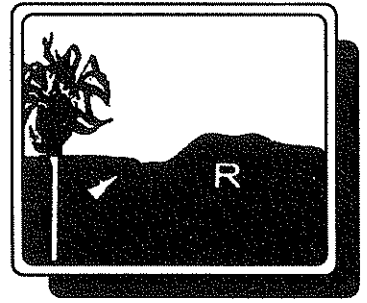


# REDLANDS CHRONICLES



March, 2009

## Carole Beswick: Our first Woman Mayor

Monday March 23, 7 p.m.

Assembly Room, A. K. Smiley Public Library



March is Women's History Month and what better way to celebrate the month dedicated to women's history than have Carole Beswick, Redlands' first female mayor to present "her history" to the Redlands Area Historical Society March 23rd.

Beswick, a previous "Woman of the year" of Redlands, has many accomplishments in her long civic history. She epitomizes the creative spirit of Redlands with her early involvement in the Redlands Bicycle Classic (This March marks the event's 25th year).

Carole was especially concerned about saving historic downtown Redlands. Under her leadership the

*Continued, page 2*

## Old House Group Meeting

Wednesday, March 18 2009, 7:00 PM

1104 Cedar Avenue

This month's meeting will be held at the home of Dave and Tracey Buck. This Victorian home was built with a wrap-around porch and a separate carriage house by S. L. Smith in 1886-7 to front on San Jacinto Street. Prior to this construction the land was owned by Frank E. Brown.

The Smiths did not occupy this home but rather lived in a nearby second "Smith Home" located on Cedar Avenue. Mr. Smith reportedly died not long after building the Buck home and was buried in Redlands Cemetery; thereafter his family moved his grave back to his hometown. Ownership records for the period following the Smiths are not complete but

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*The Bucks' Cedar Avenue Home*

A Letter from your President...

Larry Burgess and I began our spring "Redlands Intensive" course on historical highlights of Redlands this past month. This year marks my 34th year teaching the history of Redlands class. I took the class from Larry in 1974 and I think he began teaching it a year before that date. Now we have two classes a year with the traditional overview of San Bernardino Valley History in the fall and the Redlands Intensive in the spring. At first the course was offered through Adult Education with a fee of \$0.25 for ten classes. Larry and I were paid hourly wages and usually conducted the class from my classroom at Redlands High. With the passage of Proposition 13 the fee was raised to \$25 and then later \$35.

New State regulations were passed for all Adult Education teachers. Dr. Larry Burgess would be required to submit to new teaching requirements including finger printing and a battery of tests. Only in education can teachers "get dumber" with time and need further steps to reach competency. Larry was not happy with the new adult education requests and suggested we leave the confines of state laws for the freedom of the library. We've been there ever since and have the library newsletter to advertise the class.

The March 14 West Highland Avenue Tour is booked solid with 30 people. We will begin at the Watchorn/Wormser Residence on the corner of West Highland and Alvarado at 10:00 a.m.

I can happily report that all the Historic Mill Creek Zanja Tours for April 18th are booked. We have one tour from 9:00 a.m. to noon and another from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00. With those two tours booked we added yet another tour which is filled for May 23 9:00 a.m. to noon.

If everyone is still in the mood for a tour, we have the May 16th West Olive Avenue Tour beginning at 9:00 a.m. from the Lord's Corner. This tour is \$10 and we have no reservations required and no limits for attendance. Behaved dogs are welcome on a leash. Be smart and call the Olive Avenue Market and prepare a lunch and picnic in Smiley Park. The tour will end at Center Street.

The Old House Group meets this month March 18th at 1104 Cedar Avenue. In April we are at Susan Pile's new old home at 1004 Cajon. On May 20th get up to 1445 Pacific Street for a Spanish Revival home.

The Board of Directors has nominated seven heritage homes and one city-owned property. Letters informing the nominees have been sent and we are now awaiting their responses.

If you wish to submit research papers for our newsletter please email me the information at tomratchley@verizon.net.

Your President, Tom Atchley

Redevelopment Agency tackled the refurbishing of infrastructure on State Street and Orange Street. Sewer and water connections had not been replaced since 1888, when the city first incorporated.

Challenged by critics that the paving of downtown with bricks in the 1980s would be unwise, Beswick's leadership brought a new renaissance to downtown Redlands. New shops, revised business block facades, and streets ornamented with red bricks soon appeared. Redlanders happily purchased \$25 bricks to record their family names and become part of the revival of downtown. Market night and strolling the downtown became a Thursday event in Redlands.

The City Council hired a historic planner and then hired a firm, Aegis, from Claremont to research the downtown history and formulate a tour guidebook. The tour guidebook has been sold out for

years. Some businesses restored their 1890 facades and placed historic markers to indicate proudly their construction dates.

