

September 2011

The History of Packing Houses in Redlands

Monday, September 26, 2011, 7:00 p.m.
Assembly Room, A.K. Smiley Public Library

The summer newspapers were filled with items about the Mutual Orange Distributors Packing House and the subsequent decision by the City Council to sell the building to George Krikorian. Preservation organizations in Redlands led the charge to save this structure and use the facility to create a history museum in Redlands.

The Redlands Area Historical Society was sensitive to the Krikorian proposal since the plan might mean the demise of the building. Listening to speakers about the significance of this packing house seemed to have little impact with the City Council. Councilman Harrison opposed the project but not for any reason presented by a concerned public.

With this in mind, the Redlands Area Historical Society chose the history of our local packing houses as its September program. The Society's goal has always been to educate the citizenry about significant Redlands history and preserve both archival materials and historical structures.

The program will include slides of the early packing houses and how they operated. Redlands eventually dominated the Naval Citrus Industry with thousands of carloads of oranges shipped each year. Redlands pioneers George W. Meade and Charles Paine were both innovators in the fruit packing industry. Congress included

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Old House Group Potluck Dinner

September 21, 2011, 6:30 p.m.

Hugh and Aimee Tucker McCulloch House
1766 Canyon Road

This year's annual Potluck Dinner will be held at the 2011 Heritage Award-winning home of Dr. Ed and Nancy Garrett.

The Garrett's have graciously offered their home as the site of our September 21st meeting, normally held on the 4th Wednesday of the month, this earlier date accommodates the homeowner's schedule. We hope you

The Garrett's Home at 1766 Canyon Road was Built in 1926

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A Letter from your President...

I hope all of our Redlands Area Historical Society members have had an opportunity to enjoy what was once again a near perfect Redlands summer. With the children going back to school and football season beginning it is time again to resume our programs for the year.

At the 36th Annual Heritage Awards and Ice Cream Social held on June 8th I was nominated to become your next President. As your new President I have the honor to follow in the enormous footsteps of our past President Tom Atchley. Tom served one year as the Vice President and five years as our President and accomplished much on behalf of the Society. Tom's service to the Society will continue in the year ahead as an Ex-Officio Board Member, Past President, frequent contributor to the newsletter, speaker and tour guide at all society fundraisers, mentor and much more. We also said thank you to outgoing board member Kathy Beall for her service to our Board and the Society. To replace our outgoing Board Members we added two new members of our Board of Directors, Ron Running and Kathy Behrens. In addition, the membership voted for the following slate of officers: Ron Running, Vice President – Susan Rettig, Treasurer – Steve Spiller, Secretary.

For those of you who have not met me I am a third generation member of my family to have been born and raised in Redlands. I live in a Victorian cottage that was built in 1906 with my wife Tonja, five year old daughter Caroline and our dog Libby. I am the oldest of three children and today my parents reside on their small ranch in Crafton. For the past eleven years I have served as the Deputy Director for the Riverside County Building Industry Association, overseeing our Desert Region and Governmental Affairs operation for the Association. Tonja works for Liberty Mutual Insurance as a Senior Analyst and our daughter Caroline just started kindergarten. We are on a long road to restore our home and one day I expect we will be able to say we are done, if that is ever the case. For those who know me, I have great passion for my town of Redlands, politics, working in the garden, trap shooting and collecting unique Victorian Antiques. What I enjoy the most, are the Friday nights that Caroline and I attend together the RHS Football Games.

At the last meeting in June our Board voted to donate \$1,000.00 to the Heritage Auxiliary of the Assistance League and another \$1,000.00 to the Barton School House Project to help each organization continue their good work.

I would like to thank the Rochford Foundation for once again hosting our 36th Annual Heritage Awards and Ice Cream Social. I would like to recognize our Board Members who served on the 2011 Heritage Awards Committee, Chairman Steve Spiller, Tom Atchley, Kathy Beall, Leslie Irish, Sue McClure and Marie Reynolds, and Ron Running for his production of the program. Once again I would like to congratulate the following recipients of our 2011 Heritage Awards: 330 Orange Street, Gary Romano -18 South Eureka Street, Dory and Ralph Reeder - 425 South Eureka Street, Gene and Kelly Ayotte - 936 San Jacinto, Steven and Joan Smith - 407 Brookside Avenue, Marilyn Burchill and Dr. Rodney Collins - 1740 Canyon Road, Dr. Victor and Virginia Blankenship - 1766 Canyon Road, Dr. Ed and Nancy Garrett. Each award winner has played a tremendous role by preserving and maintaining our Redlands Heritage. Thank you to all who made this evening possible.

