membership forms are available at each of our regular meetings the fourth Monday of September, October, January, February, March, and April.

So what does membership buy? First of all, the purpose of a local historical society is to educate the community on its local history, so they can appreciate their community more. We do that with free programs six months of the year. We support the Old House Group, which is truly focused on the architectural heritage of Redlands and tours a home each month. Members get to share common nightmares as they fix up 100-year-old homes. As a society, we usually have our Holiday Party in an old home each December. We have a volunteer home already for the party!

We send everyone a newsletter monthly and we enlarged it as per your voice support last October. That newsletter requires postage and must be printed. Snacks and a beverage are provided at nearly all of our functions. The plaques for the Heritage Home selections provided at each Ice Cream Social in June cost more now than they did in 1975, when we started the awards. We gave our past board member, Kathy Beall, flowers last June for all of her work, especially organizing the ornaments and taking numerous photos on behalf of the society, and I expect an (economy car) when my time arrives.

Last year the society conducted three walking tours. We did Cypress Avenue, North Orange Street, and Hillside Memorial Park. The Historical Society Board has written checks to the Heritage Room of A.K. Smiley Library every year, Kimberly Crest, Heritage Auxiliary for the fourth grade tours, our telephone, post office box, stationery, and several magazines that promote preservation and local history. Our programs are recorded for posterity by Ger and Linda Brassfield. We purchased the projector used in June for the Heritage Home Awards. We funded \$500 toward John Paul Frehner's eagle project at Hillside Cemetery. We will probably support the Barton School restoration and are likely to also provide some funds to the Save the Zanja project. I say "probably" since the board hasn't voted on these topics and we don't have your dues money yet.

Make our treasurer happy and pay soon,  
Tom Atchley, President

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## One Hundred Years Ago...

Reprinted from *The Citrograph*

Redlands grocers have decided to close their stores on Wednesday next, Admission day [September 9], but will not close on Monday, Labor day. To remain closed from Saturday until Tuesday is deemed too long a time and cause too much inconvenience to customers.

Redlands celebrated Admission Day in her usual manner of celebrating holidays - closing almost all business houses and going to other places where amusements are provided by hustling, energetic citizens. Redlands appears to have forgotten how to hold any kind of a celebration at home.

## Storm Water Ditches of Redlands

Redlands is the kind of town that has names for the storm water ditches. They drain the water from winter storms and summer thundershowers effortlessly and they've been doing this since 1892.

During the summer of 1891, Redlands was struck with an unexpected thunderstorm that wreaked havoc throughout the downtown and residential southwest side. The first part of the storm centered above Redlands Heights and sent torrents of water down Cajon Street, Center Street, Alessandro Street and every ravine and arroyo in the nine-year-old town. Streets were left damaged with two-foot deep eroded ravines and created new gullies for every neighborhood. Most of the dirt streets were simply graded and did not have the split-stone curbs yet. Newly-planted orange groves were damaged as the water filled irrigation flumes and carried away plowed top soil.

In the second hour of the storm, the most active cell moved east over East Redlands in the area above Moore Middle School and then Crafton. The raging water came down Reservoir Canyon, New Avenue, Somers Street, (Redlands Street), Citrus Avenue, Central Avenue, and the Mill Creek Zanja. Downtown Redlands felt the brunt of the second wave of the storm with State and Water Streets (Redlands Blvd.) carrying the muddy water for forty-five-minutes of real terror. One photograph recording the end of the storm shows shocked citizens near the Windsor Hotel on West State Street still standing in flowing water.



*The flood of 1891 sent a torrent of water down State Street, seen here looking east from about First Street.*

Citizens were overwhelmed by the damage such a short, hard storm could deliver. Redlands was a farming town and citrus irrigation furrows, flumes, canals, and young trees were shown to be vulnerable. Weather had never struck Redlands with such ferocity. A wind in 1887 called a "northerner" blew some small homes off their foundations but this was treated as more of a curiosity than a threat. The boasts of warm freeze-proof winters had not been disproven yet. Weather was something to attract the eastern multitudes and Redlands marketed the myth wholesale in all the newspapers.

