

REDLANDS CHRONICLES

April, 2010

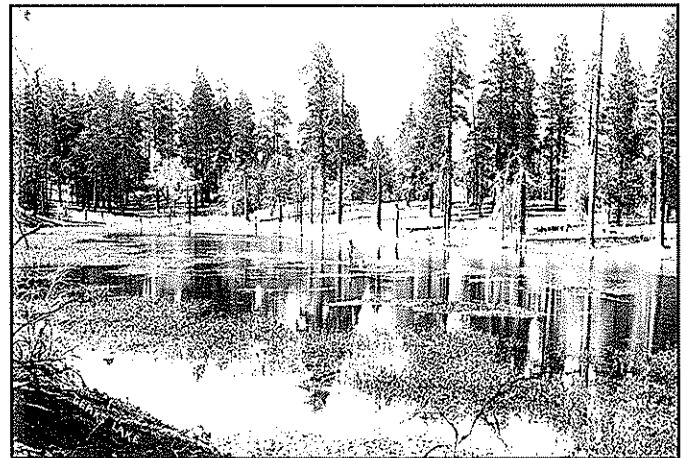
Into the Mountains in the 1890s

Monday, April 26, 2010, 7 pm
Assembly Room, A. K. Smiley Public Library

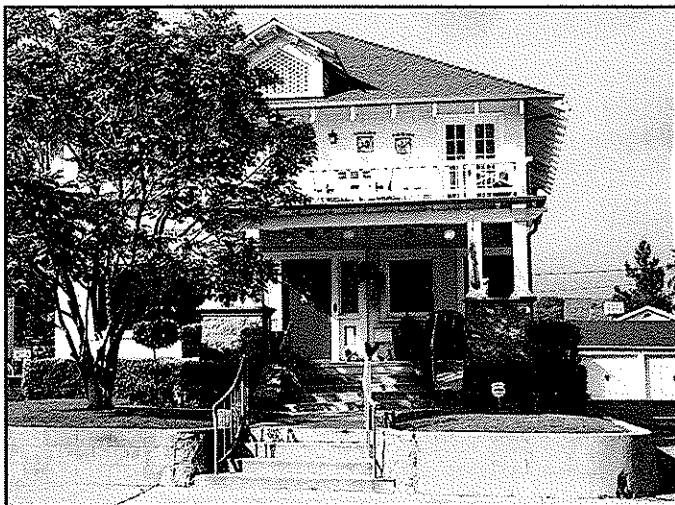
Take a leisurely burro ride, horse caravan, mule driven wagon, stage or the Mountain Auto Line to Big Bear while watching this program of the Redlands Area Historical Society.

Using photos from the 1880s through 1930s, Tom Atchley, history teacher at Redlands High, developed a slide show for the Forest Service Interpretive Service in the 1970s. This slide show has been viewed by hundreds of forest visitors at the San Geronio Amphitheater and the Visitor Information Service headquarters in Barton Flats.

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Jenks Lake



McClure home at 24 South Eureka Street

Old House Group Meeting

Wednesday, April 28, 2010, 7pm
24 South Eureka Street

The April Meeting will be held at the home of Chalmer and Sue McClure. This 1890 Classic (Victorian) Box Style home was built for Frank Myler, a gardener, by R.C. Cunningham. Later, in 1905, it underwent a major remodel for John Eberle Payton, a local physician and son of Daniel Payton, also a physician. The Historic Resource Inventory (HRI) for the home indicates was a single story until Dr. Payton added a second story at a reported cost of \$3,800.00.

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A Letter from your President.....

San Bernardino is getting into a historical bicentennial mood. On April 12th Cal State San Bernardino will celebrate "Indigenous Pre-Hispanic People in San Bernardino" at the Pfau Library.

The California Theatre will host the San Bernardino Symphony May 1st with a "Celebrate America" concert.

Railroad Days will be celebrated May 8th and 9th at the San Bernardino History and Railroad Museum.

May 15th is set for the elaborate gala at the National Orange Show Events Center.

May 16th marks the History Fair in Loma Linda. Our society plans to participate in this event along with a tour of the Zanja for the San Bernardino Pioneer Historical Society.

Centennial Monument is set for rededication on the actual 200th anniversary, May 20th.

