



REDLANDS CHRONICLES

May 2012

HERITAGE AWARDS

& Ice Cream Social at the

Burrage Mansion

1205 W. Crescent Avenue, Redlands

Monday, June 11, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.



Burrage Residence, Redlands, Cal.

The Redlands Area Historical Society will hold its 37th Annual Heritage Awards and Ice Cream Social on Monday, June 11, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The event will be returning to the historic Burrage Mansion which is located at 1205 West Crescent Avenue. As a special treat at this year's Ice Cream Social we will be enjoying Redlands own Theron's Frozen Custard. In addition, we will be honoring seven homes of historic distinction from the Redlands area with Heritage Awards.

Attendees may park at the Burrage Mansion parking lot which is located off of Crescent Avenue at the top of the driveway or you may park on Crescent Avenue and walk up the stairs to the entrance of the mansion. RAHS Members are welcome to bring a guest.

We will look forward to seeing you Monday, June 11th.

A Letter from your President...

At our Annual Heritage Awards and Ice Cream Social I will conclude my first year as your President. As I look back on this past year your Board of Directors has made many accomplishments on behalf of the Society. Your Board has worked harder than ever to bring you interesting monthly programs, we partnered with the Redlands Conservancy to plan the first ever Historic Preservation Week and presented to you a diverse group of historic homes to tour with the Old House Group. We partnered again with the Redlands Conservancy to hold what I believe will be the model for an annual workshop on historic preservation with the Redlands City Council and the appointed Commissioners of the Planning and Historic and Scenic Preservation Commissions. The results of the workshop are already producing new civic policies that will help preserve our historic resources.

This last year we planned a full schedule of historic tours that were led by our past president, Tom Atchley. The tours included a two-part tour of Center Street, tour of Hillside Cemetery, State Street and a two-part tour of Cajon Street. The tours each year serve as the main fundraiser for the Society. In September we hosted our annual potluck dinner and in December we held our annual Holiday Party. The Society has a growing internet presence with our website and Facebook page. Finally, as I write this letter we are making the final arrangements for the 37th Annual Heritage Awards and Ice Cream Social which will be held at the Burrage Mansion on Monday, June 11th.

Your Board of Directors have done a commendable job representing you in 2011 and 2012 and the next time you have an opportunity to see one of them, please thank them for their hard work and dedication on behalf of the Society. They are, *Ron Running, Vice President; Susan Rettig, Treasurer; Steve Spiller, Secretary; Marie Reynolds, Board member/Newsletter; Leslie Irish Board Member/Chair Old House Group; Sue Mc Clure, Board Member/Hospitality; Kathy Behrens, Board Member and Tom Atchley, Past President.*

On Monday, April 23 we held another outstanding General Membership meeting, featuring Dr. Larry Burgess and Archivist Don McCue who presented the history of the A.K. Smiley Public Library Heritage Room. The library is celebrating the 40th anniversary of its Heritage Room which houses extensive collections of Redlands and Southern California, local Indian artifacts, the citrus industry and collections of local clubs and organizations of Redlands. *We thank Dr. Burgess for his foresight to develop the Heritage Room, which after 40 years has become a community treasure.*

On Wednesday, April 25th the Old House Group had an opportunity to spend an evening at the Ashbaker residence which is located at 837 West Palm Avenue. The house was constructed in 1947 and was a rare opportunity for our members to experience a finely restored adobe home. *We would like to thank Betty and Jeff Ashbaker for generously opening their home for our membership and congratulate them on preserving another Redlands treasure.*

I hope to see you all on June 11th as we come together for our 37th Annual Heritage Awards and Ice Cream Social. On behalf of our entire Board of Directors I want thank each member for your continued support of the Society's membership and our mission of education and preservation of Redlands historic resources.

Bill Blankenship

BURRAGE MANSION, PART IV

- by Tom Atchley

1995

There's no Place like Home.

Russell Schuelt and wife Tammy are new owners of the Burrage Mansion. Schuelt is an anesthesiologist and dentist at Redlands Dental Surgery Center.

-Nelda Stuck for the Redlands Daily Facts

2001

Burrage owner fights historic tag- Schuelt purchased the mansion 6 years ago. City Historic and Scenic Preservation Commission to nominate the home as historic landmark. City Council put off consideration. This is the first time the commission has nominated a property over the objections of the owner.

Commissioner Jan Korfmacher said the Burrage mansion is "one of the few mission revival houses in the country." The designation would require the owner to obtain approval for exterior improvements and subdivisions. The house had been vacant for 10 years after Jim Lotito sold it in the late 1980's.