In the aftermath of the August storm citizens badgered the city trustees (council) for a remedy and called for a storm water meeting. Most of the community leaders were present September 11, 1891. Downtown still showed scars and the Mill Creek Zanja had just about taken out Water Street (Redlands Blvd.). The Redlands Trolley mule-car transportation was out of commission. So much of the track was covered by mud or eroded that the system was closed. Walking downtown and carrying home the groceries became normal for several months.

Edward Judson was the mayor and suggested the community call on Frank E. Brown for a possible solution. The City Engineer, E. A. Tuttle, a Yale alum like Brown, Walter C. Butler, another Yale pal of Brown and a civil engineer, believed a solution could be found with a system of storm water ditches.

The young city survived on property taxes. Most of the citrus groves were very young and not producing yet. Barley, celery, raisins, and dried deciduous fruits composed the bulk of the economic activity. Bonds for the new Lugonia (1885), Kingsbury (1887), Crafton (1888) and Redlands Union High (1891) schools had all passed but placed a burden of debt on just a few thousand citizens.

Brown volunteered his survey work and presented his findings to the city council in November of 1891. Building a storm water system of cobble-stone with culverts and bridges to cross the streets would cost \$100,000. The steel bridge crossing the Zanja at Orange Street would cost \$900. Mentone rocks cleared from newly-sold acres would be used in the project with tons of cement. The Santa Fe Railroad "Brown" siding in Mill Creek Wash could provide an endless supply of rocks loaded on flatbed cars.

Transfer companies with heavy wagons and four-horse teams could deliver the material from the Orange Street Station.

The Brown, Tuttle, and Butler proposal was presented with names for each of the proposed ditches. On a map shaped like a fan extending from Brookside Avenue the fingers of the ditches span from San Mateo Street in the west to Central Avenue in the east. The ditch design reminds one of a winter bobsled luge minus the snow and sled.

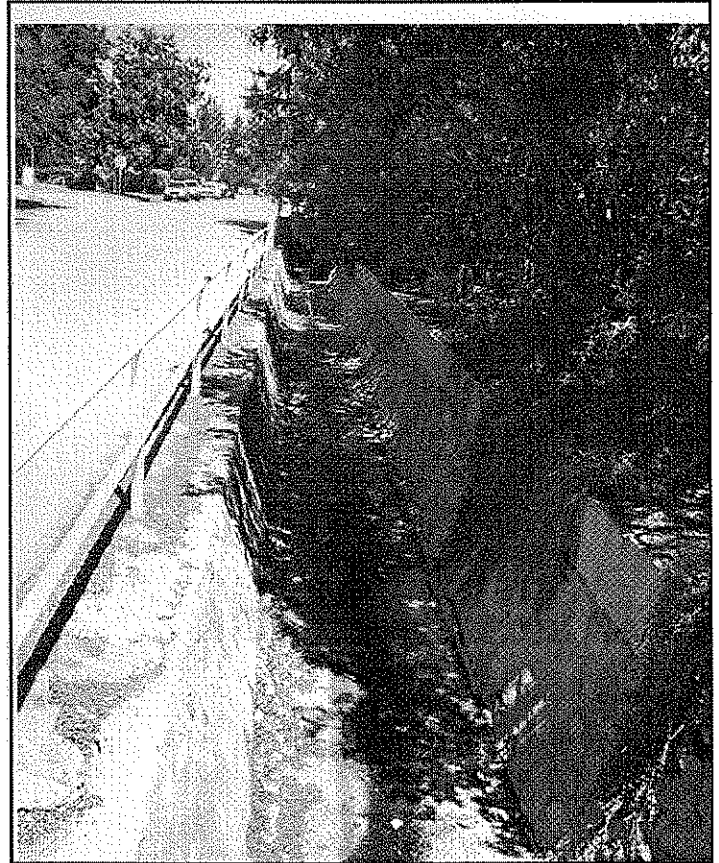
Oriental Arroyo Storm Water Ditch (SWD) is located under the Redlands Unified School District bus barn on Citrus and Central and can be seen flowing by the south side of the new Dodge Football Stadium. Water for this ditch originates from Cook Street, East Citrus, Grove Street, and Lincoln and Dearborn and East Palm. The name comes from the Chinese work camp located near the Frank Morrison Ranch in 1885. Morrison built the first bank in Redlands and used Chinese labor to attend to his grape vines, planting, and other farm work.