San Bernardino launches a bicentennial parade on May 22nd through the downtown.

The popular Route 66 celebration in September hopes to continue the celebration theme with a large Bicentennial Banner. Get your name on the banner by contacting visit sanbernardino200.org.

The board is still enlisting your interest by asking if you'd like to serve on the board this coming year? Ron Running, Sandie Green and Janet Cosgrove face term limits and retire for at least a year this June. Don't be shy about your enthusiasm to serve. We enjoy our monthly board meetings and will improve with new ideas from new board members. I can almost assure your successful election.

We have a walking tour of Downtown Redlands planned for Sunday April 11th. The tour begins at Ed Hales Park on the corner of East State and Fifth Street at 2:00 p.m.

I had an enjoyable Spring Break. The Junior Redlands Historical group of Redlands High planted pepper trees in the 1902 Pepper Park on Church and Central on Arbor Day.

This corner of Redlands was once our eastern city entrance following Central Avenue west. Garrett Huizing and his brother owned the Excelsior Grocery Store located in the second home east of Church Street. Huizing promoted the land gift by the Central Avenue home owners. The property then was the northern boundary of the Lowell School. Later that same area was part of Redlands Junior High and since 1972 north campus of Redlands High.

The City transferred title of the park to the school district in the 1980's, since the park was irrigated and cared for by school district personnel. The new trees should give the park a new revival for this century. Three of the 1902 original plantings remain. Garrett Huizing and Jennie Davis are smiling from above.

Your president, Tom Atchley

(Continued from page 1)

The slides begin dramatically with an aerial view of Highway 38 in 1914 above Greenspot. The "highway" had just been christened "Rim of the World Drive" and the roadway clearly was nothing but rocks cleared off the sandy Mill Creek alluvial fan. Mill Creek Zanja can be seen in the aerial view with a noticeable tree-lined path. Greenspot store built in 1910 and the Rocky Comfort gas station mark the beginning of the trip to Bear Valley.

Bear Valley Irrigation Company hired Isaac Ford, a young engineer, to photograph views of the newly completed Bear Valley Dam (Big Bear) in 1885. Ford would photograph the completed dam with scaffolding still in the picture and the scows used to float cut stone remaining.

Bear Valley Irrigation Company purchased a camera, packing kayaks and necessary equipment for Herve Friend to photograph the trail to Bear Valley and the dam in the 1890s. The photos would be used to promote the sale of Bear Valley stock in Chicago, New York, New Haven and London.

Unintentionally, the Friend photos launched an era of tourism into the mountains to view the unusual wonders of Southern California. Peter Forsee's apple orchard at Forseeville, Big Falls in upper Mill Creek, and Bonita Falls in Mountain Home Canyon were the sights seen in the first hours of travel.

Samuel Armstrong's cabin at the crest of Mountain Home, Hotel de Santa Ana on Forsee Creek, Matthew Lewis's resort on the Santa Ana River provided camping spots for the end of the first day of travel.

Hiram Clark's ranch, the switchbacks of Clark's grade, the meadow around Bluff Lake beckoned after fishing and resting for a couple of days. Bear Valley, the Gus Knight Hotel and the wonders of the Bear Valley Dam and newly created reservoir attracted hundreds of adventurers. Gus Knight and John Metcalf rented canoes for fishing and provided fresh beef for the evening meal. Lake Tahoe trout were planted assuring large fish counts for each angler. Duck hunters found a paradise in the fall of each year around the reservoir and nearby Baldwin Lake.

Redlands captured the mountain trade with free camping in Sylvan Park, then selling sporting goods, groceries, and camping equipment. Camp Redlands was opened west of Mountain Home Village (Igo's) with Chamber of Commerce support.

In a valiant show of 1913 spirit, Redlands teachers, University of Redlands professors and Chamber of Commerce promoters all brought shovels, picks and willpower to improve the road in Mill Creek after the disastrous freeze in January.

Tom Atchley is a graduate of the University of Redlands 1973. He has a BA in government/history and a MA in pupil personnel. His interest in mountain history began while delivering milk for Crafton Dairy at age 16 to the camps surrounding Barton Flats. His connection with the mountains continued working every summer from 1968 to 2005 for the Forest Service. In 1968, Atchley was part of the trail crew that constructed the Fish Creek Trail to Lake Peak and the divide below Mount San Gorgonio.