As we enter a new season the Redlands Area Historical Society's Board of Directors has been working to plan our Annual Pot Luck on September 21st at the home of Dr. Ed and Nancy Garrett and the first program meeting of the Society which will be held September 26th. In light of the MOD Packing House controversy our September 26th Meeting will be titled "*History of Redlands Packing Houses*" which will feature our own *Tom Atchley*. In addition, your Board has held a joint meeting with the Board of Directors of the Redlands Conservancy to hear a special presentation on Advocacy from Jennifer Gates, California Preservation Foundation. The two Redlands Organizations are working together on the planning all of the exciting activities of "**Historic Preservation Week**" that will take place in Redlands the week of October 24th to October 30th. If that is not enough, the month of October has been designated by your Board as "**Redlands History Tour Month**". We will feature four historic tours that will each serve as a fundraiser for the Society. For more information please see the article in our September newsletter.

As your new President it is my privilege to serve you and I am excited about the challenge ahead. I will look forward to seeing you at the one of many upcoming events that we have planned for this fall.

Your President, Bill Blankenship

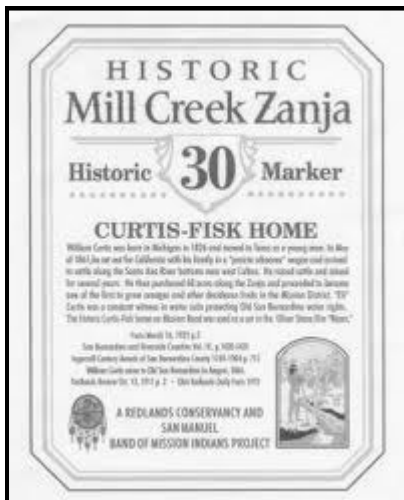
Historical Society and Social Media

Several months ago the Society established a page on Facebook.com, one of the major social media sites on the Internet. Over 150 persons have become “friends” of the Society’s page. The purpose of establishing a presence on Facebook was to provide frequent updates of our activities and events, to establish a connection with other community groups in Redlands, and establish a broader outreach to the community.

Facebook allows its users to post pictures and other documentation on its website. Many of our historic postcard images have been posted on the site for your enjoyment. If you haven’t already you are welcome to become a Facebook friend of the Historical Society and help expand our community awareness.

Junior Historical Society 2011 Project

The Junior Redlands Historical Society Club at Redlands High School has planned for a event filled year. Lawrence Beall, this year’s president of the club, has been working with the club’s officers over the summer to plan for fund raising and other activities for this year’s school term. The Club has exciting plans for development of an application which Redlands residents, businesses and visitors can use to more fully learn about the history of the Redlands area. The Club hopes to unveil and launch their project at next year’s Ice Cream Social in June 2012. The Club’s past projects have included historical research and documentation of the Zanja.



Historic Preservation Week

October 22nd – October 29th

The Historical Society and the Redlands Conservancy are jointly sponsoring and celebrating Redlands Historic Preservation Week during the last week in October. The impetus of having Preservation Week at this time is the fact that the California State Historic Resources Commission will be holding their fall meeting in Redlands on Friday, October 28th. The Commission meets quarterly to revise and approve applications for the State Historic Register. One of our members, Donn Grenda, is a member of the State Commission.

Activities of the week will start with the Society’s annual Hillside Cemetery tour on Saturday, October 22 at 3 p.m. led by Tom Atchley. On Monday evening, the Historic Society’s monthly meeting will be held at the Mitten Building at 7 p.m. where a panel discussion will be held on topic of Historic Preservation. Panelists will include guest representatives from other Southern California communities that have active historic preservation programs.

Tuesday evening, October 25 will include a special activity sponsored by the Society’s Old House Group. On Wednesday evening at 5:30 p.m. the Redlands Forum will be held at ESRI with Milford Wayne Donaldson as a guest speaker. Mr. Donaldson is a well known historic preservation architect and is currently the state historic preservation officer.

On Thursday evening, October 27 a reception for the State Historic Commission will be held. During the day on Thursday, the Commission will be given tours of the City and will be visiting some of our major historic resources. As mentioned previously, the Commission’s meeting will be held on Friday, October 28 during the day. Members of the public are encouraged to attend.

The week long celebration will finish with a tour of Downtown Redlands starting at 10 a.m. starting at Ed Hales Park on State and Fifth Street. The tour will be led by Tom Atchley and will last approximately two hours. Contributions of \$10 per person are suggested for all of the tours.

More detailed information will be published in the October edition of the Society’s newsletter as well on our webpage and Facebook page.