Oriental had one tributary from the southwest called the Domestic SWD. Water for this ditch came from the ravine below Moore Middle School and joined the Oriental ditch near University Street and Citrus Avenue. Redlands Street is a small street that leads to Moore today and was the headwaters area for the ditch. The Domestic name came from the early use of domestic water taken from the Bear Valley irrigation line that was built to Yuciapa Canyon (Ford Park).

Yuciapa Canyon Arroyo began at East Highland and Reservoir Canyon Road. Some of this SWD flows today along the east side of Redlands Blvd. The name Yucaipa was changed by Dike and Logie realtors in 1907 to the current spelling. Ucipe or Yuciapa was a Serrano Indian name for a "place of water." Lower Dunlap Acres or Yucaipa was spring-filled meadow with a large Native American encampment there. Mispronunciation of the original name led the realtors to seek a more friendly nomenclature.

The Eureka SWD extended to Cajon Street and the Garden SWD. This ditch has two forks at the mouth of Cajon Canyon. The east fork is still visible crossing below Summit and East Crescent and then East Highland before plunging through Plymouth Village today. Extensions up Garden Street came decades later with the Great Depression and the Works Progress Administration.

The other branch of the Eureka SWD is behind the homes on the south side of Cajon Street, but can be seen from the sidewalk of West Highland, a few hundred feet west of Cajon. Eureka is named from the Eureka Mills Mine in Plumas County of northern California. Four prominent 1882 residents along Brookside Avenue all worked at this mine and brought the name with them.



*The California SWD at Ramona*

California SWD originates on Ramona Street, Elizabeth and Knoll Road. Many sections to this ditch are easily seen. Following Ramona north of West Highland the SWD cuts through the 1886 residence plat. The rock-work with five-inch stones gives a uniform appearance. At West Palm and Buena Vista this ditch is behind the west side homes along South Buena Vista. Sometimes called the "Redlands Rat Freeway," rats have a favored thoroughfare to the stately mansions along the old "butler belt" or "packing house manager row."

At Glenwood Drive and Linda Place the ditch is now underground and travels west in the dip south of Brookside Avenue. Crossing Center Street close to Emmerson Bartlett Funeral Chapel the ditch opens for view again dumping into the Morey Arroyo west of the Daily Facts building.



California was the first street name for Ramona. Frank Brown developed the San Jacinto Valley in Riverside County and applied many of the Helen Hunt Jackson novel names. Alessandro, Ramona, and San Jacinto were all names from the book sprinkled in Redlands by Frank Brown. So this ditch should be called the Ramona SWD.