Controversy was ever on the heels of Carole Beswick and the City Council in the 1980s. Her efforts revised the downtown and left Redlands with the ever-popular Redlands Bicycle Classic. She is identified as a "mover and shaker" within the community. Her singing talents match previous mayor Chuck DeMirjyn's band performances.

Carole Beswick left office with improved architecture and landscape design guidelines for Redlands. Under her leadership the first "Historic Districts" passed.

Her presentation for the Historical Society will be recorded for posterity.

*Old House Group, continued*

the Bucks indicate that the home was occupied by the Cummings (1917 - 1920); the Hays Family (1923 - 1948); the Andersons (1949 - 1951); and the Loughrens (1992 - 2003). In 1957, a lot split occurred and the corner parcel was used to build a second residence. Other changes occurring at that time included the demolition of the carriage house and the removal of the wrap around porch. In 1958 the address and the frontage for the home was changed from San Jacinto Street to Cedar Avenue, as it is today.

Many other changes occurred to the house between the 1800s and 2003, not the least of which was the loss of two fireplace chimneys during the Landers Earthquake which everyone may remember occurred at 4:57 a.m. on June 28, 1992 and was centered at the eastern side of the San Bernardino Mountains near the town of Landers in the Homestead Valley. The magnitude 7.3 Landers quake was the largest to strike California since the Kern County magnitude 7.7 earthquake in 1952. This, combined with the Big Bear magnitude 6.4 quake occurring at 8:05 a.m. later that same day, caused a lot of damage to the southland. While the remains of the fireplace damage are still visible today, plans are to eventually rebuild them.

Dave and Tracey located and purchased the home in February of 2003 but lived with relatives while they did immediate repairs (electrical, etc.) and demolition of some of the more modern remodeling "upgrades". Visitors are invited to see some of the many projects the Bucks have engaged in, including a new main entryway, a front door, and front porch on the Cedar side of the house. Replacement windows which had been installed on the front of the house have been removed and period windows now are back in place along with "fish scaling" or "quilt pattern" shingles.

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### Future Historical Society Events

Wednesday, March 18	Old House Group
Monday, March 23	RAHS Meeting
Wednesday, April 15	Old House Group
Monday, April 27	RAHS Meeting
Wednesday, May 20	Old House Group
Wednesday, June 10	Heritage Awards

## One Hundred Twenty Years Ago: reprinted from *The Citrograph*

For some weeks negotiations have been quietly under way where our people will be enabled to save an hour's time in their trips to and from Los Angeles. These negotiations have now progressed far enough to be reasonably sure of success and plans are laid before the public.

The scheme is for the extension of the motor road from the corner at William Curtis' place directly south to the Southern Pacific Railroad. A new station is to be built by the latter company, and extensive sidetracks built. This station is to be called West Redlands and the motor will run as to connect with these trains. Tickets are to be sold at all stations of the Southern Pacific direct to Redlands and a ticket agency is to be established here for the combined roads.

This scheme is of great importance to our people who have business interests in Los Angeles and also with eastern points. The run from here to West Redlands will be made in just ten minutes. The Southern Pacific flyer will make the run from there in one hour and forty-five minutes, thus making the run from Redlands to Los Angeles in less than two hours. The Santa Fe line takes three hours to do the same distance. Passengers from the east would be landed here at 7:20 in the evening instead of having to wait at some hotel until eight o'clock the next morning. Our eastern mails would also arrive direct and twelve hours sooner than they do under the present arrangement. Our San Francisco mails would also arrive about six hours ahead of the present schedule.

Take it all through, this scheme is one that will be of more assistance to Redlands than any other that has been broached for some time, and show that our faith in our home railroad company has not been misplaced. They have been working for Redlands ever since commencement of the road, and have done their work without asking an enormous subsidy of our people. They are now putting in thousands of dollars more, and we greatly mistake the temper of Redlands people if they do not show their appreciation by increased patronage.

*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 1<sup>st</sup> of each month.

# Prospect Park History

-- Tom Atchley

Frank Elwood Brown and Edward Judson formed a partnership in 1877 while the two were neighbors in Lugonia. Brown was teaching school in San Timoteo Canyon and five times a week traveled from the school at the base of Alessandro Road and San Timoteo Canyon Road to Lugonia near Church Street and Lugonia Avenue. Brown was a trained civil engineer, specializing in irrigation, and often traveled the distance to school in a buckboard with a transit and level with him. He discovered that the mouth of the Santa Ana River was higher than the site of Redlands. With this information the partnership of Judson and Brown began. They bought water stock in the Santa Ana River, especially the South Fork Ditch or Sunnyside Ditch.

