



# REDLANDS CHRONICLES

September 2012

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## Mission School: A History

Monday, September 17, 2012, 7:00 p.m.

The Contemporary Clubhouse

173 S. Eureka Street

The first program of the Redlands Area Historical Society's season will be a history of Mission School, from 1853 to the present. Tom Atchley will present a power point slide show at the Contemporary Clubhouse on Eureka Street September 17<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Atchley, a retired history teacher, produced a book on the history of Mission School, published by the San Bernardino County Museum Association as a Quarterly, Volume 57, Number 1, 2012. The booklet is available in the bookstore of the San Bernardino County Museum

The story begins with the first school in the Mission District, taught by Carlos Garcia, who instructed Native Americans to farm. In 1853, within the adobe-walled ruins of the Estancia, Mrs.

*(Continued on page 3)*



## Old House Group Potluck Dinner

Wednesday, September 19, 2012, 6:30 p.m.

Mission Gables Bowl House, Talbert Courtyard

168 S. Eureka Street

This year's annual Potluck Dinner will be held at the historic Mission Gables Bowl House. For this joint meeting with the Redlands Conservancy and in celebration the completion of the Mission Gables Project, the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City of Redlands and Preservation Week, it will be open to the public. RSVP please to help us plan for and to accommodate everyone comfortably.

*Mission Gables was constructed in 1898.*

*(Continued on page 4)*

# 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 hot, but a near perfect Redlands summer. With the children going back school and the many summer festivities drawing to a close in Redlands, it is again time to resume a full schedule of activities for the Society.

At the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Heritage Awards and Ice Cream Social, which was held on June 11<sup>th</sup> I was nominated to serve a second term as your president. In addition, the following board members were also nominated to serve an additional term in their current positions, Ron Running, Vice President, Susan Rettig, Treasurer and Steve Spiller, Secretary. We also nominated Tom Atchley, past president and Steve Spiller our current secretary to another term on the Board of Directors. I would like congratulate our 2012 – 2013 Board Executive Officers and thank Tom Atchley and Steve Spiller for agreeing to serve another term on our Board of Directors.

I would like to **thank Ellen Timothy and the Rochford Foundation** for once again hosting the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Heritage Awards and Ice Cream Social. A special thanks to **Dr. Terry Vines** for donating Theron's Famous Frozen Custard which made the ice cream social possible. I would like to specially recognize our board members and our Society volunteers who served on the 2012 Heritage Awards Committee, Chairman Steve Spiller, Ron Running (program production), Tom Atchley, Leslie Irish, Sue McClure, Marie Reynolds; Society Volunteers, Molly Davis, Robin Grube, Karen Flippin and Kathy Beal. Once again, I would like to congratulate the following recipients of our 2012 Heritage Awards: 756 Cajon Street, Joan and John Benson – 31539 East Highland Avenue, Dean and Cyndi Hovey – 5 Grant Street, Scott and Nancy Benart – 712 South Buena Vista, Dr. Scott and Marni Nelson – 208 Bellevue, Linda Slocum – 1121 Clifton Avenue, Allen and Lori Osborn – 1120 West Fern Avenue, Brent and Jennifer Mortensen – 201 Brookside Avenue, United States Post Office. Each award recipient has played a tremendous role by preserving and maintaining our Redlands heritage. Thank you to all who made this evening possible.

As we enter another season of activities the Redlands Area Historical Society's Board of Directors has been working with the leadership of the Redlands Conservancy to prepare and plan for **"Historic Preservation Week"** which will take place **September 16<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>**. As part of the week's festivities, on Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup> we will feature our September program that will be held at the Redlands Contemporary Club on **"the History of the Mission School"** and will feature our own **Tom Atchley** as the special guest speaker. The Annual Potluck Dinner will be held on Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at the Redlands Community Music Association's Mission Gables House. For this year's dinner we have invited the members of the Redlands Conservancy to join us. The week will also include a mid-century modern film and a tour of some fine examples of adaptive reuse commercial buildings that have taken place in Redlands. For more information on Historic Preservation Week please see the dedicated article in this month's newsletter.

