



REDLANDS CHRONICLES

October 2010

Sherli Leonard and Redlands Conservancy

Monday, October 25, 2010, 7 p.m.

Assembly Room, A.K. Smiley Public Library

Redlands is fortunate to have three organizations interested in historic preservation. Redlands Area Historical Society, Redlands Historical Museum Association and Redlands Conservancy have all staked a claim to preserving Redlands' historic past.

Sherli Leonard, executive director and project manager of the Redlands Conservancy, will speak at the Historical Society meeting October 25th in the Assembly Room of A.K. Smiley Public Library, 7:00 p.m. She has been the executive director since 1995.

Leonard has participated in the preservation of the Mission Bowl House, the Alta Street cottage, the Marten Andersen house, the Barton School relocation and restoration, and the Zanja Trail and Greenway project.

Leonard will focus some of her discussion on the Barton School restoration and Mill Creek Zanja trail. Members of the Redlands Conservancy Historical Preservation Committee

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Old House Group Meeting

Wednesday, October 27, 2010, 6:30 p.m.

2064 Orange Tree Lane

Edwards Mansion was built on Cajon Street in Redlands, California, in 1890. Ready-made plans were purchased by Mr. James S. Edwards, pioneer citizen, businessman and citrus grower. This home was a prominent landmark on the Redlands landscape for many years and was originally situated on a slight rise of ground from which one could see in all directions with twenty acres of young orange



Edwards Mansion on Orange Tree Lane

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A Letter from your President...

The new Redlands Area Historical Society Board of Directors had their first meeting September 7th and began immediately to plan for the year. Ron Running plans a web page presentation for our next meeting. Two board members could not make the first meeting so we delayed the vote on some board positions until our next meeting. We did vote for the president position. I won?

Ron Running plans a web page presentation for our next board meeting. We kept our plan to have Ger and Linda Brassfield produce DVDs of our meetings. We present one copy of the DVD to the speaker and one for the archives of the Heritage Room.

Leslie Irish discussed several homes on the agenda of our Old House Group. She plans a trip to the Edwards Mansion for October 27th. When Don Wilcott moved the venerable Victorian in 1973, he was scrutinized by supporters and critics. The move was a real news story in Redlands as the two halves of this giant 1890 home creaked down Cajon Street. Hundreds, if not thousands, viewed the move and literally people can tell you the story today as eye-witnesses. In hindsight, the saving of the home was one of the first adaptive reuse projects of the era.

We voted to support the Redlands Conservancy/Grove School's Barton School House project with a check for \$1500. This 1901 building is the oldest standing education structure in Redlands. The school rests on its new foundation but still needs a great deal of investment. Our society will have access to the completed project building. The donation is a continuing show of support for this project. We also voted \$1500 for the Heritage Room of A.K. Smiley Public Library. The Heritage Room needs our support more than ever due to city budget cuts.

Our future plans for programs include Sherli Leonard of the Redlands Conservancy on October 25th. In January, Larry Burgess and Nathan Gonzales will discuss their new book published by ESRI. February 28th we explore the architecture and residence construction of Garrett Huizing. The Power Point presents a biography on Huizing and the numerous homes he built in Redlands and the San Bernardino Mountains. I had fun this summer finding that Huizing built structures all over Redlands and Fawnskin. The March program is still in the works. My plan is to have a history of Mentone Beach. Really the program will cover the history of water spreading in our valley or the history of the San Bernardino County Water Conservation District. "Banking water" underground began in 1907 and the story has never been told.

Jack Brown donated three \$100 Stater Bros. gift cards at our Sept. 25 meeting. The board awarded the Old House Group and Hospitality Chairs each \$100 to cover their food expenses with another \$100 in reserve. Jack Brown was enjoyable throughout the evening despite the heat.