Edward Judson, a Bridgeport, Connecticut

native, was first involved with a brokerage business in New York. When he teamed with Frank Brown, Judson brought a keen sense of real estate advantages. Together the duo filed the preliminary map of Redlands in 1881. They purchased land from the Southern Pacific Railroad for \$1.25 an acre. The railroad had acquired land grants from the government for the construction of the southern route from Los Angeles to Yuma in 1877. Part of the vast land holdings acquired by Judson and Brown included what is today Prospect Park. Their entire purchase price was less than \$50.00.

To attract new residents to the hamlet of Redlands, Judson and Brown hired Simeon Cook to construct a boarding house on Prospect Hill. The frame building was the first hotel in Redlands and



*Prospect House, the first hotel in Redlands. Dr. Ellen Brown Seymour stands in front, second from right.*



*Prospect House after creation of a wrap-around porch*

first constructed building of the new town outside of Lugonia. Prospect house was occupied in 1881 by Simeon Cook and managed for over a year as a simple boarding house. Water was hauled to the boarding house by burros from the nearest water source, the Mill Creek Zanja. For three years water was hauled from the Zanja.

Simeon Cook was born in Richmond, New Hampshire April 14, 1821. His education was completed at Amherst. At the age of twenty he clerked for a store in Boston. For three years he tried his hand in the grocery business and then moved back to Richmond to conduct a country store there. He quit the grocery business after ten years and began the manufacturing of hogsheads for the Cuban trade. Eventually he established a factory in Troy, New York and married Miss Ellen Murdock in 1857. In 1860, he moved to Ontario, Canada and engaged in the lumber business before moving to Redlands in 1881.

Laborers such as Robert Morton slept in the boarding house at night and graded the streets for the future Redlands during the day. He, along with others, dug ditches and found work with Judson and Brown. Morton became the first to purchase land in Redlands November 9, 1881. Morton's squatter's shack of two rooms was located opposite Kingsbury

Grammar school. He laid out the streets with a plow and team following surveyors and working with some forty Indians. Brown felt such a debt to men like Morton; he named Morton Peak after him. This promontory is located between Mill Creek and Santa Ana Canyons. Morton Canyon was one of the first sources of water for the new Redlands Colony. Morton contracted with day laborers from San Bernardino and under the direction and funding of Judson and Brown built the boarding house.

Simeon Cook did not meet the expectations of Judson and Brown. His management style was rather casual to say the least. Water for the boarding house patrons was hauled from the zanja daily but was often silt brown. Laborers complained of poor service and food irregularities. As the Redlands Colony took shape better accommodations and management were needed. Judson and Brown built another boarding house on West Cypress near the corner of Center Street.

After one year, the boarding house was moved closer to the brow of the hill overlooking Redlands. Dr. Ellen Seymour, cousin of Frank Brown, oversaw the remodeling of the boarding house and rechristened the new hotel "Prospect House" November 26, 1882. This first hostelry for Redlands would serve

prospective buyers with a place to stay before purchasing land in the new colony. "For a time the building was so crowded that twenty lodgers were put in the small attic. A space between two joists was chalked out and allotted to each man, and if he had not mattress or blanket the bare floor was his bed, and woe betide him if he intruded on his neighbor." *The Citrograph* recalled this memorable quote in October of 1891 when recounting the early hotel history of Redlands.

Dr. Ellen Brown Seymour came to Redlands in August of 1881; She was born in Norfolk, Connecticut April 11, 1832. Her great grandfather, Peter Brown, was one of the passengers of the Mayflower. Her education for the first sixteen years was at the local academy and at age sixteen she began teaching school. In 1853, she married R. H. Seymour, in Norfolk. Her husband died in 1864, and Ellen traveled to Hampton, Virginia and became a teacher in the industrial department of General Armstrong's school and later a teacher at Hamilton Head, South Carolina. Returning to New England she became the matron of the old Jonathan Edwards in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. In 1871, she began the study of medicine at Saratoga, New York. She entered the Women's College, medical department, in New York City and graduated within two years. For seven years she practiced medicine in New York before moving to Redlands.

Frank Brown had called on his cousin to join the new Redlands colony. Many new residents were attracted to Southern California because of consumption, now known as tuberculosis. T.B. could be treated then by getting the patient to a warm, dry climate immediately. Many pioneer residents of Redlands, such as James S. Edwards, came to Redlands expecting a short life but lived on to have long lives. Judson and Brown needed the talents of Dr. Seymour for the growing community. As a female doctor, her services included caring for Native Americans, day laborers, and the 500 people living in Redlands. She expanded her practice and traveled to Riverside three times a week for additional patients.