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

*Bill Blankenship*

*(Mission School, continued from page 1)*

Tenney taught forty students as part of the Los Angeles School District, since San Bernardino would not form for another year.

The Van Leuven family built a log cabin private school in 1854 on Mission Road and continued rudimentary education for several dozen students. On October 1, 1857 Mission School District was officially formed with five other districts for the entire county.

Mission District was a focal point of economic activity in the 1860's. Old San Bernardino supplied grain, alfalfa, wine, and foodstuffs for the miners in Holcomb Valley, Colorado River mines and Mojave Desert. The school often recorded attendance equal to the City of San Bernardino.

In addition to Mission School, Mission School District eventually built Barton Tract School, Barton School and Bryn Mawr School. The district elected to send their high school students to Redlands Union High School in 1891.

County superintendent reports of the 1870's, 1880's and 1890's are included in the history. The Atchley presentation will include photographs of the area, school structures, class photos and some teachers.

Over the past two years, PCH Architects has remodeled the old structures of the 1937 WPA Mission School. Continuing a 131-year history, Redlands Unified School District re-opened the school last year and on October 12th at 8:30 a.m. it will be dedicated.

*- by Tom Atchley*



*Mission School, constructed in 1904.*

*(OHG Potluck, continued from page 1)*

The event is free but it is potluck so we ask you to bring your favorite covered dish – last names beginning with the letters A-M (desserts) and N-Z (main dishes or sides). However, if you have a favorite dish please feel free to make that decision on your own. As usual, water, coffee and tea will be provided as well as flatware, cups, plates and napkins. We would appreciate serving utensils, if you have them, however, a few will be on hand if you can't bring your own. The kitchen will not be open to use so we ask that you take your items home to clean them.

Tom Atchley tells us that Frank Sanford built this modest rental unit in 1898 to match the Mission architecture of A.K. Smiley Library which was also built in 1898. Originally the Mission Gables building was an apartment house with one kitchen for all the tenants. Sanford was secretary of the New Bear Valley Irrigation Co. which at the time was in receivership. J. E. Fairchild was the builder at a disclosed cost of \$5,250.00. Eventually nine separate apartments were included in the fourteen-room building.

As members may know, the building is in the Smiley Park Historic & Scenic District and at one time was purchased by the city and planned for demolition to allow for extra Bowl parking. The Redlands Conservancy launched the Mission Gables Bowl House Project in November of 1998.

The Mission Gables Bowl House historic preservation and adaptive reuse journey, which began in City Council chambers in 1995, was substantially complete in 2012, thanks to many private donors and the cooperative effort with the City of Redlands. The public restroom phase first opened in the summer

of 2006, and the Talbert Courtyard phase was completed in the summer of 2009.

The Project Manager, Jeff Waldron has many details to share about the restoration work, which included rebuilding the walls, the floor(s) and the roof to updated public codes. The house will be open for viewing during our potluck and Jeff has promised to share the contact information for the restoration contractors as well as the processes which were used and why they were chosen.

Several finishing details and completion projects are underway and Jeff can explain the purpose and the methods used, but these include much of the support infrastructure planned for use by bowl staff and board members, and for the general public during future use.

While controversy is inevitable during any reuse/restoration endeavor it seems clear that heroic measures have been financed with love and appreciation for this property and even the casual observer cannot help but be impressed with the outcome. Clearly many people spent many hours of contemplation in the planning and realization to this truly amazing project.

Please meet us and help celebrate the re-opening of the Mission Gables and our common preservation goals. Redlands will be celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2013 and the Redlands Area Historical Society and the Old Homes Group has plans we want to share with you our goals for the upcoming season.

Please RSVP the RAHS line (909) 307-6060 or contact me directly with any questions – Leslie Irish cell (951) 201-5742.