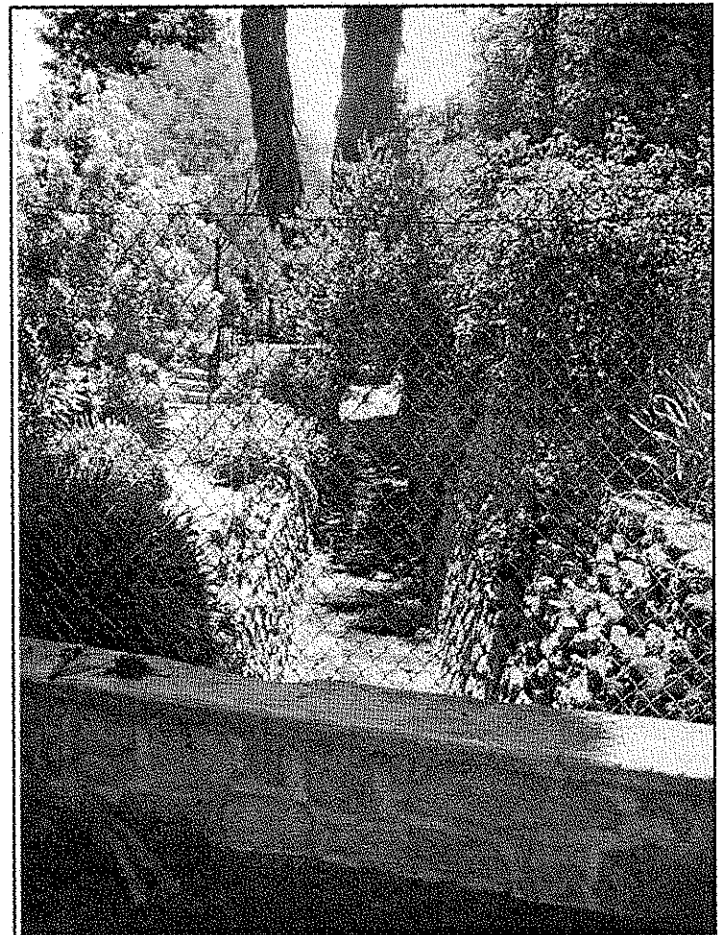
*The Morey Arroyo SWD*

The last major SWD project was the Morey Arroyo SWD. Water for this ditch originates from Alessandro, Center Street, San Mateo and Redlands Heights. This ditch is the widest and the deepest of all the SWD system of 1892. Like many tentacles, the upper fan shape of the Morey SWD drains a large section of south-west Redlands. Open tributaries are along Monterey Street and San Jacinto Street. The empty lot on West Highland and Monterey remains so for the ditch easement hidden below. Much of this SWD is covered from view today. On West Highland and Monterey the ditch here was named the Otis Arroyo. Judge George E. Otis built the colonial style home on the north-west corner of West Highland and Monterey in 1898.

The Seymour-Brown branch of the Morey is

also on San Jacinto and West Highland. Dr Ellen Seymour was the cousin of Frank Brown and first doctor of Redlands. Her 1891 home was located on Chestnut and Brown's 1891 home was on the south-west corner of San Jacinto and West Highland.

Crossing West Cypress, on the west side of Cope Middle School, students "ditching" (they were in a ditch) in the 1970s found the cobble-stone culvert a retreat to smoke and miss classes.

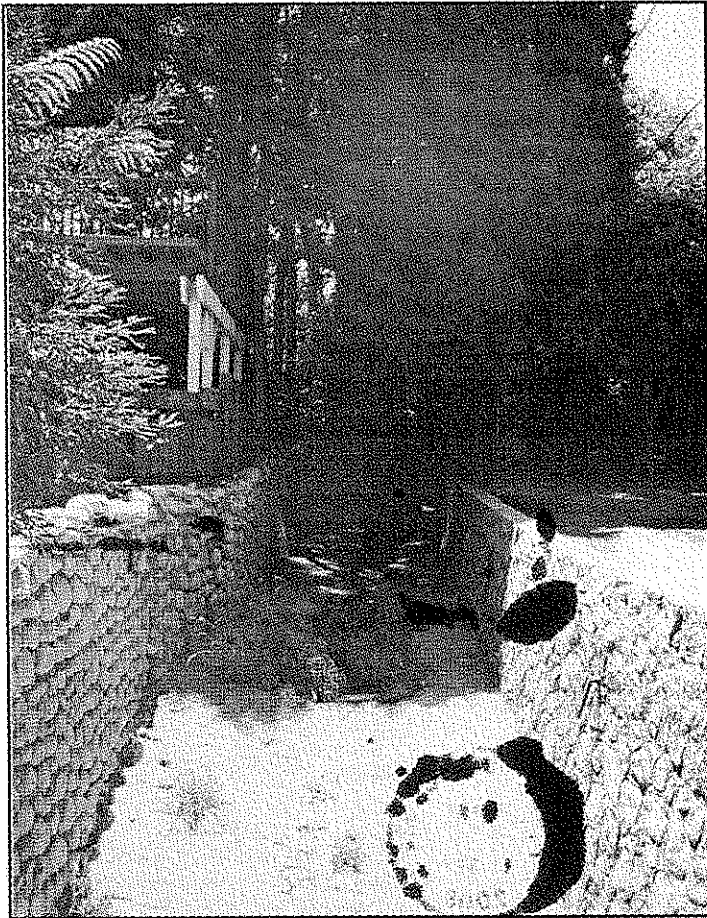


*The Morey Arroyo SWD at Chestnut*

The best view of the Morey Arroyo SWD is at West Olive and San Jacinto Street. Cutting through the Smith family orange grove the ditch here is at least eight feet deep and ten feet wide. Placed underground in the 1950-1960 neighborhoods built south of Brookside Avenue, the Morey Arroyo SWD emerges again on Brookside Avenue west of the Facts building and Pine Avenue Apartments. Palmbrook Street shows the tunnels of the California and Morey ditches dumping their flows into the current Tennessee SWD.