Dr. Seymour found the "Prospect House" in poor condition and services inadequate. Hauling water from the zanja was entirely out of the question and she sought immediate relief from Frank Brown. He found a high elevation water supply at Crystal Springs in Reservoir Canyon (south side of Interstate 10 before the Yucaipa offramp). Brown surveyed a water line directly from the springs and piped water for the new

Prospect House. This same water source provided water for Summit Avenue prior to the 1891 Bear Valley high line construction.

Mrs. Seymour managed the Prospect Hotel for six years until 1887. Indian squaws helped with preparing meals, cleaning, and washing the linens. Seymour became involved in every aspect of the new colony. She helped garner funds for the 1883 Terrace Congregational Church, raising \$600 for the necessary \$1600 to build the church. Seymour became one of the first directors of the Redlands Water Company. The water company records indicate the monthly meetings took place at the Prospect Hotel.

Seymour moved from Prospect House in 1886 and built another residence for herself at 521 Chestnut Avenue, which is standing today. While Seymour provided medical attention for the new colony and managed the Prospect Hotel, she probably provided the cash-strapped Judson and Brown financial help in the early days of development. The name "prospect" was probably her idea for the new hotel in 1882. New Haven, Connecticut has a Prospect Street adjacent to Brown Street in the neighborhood where the Brown family lived.

Understandably tiring of the rigors of running a hotel while practicing medicine, Dr. Seymour asked for a relief. Judson and Brown replaced Dr. Seymour with a new manager, Dr. J. A. Mack in 1887. Dr. Mack's ad in *The Citrograph* for 1887 reads: "PROSPECT HOUSE, the largest, finest and most thoroughly equipped hotel in Redlands, offers special advantages to visitors, and patrons may rely on receiving the best possible attention. Everything first class. Dr. J. A. Mack, Proprietor." Advertisements in the papers provided that the rates at the Prospect House were from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per day.

Dr. Mack came to Redlands from Syracuse and the Midwest with the Chicago Colony in 1886. Dr. Mack soon found competition from a number of hotels being built in both Redlands and Lugonia. The Terrace Villa in Lugonia opened on The Terrace in 1886. The Windsor Hotel was located on West State Street and The Baker House was popular for guests on Orange Street. The distance from the railroad stations on Orange Street spelled doom for the Prospect Hotel as a competitive business operation.

Dr. Mack managed the hotel for one year and was superseded thereafter by Jere Robinson as a new manager. Robinson closed the door on the Prospect Hotel a few months later, since patronage was divert-

ed to the more pretentious hostelrys new in downtown Redlands.

Prior to closing Prospect House in 1888, the San Bernardino *Courier* published this March 31, 1888 article concerning a tour of the valley. This is a typical newspaper report "booming" the Southern California vicinity and was reprinted in the Redlands *Citrograph*.

"An excursion from Los Angeles and way points is due at Redlands on next Friday. This excursion is under the auspices of the Redlands Board of Trade. It is not organized for the purpose of an auction land sale by any means, but merely with a view of showing people in search of locations for homes what Redlands and San Bernardino valley generally have to offer them. They will be driven through the Terracina section and thence along the curve-crested heights of Redlands to the Prospect House, where lunch will be spread. And, should the weather be propitious, what a magnificent "prospect" will be open to their delighted vision from the height on which the Prospect House stands. Redlands with her meadow like fields and picturesque landscape will be at their feet so to speak. Radiant orange groves, orchards full of the purple glory of the peach and the almond blossoms; luminous shrubbery and a wealth of bloom and blossom, flowery parterres and resplendent evergreen gleaming in the luxurious wantonness of contrasted hues and complementary colors, while across the creek the sylvan splendor of Lugonia Terrace will give a magnificent background to the local landscape. To the right the magnificent masses of the San Bernardino range, with the two royal mounts towering far above the surrounding satellites and Mount San Jacinto just visible in the southeast background; to the north the mighty curve of the northern range trending gracefully around the horizon mile of the San Gabriel sweeping away to Los Angeles; to the southwest the Riverside and Temescal ranges softened by distance in outline and beautifully blue looking like the vast expanses of the serenely beautiful San Bernardino Valley, its masses of color glowing into a glorification of sylvan splendor. Nowhere in California can a lovelier view be had than from the Prospect hill. Nowhere, even in the south, is the view so rich in the union of what is mighty and magnificent in scenery with what is picturesquely sweet, soft, splendorous, luxurious, varied, luminous and voluptuous--for in its wealth of color and blending and contrast of color and refulgent diversity of color, and variety of vegetation, the scenic effect is simply voluptuous."

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