#### **Newsletter Deadline**

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

*Barton School at right*



# HERITAGE AWARDS

2012



## Truman W. Ladd Residence

5 Grant Street  
1891

One of the pioneer residents of Redlands is Truman W. Ladd. He bought land on Brookside Avenue in 1882 along with fellow Eureka Mill miners David Morey, Thomas Inch, and John Hosking. Ladd was in Virginia City, Nevada in 1851 using his blacksmith skills. He returned to Detroit and built wagons until catching "California Fever" again in 1859 and returned to Virginia City by covered wagon finding millwork in the Eureka Mills Mines. He moved to Redlands in 1882 building a home on the corner of his twenty acres on Brookside and Grant Street. He invented an irrigating conduit in 1890 later called a "flume." This patent revolutionized irrigation throughout the United States.

Ladd died in 1892 but before passing subdivided his 20 acre grove of lemons and oranges for residential homes. A brass band played at his funeral illustrating much community support for this pioneer. Resolutions of respect were printed in the April editions of the *Redlands Citrograph*.

More money could be made quickly in building and selling home lots in Redlands while the fledgling citrus industry grew. In Ladd's First and Second Additions he sold lots and had homes built. He built both 5

Grant and 7 Grant with 7 Grant completed in 1888 and 5 Grant in June of 1891. Both homes were rented and later sold to new arriving families. His daughter, Mrs. Annie Ladd Martin, lived in the Ladd pioneer home on Brookside until her death in 1931.

Seymour Brothers lumber mill completed the Victorian cottage using a variety of decorative motifs to advertise their woodwork. Today the gabled roof is composition shingle. The foundation is brick. An angular bay window with fish scale shingles along both sides of the window is prominent from Grant Street. This same window has a sunburst above the window and  $\frac{1}{4}$  sunbursts sculptured into the wood. The porch is one of a kind. Six square pillared posts support a monumental gable entrance above the porch. The porch is enclosed with a stick style balustrade offset by a three color paint scheme to bring out the woodwork. Rounded knobs on the porch brackets and bracket fixtures are used in place of spindles. The west side of the cottage has a angular bay window. The east side gable has crossing timber. Between the first story and roof line the entire home has a boxed cornice painted in a three color theme. The ribbon driveway leads to

a garage. Decorative spiral plants grow on either side of the front bay window.

Past owners for this Victorian Bungalow run the gamut. From at least 1923-1936 James G. Vickroy listed as a carpenter and rancher owned the home. Elmer R. Benedict did porch repairs in 1944 and plumbing in 1947. William E. Hatcher did more plumbing repairs in 1950. In 1974 William DeBlauw fixed the roof. The champion for repairs is very evident in city archives with Scott Bernart redoing the roof in 1991, replacing the porch and cover in 1992, and building a new garage in 2003. Today both 5 and 7 Grant Street are owned by Scott and Nancy Bernart. Truman Ladd smiles from on high knowing his two speculative homes are in good hands.

Scott and Nancy Bernart tackled a tough restoration in the 1990's and have prevailed with steadfast determination ever since. Their efforts certainly deserve a 2012 Heritage Home recognition.

*Research by: Tom Atchley*  
Presented 11 June 2012



# Historic Preservation Week

Sunday, Sept. 16 to Friday, Sept. 21, 2012

We will be celebrating Redlands' Historic Preservation Week this year with a series of events that focus on adaptive reuse of historic buildings. The events are being sponsored with the combined efforts of the Redlands Area Historical Society and the Redlands Conservancy.

## Heritage Room Open House

Sunday, September 16, 2012

1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

A.K. Smiley Public Library

125 W. Vine Street, Redlands

The Heritage Room in the A.K. Smiley Public Library will be hosting an open house as a part of its' 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year events. On display will be examples of the collection that deal with the Historical Society, the Historic & Scenic Preservation Commission, the Redlands Conservancy, Kimberly-Shirk Association, and other local organizations that have a focus on local history.

## "Mission School: A History" by Tom Atchley

Monday, September 17, 2012

7 p.m.

The Contemporary Club

173 S. Eureka Street, Redlands

Local historian and Historical Society Board member Tom Atchley will be discussing his new book which deals with the history of the Mission School District. The book is Volume 57 of the San Bernardino County Museum Association Quarterly.

## Old House Group Pot Luck Dinner

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

6:30 p.m.