-Nelda Stuck for the Redlands Daily Facts

Council Tables Historic Designation on 1901 Mansion.

Decision postponed because Councilman John Freeman was concerned over Sechelt's plans for the property. Owner claims designation lowers the value of the property. -The Sun

A Dedication to Preservation: Redlands Boosters Strive to Retain Special Heritage.

Historic preservation is woven into the fabric of Redlands. Story recalls a woman chaining herself to the porch of the Black home (1992) on north Orange Street. Councilman Kasey Haws supported preservation as "the single most important civic responsibility." Mayor Pat Gilbreath said, "we walk a fine line between property rights and public rights." Don McCue said, "The Burrage Mansion is one of a handful of properties that deserves the designation of landmark because of exceptional contribution to the fabric of the community."

Russell Schuelt opposed the landmark designation and asked the council to reverse it. Schuelt, a Redlands dentist, has lived in the home six years with his wife and 9 children. This is a honorific title. None of the city ordinances prohibits destruction of buildings designated historic. City can review demolition plans, though. -The Sun

Grand Scale: Palaces of the Empire.

17,000 square feet in mansion was the largest home built in Redlands up to 1901. Home originally had 29 acres with polo grounds, croquet courts, steam heating and a private reservoir.

The Sun

2004

Don McCue, archivist at Smiley Library writes about Albert Burrage and his mansion.

-Redlands Daily Facts

2005

Mansion Donation Planned.

Owner Schuelt may give it to a church. "The donation is the latest development in an ongoing clash between the owner's plans for the property and city officials seeking to safeguard it as a historic estate."

"Clearly, this is the most historic building in Redlands," Don McCue of the Historic Commission said. Owner Russell Schuelt contested city landmark designation. The Rock Church is prepared to oppose landmark designation as well. Four year old dispute illustrates how private property wishes can conflict with public desire to preserve. Schuelt purchased the property around 1995.

The mansion is considered an architectural landmark by the American Institute of Architects. An Orange County real estate firm lists the mansion for \$5 million. Schuelt sought to demolish the carriage house and subdivide part of the property. Jeff Shaw, Community Development Director, required an environmental review because of the historic value of the carriage house. In 2003, Schuelt began renting the venue for weddings without a city permit.

-Press-Enterprise

2006

Mansion's New Use? No one's Saying.

The Rock Church says plan is in the works. Letter sent by the church indicates a new, aggressive plan. Plan would likely

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subdivide a portion of the 17 acres. Historic status was granted by the Historic Commission in Nov. 2000. After four years of unresolved conflict, Schuelt donated the mansion to the Rock Church. The Rock Church has 5,000 members and is located on South Waterman Avenue in San Bernardino. Church leaders met individually with each council member and City manager John Davidson.

Jan Korfmacher, Preservation Commission chair, said the neighborhood is divided on the future use. Some feel a bed and breakfast would bring too much traffic. Others are adamantly against subdividing the property. In November, the commission voted 5-0 to designate the mansion a landmark. City Council must approve of the designation but this has not been placed on the agenda. An agreement preventing Schuelt, the church and the city from suing each other expires in April.

-Press-Enterprise

2007

The Rock Church wants to establish the historic home as a house of worship and subdivide the nearly 18

acres. Staff has reservations over the proposal. The church wants four residential parcels from 2 to 8 acres. Sale of the property would go toward preservation of the home. -The Facts

Redlands Community Action Alert.

The Rock Church plans to commercialize the neighborhood. www.burragcommunity.org

House on a Hill---Historic Mansion Back in Spotlight.

The Rock Church and World Outreach Center wants house of worship and wedding hall and subdivision of property with four lots. Previous owner Tammy Schuelt contended the neighbors, who oppose the project, don't understand the costs of maintenance of the huge estate. Planning Commission to hold a hearing Sept. 25th. -The Sun

Church Plans for Mansion on Hold.

The Rock Church and World Outreach Center had planned to convert the Burrage Mansion into a satellite worship facility. Neighbor residents were concerned about noise, traffic and possible parking lot. City Planning

Commission puts plans on hold until an environmental study is completed.

Jim Cobrae, The Rock's senior pastor, objects to an environmental study that could cost \$100,000 and take a year to complete. The Rock church claimed to have spent \$700,000 on the estate maintenance. "Don't think for a moment that we're going to dry up and die and blow away," Cobrae said. "There's no reason to expect some wealthy individual will come along to buy the mansion, keep the place in good shape and instantaneously solve the concerns surrounding the possible use of the mansion as a meeting space." -The Sun

2008

Estate's New Future: Plans kid's home Rochford paid Rock Church \$2 million for the 17 acre estate. -The Sun

Mansion's Owner Wants to Help Kids.