After the winter of 1969, Atchley with three other trail crew members rebuilt portions of the Vivian Creek Trail and learned the hardships of a "misery whip."

In 1970, Atchley served the Forest Service road crew rebuilding the road from Clark's Ranch to Mill Creek Road in Big Bear.

Beginning in 1978, the Forest Service hired Atchley to provide interpretive services in the Barton Flats recreation area. He developed slide programs on the history of the area, wildlife, Native Americans, wildflowers, wildfires, water development, lumber industry, San Gorgonio Wilderness, and recreation opportunities in the San Bernardino National Forest.

Atchley concluded his involvement in the mountains as the first Forest Service Concessionaire managing Heart Bar Campground. He eventually managed all the Forest Service camps, group camps, hiking trails, interpretive signs, Jenks Lake and the host program for each camp.

The program is free and open to the public.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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

(Old House, continued from page 1)

The HRI describes the home as having a hipped roof, a gabled and latticed dormer and a flat board and "x'd" railing over a balcony supported by four columns on cut stone foundations arranged in sets of two at each side of the porch steps. A large bay window is located under an extended east and south facing windows within a shingled "pop-out" supported by decorative beams with "dragon mouth" detailing. The same detailing appears in the beams supporting the balcony and in the extended rafters. Approach to the house is via two sets of painted handrail lined stairs with four steps each leading passed a raised block retained yard to a broad front porch with two brightly painted plain front doors.

A painted brick chimney is located on the south side of the structure. Two doors (one French style) open onto the second floor balcony. The front door is located in the center and flanked by leaded glass. This wood frame building has shingle siding on the second floor and ping board siding on ground floor extending to the foundation.

Sue McClure adds: Dr Payton was educated in Willamette, Oregon and graduated with his medical degree in 1877. He came to Redlands to practice medicine in 1895 with his wife, Eliza Kenney, and daughter Grace. Records indicate that he lived next door; perhaps while he enlarged this house to allow him to live and have his office in at the same location. The northerly (front) door leads to what was his office and waiting room which we now use as a music room. From there one would pass through a pocket door to a study with built-in bookcases where the doctor did his exams which is now our TV/ family room. Under the carpet we found black and white asbestos tile floor (we were hoping for wood but that might be a better choice for a doctor's office.)

Sue describes her house today this way: What is most spectacular about this house is the flooring. The downstairs living and dining rooms have quarter sawn oak that we have recently refinished. The upstairs is a dark stained fir. There is fantastic wood trim through most of our house. There are leaded glass windows downstairs and some 1920 lighting fixtures that still are being used. We have a maid's staircase and a basement. We have recently rewired the whole house and updated the heating and air conditioning. We will begin with the plumbing in the near future. The house has a beautiful formal dining room with a pass through door, a pantry that was made into a downstairs bathroom, and a cute kitchen. There are three bedrooms upstairs as well as a large sunroom that has been divided into two rooms and an upstairs laundry. We have recently updated the sunroom with energy efficient but historically sensitive windows. We have a deck upstairs and a wonderful porch downstairs. This house was almost bought by for the glass museum, but that deal fell through and we have been blessed to live here in the middle of town with the Smiley brothers looking through our living room window and watching the world pass by. If only our walls would talk - I guess that is what this historic house club is all about - digging into history to find those stories and adding a few of our own.

Come join us and tour this lovely home.

San Bernardino Bicentennial Celebration Events

The City of San Bernardino is commemorating it's 200th anniversary since the founding of the City in 1810. The year long celebration has already started with the San Bernardino Railroad Days event coming up on May 8 and 9, 2010. The event will be held at the San Bernardino History and Railroad Museum on Third Street. There will be model train layouts, historical exhibits, old cars and trucks displayed.

The special feature of the railroad event will be the arrival of steam locomotive #3751. In fact you will be able to ride on rail cars being pulled by the locomotive. On Saturday, May 8th you can take the 7 a.m. Metrolink from San Bernardino to Los Angeles and then return from Los Angeles via locomotive #3751 arriving in San Bernardino at 10:30 a.m.