Mission Gables Bowl House

168 S. Eureka Street

R.S.V.P. (909) 307-6060 or Leslie Irish at (951) 201-5742

Our annual potluck dinner kick-off will be held at the Mission Gables – Bowl house with a tour of the recently completed structure after the dinner.

## "Desert Utopia" Movie

Thursday, September 20, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Cope Middle School Multi-purpose Room

1000 West Cypress Avenue

Come and watch a fascinating movie on the Mid-Century Modern architecture of Palm Springs. Also shown will be a slide show of Redlands Mid-Century Modern structures.

## Downtown Adaptive Reuse Walking Tour

Friday, September 21, 2012

Tours starting at 6:00 p.m.

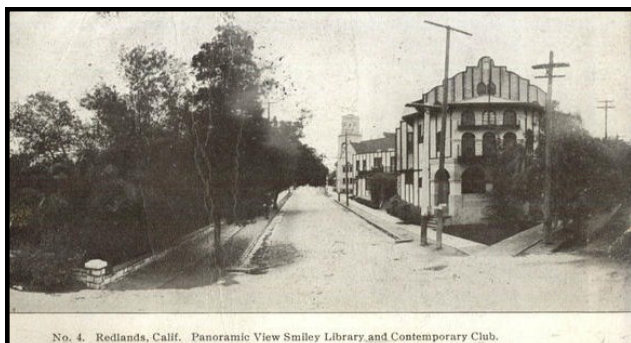
Graham-Cope Building

21 W. Stuart Avenue, Redlands

Cost \$10/person

R.S.V.P. (909)307-6060

An insider's tour of three downtown Redlands structures that have been restored will be given. The tours will be given by Tom Atchley, Michelle Nielsen of the San Bernardino County Museum, and local architect Shawn MacNaughton. The owners of the Graham-Cope building, Cutler Insurance Building and the Honda Packing House building will explain the process of adaptively reusing their historic structures. Refreshments will be provided at the Graham-Cope building.



No. 4. Redlands, Calif. Panoramic View Smiley Library and Contemporary Club.

*Old Contemporary Clubhouse*

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# Proclamation

## *Redlands Historic Preservation Week*

- WHEREAS, our City's history is recorded in its architecture and landscapes, and
- WHEREAS, the City of Redlands is home to a richly diverse array of architectural styles and well-maintained preserved historic structures; and
- WHEREAS, the City's historic structures and neighborhoods attract tourists, contribute to the area's stability and livability, and give residents a sense of connection with their shared heritage; and
- WHEREAS, historic preservation is an effective tool for managing growth and sustainable development, revitalizing neighborhoods, fostering local pride and maintaining community character while enhancing livability; and
- WHEREAS, adaptive reuse of existing historic buildings preserves natural resources and promotes energy conservation; and
- WHEREAS, observance of Historic Preservation Week is an occasion for celebrating the historic resources within the community and increasing public awareness of the importance of historic preservation so that special resources can be preserved to pass onto future generations; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Redlands is home to many organizations that are dedicated to the preservation of the tangible aspects of the City's rich historic heritage; and
- WHEREAS, the Redlands Area Historical Society, Inc. and the Redlands Conservancy will be sponsoring a variety of activities and events to promote awareness of the community's historic resources and foster their preservation and appropriate adaptive reuse;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Redlands hereby declares the week of September 16 ~ 21, 2012, as Redlands Historic Preservation Week and encourages its residents to increase their awareness of the many historic resources which are a part of the heritage of our city.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto affix my signature and the Official Seal of the City of Redlands on this 4th day of September, 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pete Aguilar, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sam Irwin, City Clerk



Visit us on the World Wide Web at [www.rahs.org](http://www.rahs.org)

Newsletter  
Programs  
Membership  
Hospitality  
Heritage Awards  
Old House Group  
Genealogy  
Ron Running  
Leslie Irish  
Steve Spiller  
Sue McClure  
Ron Running  
Ron Running  
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Kathy Behrens  
Steve Spiller  
Susan Rettig  
Ron Running  
Bill Blankenship

*Board of Directors 2011-2012*

Redlands Area Historical Society, Inc.  
Founded 1972, Incorporated 1974



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Address Correction Requested