Lloyd "Tim" Rochford is chief executive officer of Arena Resources, an Oklahoma based oil and gas exploration, development and production company.

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They have operations in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and New Mexico. Rochford resigned in 1997. He maintains residences in Rancho Mirage and Lake Tahoe. Sold by the Rock Church for \$2 million Dec. 27th.

-Redlands Daily Facts

Restoring a Landmark.

New owner Tim Rochford to restore mansion to its original glory and turn it into a home for boys. Rochford expects monthly maintenance of the estate to be \$15,000 a month. Tenting mansion to kill termites. Rings bells every Tuesday and Saturday.

-Redlands Daily Facts

Readers didn't recognize Burrage mansion as a convent.

-Redlands Daily Facts

2009

Restoring a Jewel.

A place for events to support underprivileged children, and house the office of the Rochford Foundation. Since 2008, crews have worked daily to restore the estate. Rochford has split the estate into zones. First problem was a cave-in hillside that threatened the 108 year old mansion. Last two months section by section of the broken roof tiles were replaced. Outside of the home has been repainted white with pink trim and woodwork. Safety glass has been placed around the second-story entry. "Preserving the history of the estate is one of the missions of the Rochford Foundation." -Redlands Daily Facts

Burrages leave a Mansion and a church. -Redlands Daily Facts

2010

Burrage Oranges.

Tim Rochford combines historic restoration and serving local

children. Burrage oranges are for sale at Gerrards Market in 10 pound bags for \$4.99. All the proceeds will be donated to local children's charities.

-Redlands Daily Facts

Iconic Mansion still draws awe-Spanish Mission Revival masterpiece has been restored by the Tim Rochford Foundation. -Redlands Daily Facts

Time to Celebrate Big Day.

Laura Vroman celebrates her 96th birthday at the mansion. Both Tim Rochford and Laura Vroman are fellow clock lovers. -Redlands Daily Facts

2011

Burrage Welcomes Back Nuns.

Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters led by sister Millie Peaslee was in charge of Burrage Mansion in the 1960's. Notes from visit: Sister Millie came to Burrage as Mother Superior 1961-62. She was in charge of 18 to 23 sisters living in the mansion. Sister Millie first came to mansion in 1952 as a summer retreat and swept the front steps. Oranges were picked and sent to Foothill Packing House each year. Sister Sharon came to the mansion very young and along with Olivia and Elizabeth maintained the grounds. Sisters lived simply in the home. They worked with the poor of Redlands and carried out missionary work. Victory Noll Sisters are a teaching order. They also held Brownie and Girl Scout retreats. As many as 90 sisters might attend a summer retreat and sleep many to a room upstairs. Sisters riding a tractor through the grove was a common sight. Selling oranges to the public was encouraged. Sisters visiting were treated to a lunch in what was once their chapel. Tom Atchley was invited to attend and spoke briefly on how Redlanders appreciated the sisters while they

lived at the mansion. -Redlands Daily Facts

Annual Heritage Awards and Ice Cream Social held at the mansion on June 8th. Home receives an award from Redlands Area Historical Society.

Tim Rochford donates mansion for inaugural Firefighters Ball. Fire Department Ladder Truck Committee fundraiser has men in tuxedos and women in formal gowns reliving the formal glory days of the mansion. A 200 pound ladder truck cake was a center piece and dessert for the ball. Many Redlanders donated gifts for the ball.

-Redlands Daily Facts

GENEALOGY NEWS

Southern California Genealogy Jamboree

Friday – Saturday, June 8 – 10, 2012
Burbank Convention Center

Once again the Southern California Genealogical Society will be hosting their Genealogy Jamboree at the Burbank Airport Marriott Convention Center. The three day event will have over 50 speakers. Classes will be for beginners and experts. This year for the first time the exhibit hall will be free and open to the general public. The exhibits hall is a good place to ask questions, purchase books, and try out new genealogical software.

The registration to the event varies from \$70 for a single day to \$155 for all three days if you register prior to May 28. Further information and registration can be found at www.scgsgenealogy.com.

-Ron Running

Mural Project for Redlands High School

The Class of 2012 had some thought-provoking discussions just a month prior to graduation at the Redlands Bowl. They wanted to leave the school campus something that the alumni would embrace and that would last for generations as well. They adopted a Mural Project idea that will use the western white wall of Terrier Gym. They have arranged for a mural artist alum through the efforts of retired art instructor John Fisher. Plans are well underway for a depiction of the 1903 building along with Clock Auditorium from an original color post card of the campus. Students have met several times with Economics and Government instructor, Rose Sanders.