On Sunday, May 9th Locomotive #3751 will depart San Bernardino at 4 p.m. and then you will return via the Metrolink on Sunday evening. Round trip tickets for each day at \$85 and \$105 for the dome car and special car. For tickets call Allen Bone at (909) 792-3827 or email: sbrrdays@me.com

Other Events

- May 15 Bicentennial Gala at the National Orange Show
- May 16 Mayor's Run at the Inland Empire 66ers Stadium and a Festival of Faiths at the Western Region Little League Stadium
- May 20 Centennial Monument rededication at Inland Center Drive and "I" Street.
- May 22 The Bicentennial Parade will start at 7th and "E" Street ending at Meadowbrook Park.
- May 26 "The History of Lake Arrowhead" lecture by Russ Keller at 1 p.m. in room PL 4005 of the Cal State Library fourth floor.
- June 17-18 San Bernardino's Got Talent competition



For additional information contact Erin Brinker at (951) 323-9337.

Looking For Ditches in All the Right Places

Last month the Junior Redlands Historical Society completed the Redlands Conservancy project on the Mill Creek Zanja. Public school and private fourth grade classes will receive lesson plans, PowerPoint and text for the slide show on the Zanja. We copied all the information on thumb drives, so each school has its own complete program. The information fits nicely into the fourth grade curriculum for both local and California history. The finished product represents many hours of research, writing, scanning, photography and editing. As a by-product of the effort, we assembled a complete photo journal of the Zanja for 2009.

In February, I suggested the club look for the last vestiges of the Sunnyside Ditch or maybe the Judson & Brown first irrigation ditch to Redlands. Bear Valley Mutual Water Company kindly supplied me with an 1889 map drawn by Isaac Ford and E. H. Converse. The map covers the earliest irrigation projects in the east San Bernardino Valley. There are no streets on the 1889 map, just section numbers and topography with contour lines.

Lugonia pioneers began building the Sunnyside Ditch in 1874 to replace the Berry Roberts 1867 ditch. Colonel Tolles led the effort that ran out of funds after digging the first half-mile through the Mill Creek drainage. This ditch was designed to carry half of the flow of the Santa Ana River to the Lugonia settlement located between the present Church Street and Texas Street. Many of the settlers' early homes were built along North Street, which today we call Pioneer.

Dr. J.D.B. Stillman bought land in Lugonia by 1877 and began planting an extensive vineyard. He provided the "deep pockets" to bolster the effort to complete the new Sunnyside Ditch. One finger of the completed ditch was designed to deliver water to his vineyard. C.C. Miller of Riverside was the construction boss or foreman. Fred Perris, civil engineer later for the Santa Fe Railroad, surveyed the route and Edward Glover Judson was the construction accountant. Judson ran ads in the San Bernardino paper advertising jobs and the need for fifty men.

The South Fork Ditch "Sunnyside Division" was completed in 1877 and brought water through a rock-lined ditch to Lugonia. George Beattie tells us



*Judson & Brown Ditch
Built in 1881*

(Ditches, continued from page 5)

that the large stones lining the ditch were sealed with red clay from Redlands. Beattie feared the rampaging waters might wash away the boulders. His expectations were not met and the Sunnyside Ditch was eventually converted to a pipeline and domestic service as well as irrigation. In 1887, the Lugonia Domestic Water Company built the Sunnyside Reservoir providing Lugonia with clean water under pressure. Part of the old line is on Brighton Street in Mentone.

We looked for the Sunnyside Ditch in February. We hiked from the north end of Crafton Avenue and found the old Sunnyside easement traveling through an orange grove. Sure enough, the ditch was down the center of the easement heading directly to the reservoir on Salerno Street in Mentone. I suspect the Sunnyside Reservoir was located where the current Bear Valley Reservoir and City of Redlands well are located today.

Following the easement we hiked through the west end of the San Bernardino Water Conservation District land west of the old Lockheed site. We found the Sunnyside Ditch was now concrete pipe and just north of the Hinckley Water Plant. No doubt the Redlands Bear Valley Canal used the pathway of the original ditch after the Big Bear dam was constructed in 1885. This ditch is located at the 1765 foot altitude and is North 34 degrees 04.845 and West 117 degrees 07.620. We followed the ditch north to Mill Creek wash, where it goes underground using

an inverted siphon. The gunite arch over the canal was completed from 1927-1928. Prior to this both animals and people had drowned in the open ditch. John Paul Frehner is shown standing on the gunite arch in one of the photographs. The other Sunnyside photo looks north towards the mountains showing the Santa Ana River in the distance.