- by Ron Running

October is Redlands History Tour Month

- by Tom Atchley

October is truly Redlands Area Historical Society tour month. Our first tour is Saturday October 1st and is a walking tour of Center Street. We've had many requests for this tour. Over the summer the homes were researched and we are now ready. Starting at 9:00 a.m. the tour will begin at Center Street and West Crescent Avenue. The first half of this tour will end at Center and West Cypress around 11:00 a.m.

Mill Creek Zanja. The first tour begins at 10:30 a.m. at McDonalds on the corner of Wabash and Lugonia (Stater Bros. parking lot.) The fee is a donation to and fund raiser for the Redlands Bowl. Reservations must be made with the Redlands Bowl Association. A meal is part of the fee along with a comfortable air-conditioned bus. Tom Atchley takes the tour along the "Banks of the Zanja" from Greenspot to Loma Linda. Don't call the Redlands Area Historical Society because this is a Bowl tour.

The Center Street walking tour "second half" is Saturday October 15th beginning at 9:00 a.m. on the corner of Center Street and West Cypress. The fee is \$10. The tour is slated to end at West Olive and Center Street. This tour also includes Victorian homes, Heritage Award homes, Craftsman, Pueblo, Spanish Revival and a glancing notice of Normandy Court. The tour ends at McKinley School but walkers can regain those lost calories with an ice-cream or sandwich at the Olive Avenue Market.

By Saturday October 22nd Redlands should be in our traditional "Indian Summer" with autumn confused by warm days and cool evenings. Our annual Hillside Cemetery walking tour will begin at 3:00 p.m. near the 1920's mausoleum and cemetery office. The office is located next to the Sunset Drive entrance. This walking tour covers uneven ground and has some short jumps from curbs. Wheelchairs have a difficult time and are not recommended. The walking tour is two hours and ends at the first burial of 1886.

The history of the cemetery is discussed, as are prominent citizens of Redlands' past, gravestone art, previous cemetery issues and Find-a-Grave achievements. Tom Atchley narrates the tour and is ably assisted by Ron Running, vice-president of the Historical Society, who embellishes the pioneers discussed with photos from *Illustrated Redlands 1897*. A DVD with many photos is for sale. The tour donation is \$10 per person.

We end the "Tours of October" with a walking tour of Downtown Redlands Saturday October 29th. This tour begins at 10:00 a.m. at Ed Hales Park on the corner of East State and Fifth Street. The park is being remodeled so look for us on the nearby sidewalk. This

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Rollin B. Lane House at the Head of Center Street and West Crescent Avenue as Photographed by Elias Everitt

Those wanting only a downhill tour should park one vehicle on Cypress Avenue and take another to West Crescent and Center for the beginning. Good comfortable shoes are suggested. Friendly dogs securely attached to their owner are OK. The fee is \$10 per person and conducted by Tom Atchley

This tour passes by many remarkable Victorian gems, the "butler belt," several Heritage Award homes, the Wissahickon Inn, two Edward Judson homes and ends at the projected center of Judson and Brown's original 1881 subdivision. Redlanders will learn of the Gerrard's Market controversy that surpassed the recent Mutual Orange Packing House.

On Saturday October 8th the Redlands Bowl Association is sponsoring two bus tours of the historic

(October Tours continued from page 4)

tour is two hours and snakes through the downtown historic district. Tom Atchley researched the downtown building by building in the 1980's. This tour includes highlights of historical discoveries and is \$10. Last year over a dozen brave souls ignored the rain in December and enjoyed the walk. Rain is never a consideration for any outdoor events in Redlands.

Walking patrons are encouraged to have lunch at one of the many restaurants in the downtown. Tell the owners that you participated in a historic walking tour. Have them inform the Redlands City Council that tourism should be fostered in Redlands and that historic preservation pays.

(Packing Houses, continued from page 1)

special protections in both the Dingley Tariff and McKinley Tariff to satisfy the citrus farmers of California.

The Redlands District included Bryn Mawr, Loma Linda, Highland, Greenspot, Mentone and Crafton. Packing houses employed more people in Redlands than any other industry, and their presidents or managers packed more political, economic and social clout than even the City Council. Downtown Redlands was subject to the citrus industry economically. Water companies had one goal and that was irrigation.

Redlands revolved around citrus. The *Redlands Daily Facts* was almost a citrus magazine reporting all things about the Redlands crop. Schools adjusted to winter schedules, which allowed young boys to miss days due to smudging. Redlands history is first and foremost a citrus history and no better display of that history could be possibly better met than in a packing house.

Tom Atchley, past RAHS president, will present this program. The program is open to the public and especially the Redlands City Council.

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.



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345 Orange Street

Redlands, California

(Old House Group, continued from page 1)

will join us in touring and enjoying this wonderful property - "One of the most attractive homes ever erected here," reads The Redlands Daily Facts of January 29, 1927 in reference to the Hugh and Aimee McCulloch residence.