We also begin our annual search for the next heritage homes and businesses. Membership nominations receive our special scrutiny. Hundreds of eyes looking for potential structures to award aid our process so please give us those addresses. Keep your eyes peeled thinking "award winner" as you travel through Redlands, Mentone, Crafton and nearby areas. We are called the Redlands Area Historical Society for a good reason. Structures must be at least 75 years of age and not for sale.

Ron Running and I will conduct our third annual Hillside Cemetery Tour October 23rd at 2:00 p.m. for \$10 per person. We begin the hour-and-a-half walking tour at the 1922 Egyptian Mausoleum near the Sunset Drive entrance and cemetery office. Ron shows photos of the people we discuss along the route making the trip very interesting. The photos come from *Illustrated Redlands* showing Redlanders in 1897. We tour Block 4 which is the oldest part of the cemetery. Ron has photographed thousands of the grave stones for Find-a-Grave to aid in genealogy research.

Last night at our October 5th Board Meeting we elected Bill Blankenship, vice president; Steve Spiller, secretary and Sue McClure our new telephone respondent. Bill will also replace Susan Keith responding to technical questions on the web page.

Your President, Tom Atchley

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will discuss how historic preservation can make a difference in the second half of the Leonard presentation. Leonard's slides will illustrate the Conservancy projects.

Leonard serves on the board of directors for the California Citrus State Historic Park, the Kimberly-Shirk Association, the Redlands Art Association and the Crafton Hills Open Space Conservancy. She taught American History for 24 years, and has written critical reviews of classical music for the Riverside Press-Enterprise.

The Redlands Conservancy recently published a Driving Tour of the Historic Mill Creek Zanja that is available for \$10 at Gerrard's Market.

Hillside Memorial Park Cemetery Tour

Redlands Area Historical Society board members Ron Running and Tom Atchley plan to lead the third annual Hillside Memorial Park cemetery tour Saturday October 23rd from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00. The tour collects a \$10 donation for the historical society. The tour will begin at the 1928 Egyptian Mausoleum, which is located near the Sunset Drive entrance and the cemetery office. The tour ends near the Alessandro Street entrance and the first grave of the cemetery dated 1886.

The history of Hillside Park is given throughout the tour. Genealogy devotees find the tour helpful for the insight cemetery history can give to family research. The history of Redlands with its movers and shakers is reviewed, since the tour walks Block 4, the oldest section of the cemetery.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

All RAHS members are encouraged to submit articles for the *Redlands Chronicles* to Marie Reynolds at scmarie@yahoo.com by the 1st of each month.

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trees surrounding it. The house was not at first used as a family home but was a boarding house for several years.

Mrs. Edwards lived in the house until her death in 1958. In 1967, Plymouth Village acquired the house and used it as office headquarters for six years. In 1973, the developers of the Edwards Mansion complex viewed the house as a classic exhibit of Victorian architecture and felt that it should be restored. The mansion was purchased for the sum of one dollar, cut into two sections, moved five miles through Redlands and relocated on the site of the old Barton Ranch. Adjacent to the mansion stands the Orange Tree Wedding Chapel. The stained glass windows and pews incorporated into this structure were once part of the first Evangelical Lutheran Church built in Redlands on Olive Avenue in 1904. Nearby are the Greenhouse, the Orangery patio, Tea Garden and a number of pavilions.

Don, Sue and Chris Wilcott operate the property as a family run business and have graciously invited us to view the grounds and the buildings. Commercial "reuse" or "repurposing" of historic structures is an interesting trend and the subject of both support and a bit of controversy. The Wilcotts have made a huge investment in these historic structures and offer this venue as a tribute to J. S. Edwards and the pioneer citizens and citrus growers whose courage and vision have left with a rich heritage of culture and industry. Join us please and listen to the family discuss their past accomplishments and plans for the future.

There will be no Old House Group meeting in November and the December meeting will be our Christmas Party at the 2010 Heritage Award-winning home of Susan Pyle. Mark your calendar and join us for the Christmas Party on December 8th.