This project needs a fundraiser to pay for the paint, scaffolding rental, artist the other items necessary to get the job done. The mural will be clearly seen from the campus south parking lot. Terrier Gym offers a huge canvas for this mural. Christina Rivera, principal of Redlands High School, is on board with administrative support. When I chaired the Redlands High Centennial in 1991, alumni all thought of Redlands High and the original building torn down in 1956. Today, the most requested photograph for student clubs on campus are lining up on the steps of 1928 Clock Auditorium. At a recent meeting with the principal, Rose Sanders and her energetic husband offered to arrange for a big fundraiser over the course of a week. The theme is National Day of the Cowboy.

Here is the agenda for the fundraiser:

Monday July 23	The Coyote Creek Ramblers will perform at the Olive Avenue Market from 7-9 p.m.
Tuesday July 24	Write 'Em Cowboy! Writers Panel at A.K. Smiley Library from 6-9 pm. Guest authors are Robert Harper, Bob Wood, Rod Thompson, Nicholas R. Cataldo, Chuck Morris, J.R. Sanders and Paige M. Peyton.
Wednesday July 25	Kids Corral at the Frugal Frigate from 3-6 p.m. Activities, music, costume parade, cowboy story time, appearance by San Bernardino County Sheriff's Rodeo Queen Cynthia Boswell, and roping demonstration.
Wednesday July 25	Starting at Ed Hales Park (Fifth and State) Historic Downtown Redlands Walking Tour 6-7:30 p.m. \$20 donation with all funds benefitting the Mural Project.
Thursday July 26	Rustic Tea at The Eating Room -4-6 pm. Victorian fashions demonstrated by Ruth Clinnick, Daughters of Eve Victorian Clothier \$20 per person; seating is limited; advanced reservation required @ 909-792-5400
Friday July 27	Under the Cowboy Moon, An Evening with Belinda Gail and Dave Stamey in Clock Auditorium beginning at 7:30 p.m. Proceeds to benefit the Mural Project. These country western performers are the main fund raising effort and well worth while entertainers. Belinda Gail is a seven time Western Music Association Female performer of the Year. Dave Stamey has won three times as male performer of the year and the Will Rogers Award from the Academy of Western Artists.
Saturday July 28	Read 'Em Cowboy Book Fair at Barnes and Noble, Citrus Plaza from 11-3:00 p.m. Western authors and book signings, live music, children's activities, historical displays, prize drawings, Rodeo Queen and Young Writers contest.

So this is an ambitious project that deserves our support. Much better than the usual class prank. We should file behind the Class of 2012 and help them make this a reality. Summer can be boring in Redlands but this week in July we have entertainment and fulfill a good cause.

-Tom Atchley



West Highland Avenue

Evening Shadow Tours

Redlands Area Historical Society is announcing two tours of West Highland Avenue on June 16 and June 23 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. The walking tours will be led by Tom Atchley and cost \$10 per person. The descending summer sun and daylight saving time allows for a cooler evening walk as shadows and shade cross the earthen pathway and sidewalks.

The first tour on June 16th will begin at the corner of West Highland and Cajon Street and proceed west to Center Street. The second walking tour begins at West Highland and Center Street and will end at Highland/Cedar Point. Well-mannered leashed dogs are welcome.

West Highland Avenue is a popular street dubbed the "Butler Belt" in the early days of Redlands because of the large Victorian homes built there. Actually only a few of the homes employed butlers but maids were found in nearly all the homes. Judson and Brown subdivided the Residence Tract in 1886 and advertised lots at one-third down, one-third more when the domestic water arrives and one-third when the Redlands trolley system was inaugurated.

Bankers, packing house managers, health inspectors, oil magnates, land developers, newspaper publisher, both of Redlands' founders, an ambassador are just some of the career folks attracted to the street. The oldest home was built in 1887 just after the Redlands Domestic Water Company announced service to the tract. Building of Victorian, Craftsman, California Bungalow, Classic Box and other styles followed in a flurry of construction to 1900. Some of the leading architects of Redlands proudly displayed their designs in a variety of styles. Many of the homes are placed on three lots instead of one. Homes predated the sewer system, electricity and early automobiles but quickly adapted as the improvements became common.

Nearby Prospect Park owned by the England family, Kimberly Crest, the Fisher Mansion and well-manicured grounds gave the neighborhood distinction that carries on to the present.

-by Tom Atchley