Part of an area known as the Country Club Park subdivision, The Redlands Daily Facts of June 12, 1926 outlines the perks of building in the area, including that Arthur Gregory provided a written guarantee with each land sale that he would provide oil and gravel roads. The home, as detailed in the newspaper during construction, was built for the sum of \$21,300. Special attention was given to construction techniques that aid heating and cooling. Rooms were specifically situated for the views.

Architect Garrett Huizing set about creating a showplace in the Spanish Colonial Revival style, popularized due to Helen Hunt Jackson's novel *Ramona* (published in 1884) and reinvigorated by the San Diego Panama-California International Exposition of 1915 in Balboa Park. Garrett Huizing is known for combining architectural styles and this home is no exception as it also has Mediterranean Revival style influences.

The two story irregularly shaped plan is based with a poured concrete foundation, basement, loggia, terraces, and walls. Details of the home include a dull red Spanish clay roof, cross gabled, in three shades and exterior beam work in natural redwood. The exterior finish was constructed of three coats of cement stucco. The multi-paneled recessed front door with its custom decorative hardware and quined and rope front door are in keeping with the Mediterranean Revival style of articulated door surrounds.

Several windows are covered with Spanish influenced iron decorative grills. Of particular interest are the many windows with carved wooden grills and shutters behind the grills. At the rear of the house on the second floor are exposed support rafters in the Spanish tradition. The garage has a plain parapet and flat roof. Walled courtyards surround the rear of the house and are entered through plain arched doorways and multi paneled doors.

Many local companies and craftsman were involved in the construction of the home including the Fletcher Planing Mill, Redlands Plumbing, and Lew Gist, the cement work. Sunset Tile Company of Redlands supplied all tile.

Hugh McCulloch selected the site of his home to build next door to his brother, Robert. Of Scottish and American ancestry, he too worked at the family coffee and sugar plantation in Cuba, United Sugar Company, which later sold to the Cuban American Sugar Company. Hugh married Aimee Tucker of New York in 1914. Aimee's father was a printing press inventor and educated his daughter for two years in Belgium.. Aimee and Hugh lived in Cuba until his retirement in 1925. As the Redlands home was completed in 1926 and they were getting settled, Hugh died in 1927.

Aimee continued to live in the home until her death at age 94 in 1963. Aimee is said to have been an astute investor in the stock market. Her death and will warranted articles and a column in the Redlands Daily Facts as she bequeathed \$20,000 in \$5,000 amounts to the First Congregational Church, Redlands Community Hospital, University of Redlands, and A.K. Smiley Public Library.

After her death, the home was sold to Dr. Steve and Mary Loper who lived in the home until 2008. The current owners, the Garretts, purchased the home in 2009. *(Taken from the 2011 Heritage Award Research by Kathleen Beall)*

Please join us in our celebration of this wonderful Redlands home and enjoy an evening under the stars, pool -side. To keep things simple and provide a variety as a general guide people with last names beginning with A - M please bring a covered main dish and those with last names beginning with N - Z, please bring a covered desert or side dish, however if you want to deviate from this and bring your favorite food or something special, please do so.

For questions or comments please contact - Leslie Irish (951) 201-5742.

The Redlands Conservancy and the Historical Society

Recent events concerning saving of the Mutual Orange Distributors Packing House building have brought the Redlands Conservancy and the Redlands Area Historical Society together to seek avenues for greater public awareness of the City's historic resources in the downtown area and throughout the city as a whole. Both groups have many areas of mutual concern over the state of historic preservation in the City.

On Monday, August 29th, a joint Board of Directors meeting was held at the A.K. Smiley Public Library. The guest speaker was Jennifer Gates, the director of Field Services for the California Preservation Foundation (CPF). Ms. Gates spoke on the role of citizen advocacy in Historic Preservation. CPF is a non-profit organization that offers support and technical assistance to communities, local organizations and private individuals in furthering their efforts to preserve our past for our future.

Jennifer outlined the roles that local community groups need to take to make the community and local officials aware of the need to preserve and enhance local historic resources. Ms. Gates spent the entire day touring Redlands and meeting with various representatives of city staff, the Historic and Scenic Preservation Commission and board members of the two organizations.

The Conservancy and the Historical Society boards are concerned not only about the future of the MOD packing house building, but the future of the entire downtown under the proposed amendment to the Downtown Specific Plan.

All of our members are encouraged to join and support the efforts of the CPF. Membership and contact information can be found at:

California Preservation Foundation
5 Third Street, Suite 424
San Francisco, CA 94103
Phone: (415) 495-0349
Website: www.californiapreservation.org