Flushed with our success we met the following weekend and proceeded to find the 1881 Judson & Brown Ditch. We followed the same path that led to the Sunnyside Ditch and then headed due west through Redlands Conservancy property northeast of the airport. Within a short distance we found what is surely the first irrigation ditch to Redlands.

Judson and Brown bought 50 shares of the Sunnyside Ditch from E.A. Ball, a Lugonia pioneer that had farmed in Lugonia with Berry Robert's in the 1860's. Judson and Brown needed more water for their Redlands Colony. They found a spring in Morton Canyon and developed this spring. They then proceeded to make history in a novel exploration of the debris cone at the mouth of the Santa Ana River. Spending \$25,000 of their recent land sale money, Brown hired Richard Morton and his men to dig two tunnels into the wash. The first tunnel was a disappointment with only 30 inches of water "discovered." The second ended up successful with 130 inches of water "developed." This project predates the Chaffey exploration by two years and may be the first tunnel project for irrigation in the west. We often think of Frank Brown and the building of the

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(Ditches, continued from page 6)

Bear Valley dam as his major innovation. These tunnels mark the beginning of water development and exploration that are simply unique in irrigation history.

Judson and Brown barely had enough water to make their colony successful. Their ditch was constructed to carry 400 inches of water. The ditch is located at the altitude of 1730 feet above sea level and is located at North 35 degrees 05.148 and West 117 degrees 07.382. John Paul Frehner and Lawrence Frehner followed the ditch for a half-mile. The photographs reveal that it is also rock-lined but cemented in many locations. Brown and Judson could not afford loss of water to percolation or evaporation and covered their ditch. Some of the photos reveal the original wood frames that covered this 1881 ditch.

Native Americans constructed the ditch following the survey work of Frank Brown. This ditch extends five and a half miles to Reservoir Canyon, which we now call Ford Park. The Judson and Brown ditch was the first irrigation ditch built exclusively to irrigate land in Redlands.

The trestles crossing the gullies and Mill Creek wash have long since disappeared. We found a Native American milling site near the canal. Their ditch is about four feet deep and some five feet in width.

We were somewhat astonished to find the ditch in such good shape. The last water to flow to Redlands through the canal was in 1891. We now intend to find the Berry Roberts Ditch of 1867 or perhaps some of the Bishop Tenney Ditch of 1856. Our sights are set on North Judson Street and the unexplored wash in that area.

-by Tom Atchley

GENEALOGY NEWS

Genealogy Jamboree 2010

Southern California Genealogical Society's Jamboree will be held this year on Friday, June 11 through Sunday, June 13, 2010 at the Burbank Airport Marriott Hotel located across the street from the Burbank Airport.

Each year the Jamboree offers a variety of genealogy classes, round table discussions, and even a Kids' Family History Camp. Early bird registration (before April 30th) is \$95 for all three days or \$45 for a single day ticket. Pre-registration (May 1 to June 1) is \$105 and \$55 respectively. Walk-In registration is \$120 and \$65 for single day tickets.

In years past several of our members have taken advantage of the discount offered at the Marriott hotel for the duration of the conference. If interested you can either make your reservations online or by calling (800) 736-9712. Mention the code GENGENA. Hotel reservations must be made before May 10 to receive the Jamboree discount.

For more information on the seminar topics and registration go to www.scgsgenealogy.com or phone (818) 843-7247.

Other Events

Date: Saturday, April 10, 2010
Event: Yucaipa Valley Genealogical Society
Speaker: Jean Wilcox Hibben
Topic: Communicating in Your Ancestor's Homeland Understanding Other Cultures Can Make or Break Overseas Research
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Place: Yucaipa Branch Library

Date: Sunday, April 25, 2010
Event: Family History Research Class
Speaker: Yvonne Gadbois
Topic: FamilySearch Indexing
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Redlands LDS Stake Center
Fifth and Wabash Streets