Morey, which is spelled incorrectly on the 1892 map, is named for David and Sarah Morey. They settled onto their 20-acre ranch along Brookside Avenue

in 1882 and Sarah had a citrus nursery that provided thousands of trees for both Redlands and Riverisde. She saved enough money to have her husband build the Morey Mansion on Terracina in 1890. One reason the Moreys moved was the fact that the storm water mostly emptied onto their property. The arroyo is much larger and deeper today than in the 1890s.



*The Morey Arroyo SWD along West Olive*

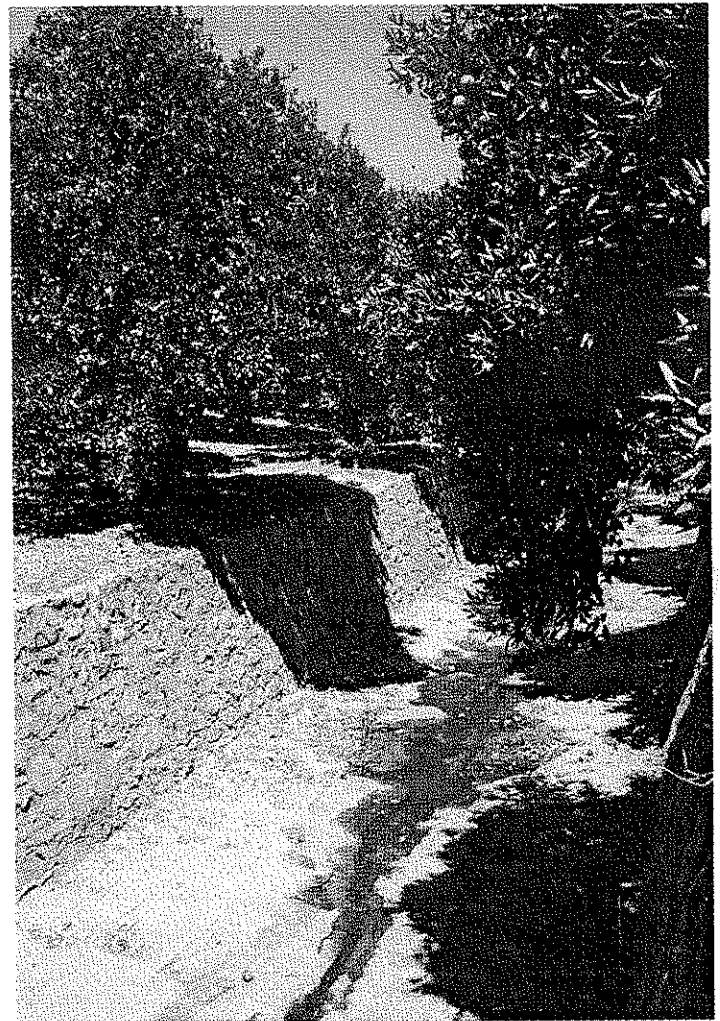
None of these ditches is the Mill Creek Zanja, although sometimes every ditch in Redlands is called a Sankey. Even the Mission SWD built in the 1930s along West State is mistakenly called the Zanja. By the time that was built, the Zanja was only remembered by aged pioneers as never deep, cobble-stoned, or cemented.

One unexpected result of the Storm Water Ditch system was the impact on the Mill Creek Zanja. Old San Bernardino pioneers along Van Leuven Road complained how Redlanders were dumping storm water into their pristine snow melt water. "Innumerable Chinamen, Mexicans, Indians, Negroes and white people living on the banks of the stream" led to malarial and typhoid fever. Old Town pioneers requested the installation of the Zanja into metal pipes beginning on East Colton Avenue. The solution

led to the demise of the "undesirable squatter camps." Concerned over this development, the *Redlands Facts* penned a story called "Good Bye, Old Zanja" and spoke of the stream's poetic interest to Redlands.

The Save the Zanja Committee goal is to reverse the trend that began in 1892 and have the city and county embrace something other than a Storm Water Ditch mentality towards the historic Zanja.

-- Tom Atchley



*The Morey Arroyo SWD at Mulberry*

**Dow & Fitzsimmons Co.**

**Funeral Directors.**

**Lady Assistant. Both Phones 111**  
**New Funeral Chapel cor. Clark and**  
**Cajon Streets.**