



REDLANDS CHRONICLES

September 2013

The History of Lugonia

Monday, September 23, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.
Assembly Room at A.K. Smiley Public Library
125 W. Vine Street

This 125th Anniversary program takes us back to the beginning of Redlands, starting in the 1860's with the Berry Roberts ditch bringing water to the north bench of town along Pioneer Street. Originally called "Sunnyside," the area slowly evolved into "Lugonia" after a suggestion by Charles Paine to name the 1877 school. The name had previously been applied to wine labels of Crafton resident, Dr. William Craig.

Edward Judson, who named Redlands for the color of its soil, also insisted that the *Riverside Press and Horticulturalist* call the community "Lugonia" rather than Sunnyside. He made this request in 1881 just as the Redlands Tract in Lugonia was being advertised for sale. Newspapers in San Bernardino and Riverside respected his wish and Lugonia was thereafter our name until 1888.

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Old House Group Potluck

Wednesday, September 11, 2013, 6:30 p.m.
105 Summit Avenue



Outstanding views of the valley will greet members of the Old House Group at the annual potluck dinner. Hosts are Sue and Gary Baughman. Their house was built around 1918 for Judge Harry T. Dewhirst and family, and is associated with a fascinating story told by Lawrence Nelson in a Fortnightly Club paper.

Harry Thomas Dewhirst was born in 1881 and came to Redlands about 1913. Having previously served as San Bernardino County District Attorney from 1906 -1908, he was soon appointed to the Superior Court bench. He and his wife, Christmas, had a beautiful Craftsman home constructed at 105 Summit, one block from the street car line.

Judge Dewhirst shocked the community
(Continued on page 5)

A Letter from your President...

I hope all of our Redlands Area Historical Society (Society) members have had an opportunity to enjoy what was once again 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 38th Annual Heritage Awards and Ice Cream Social I was nominated to serve a third 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 Sandie Green to the 2013 - 2014 Board of Directors, and Robin Grube and Marie Reynolds were appointed as ex-officio members to the board. I would like to congratulate our 2013 - 2014 board and officers, and thank Sandie Green and ex-officio directors for agreeing to serve.

I would also like to thank **Ellen Timothy and the Rochford Foundation** for once again hosting the 38th Annual Heritage Awards and Ice Cream Social. In addition, 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 especially recognize our Board Members and our Society volunteers who served on the 2013 Heritage Awards Committee, Chairman Steve Spiller, Ron Running (program production), Tom Atchley, Leslie Irish, Sue Mc Clure, Marie Reynolds, Kathy Behrens and Society volunteers, David Heggi, Robin Grube, and Karen Flippin.

I would again like to recognize the following recipients of our 2013 Heritage Awards: 232 West Olive Avenue, Kenneth and Beverly Winchester; 107 East Fern Avenue, Gregory and Brenda Ibold; 928 Cajon Street, John and Kristi Andersen; 537 Cajon Street, Dr. Regina Liwnicz; 214 West Cypress Avenue, Lou Ann Merritt; 330 West Cypress Avenue, Ron and Sandy Davies; 805 North University Street, Corey and Lori Weck; and 147 East Vine Avenue, William and Sue Hardy. 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 Society will host on September 23rd our monthly program that will be held in the Assembly Room of the AK Smiley Public Library. The September program is titled "**History of Lugonia**" and will feature our own **Tom Atchley** as the special guest speaker. It is also time to make the big decision on what you will bring to the Annual Pot Luck Dinner which will be held on Wednesday, September 11th at the home of Gary and Sue Baughman. Their beautiful Craftsman home is located at 105 Summit Avenue.

As your President it is my privilege to serve our members 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

Redlands 125th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, November 2, 2013

The City of Redlands will bring to a close its celebration of the city's founding with community wide event which will be held during the day of Saturday, November 2. The 125th Anniversary Extravaganza will have various events throughout the day which includes a community dinner served at 12 noon and 4 p.m. in Smiley Park. Tickets for the barbeque dinner cost \$7 and can be purchased at various locations in the city.

The day will start off with the Farmer's market held at the city parking lot located at 5th Street and Redlands Boulevard. Historic bus tours lead by Tom Atchley, Larry Burgess and Nathan Gonzales will depart at the north parking lot of the Redlands Mall. Tickets for bus tour are \$25 and the proceeds will go to the Heritage Room of the A.K. Smiley Library. Seats are limited so reservations for the bus tours are suggested by calling (909) 307-6060.

During the day a variety of exhibits, events, walking tours, performances and fireworks are planned. A Kids Zone featuring historic games and crafts led by the Boy and Girl scouts of Redlands will be located in Smiley Park behind the library. The Kids Zone will also have a small performance area which musical and performing groups in the city will participate. Also in this area of the park will be various booths featuring the many historical related groups in Redlands.

In the park area next to the Redlands Bowl will be devoted to historic re-enactors who will display costumes, handicrafts and trades typically found when the City was founded.

The Mission Gables house located on Eureka Street will host the art works created by the young people of the City which followed the theme of the City's founding. In the patio area to the rear of the building will contain art works created especially for this event by local Redlands Artists.

The Red Dirt Art Festival will be held during the day in the park next to the Old City Hall. Here you will be able to see additional artwork created by local artisans.

The Contemporary Club building on Eureka Street will host several displays from the Redlands Historical Museum and the San Bernardino County collections. Also on display will be photos produced by the Redlands Camera Club photographers.



Complimentary historical walking tours of the Smiley Park neighborhood and downtown Redlands will be led by volunteers from the Historical Society and the Heritage Auxiliary of the Contemporary Club. Tours will begin on the hour and half hour from both Smiley Park behind the library and at Ed Hales Park located at the corner of 5th Street and East State Street.

The Redlands Bowl itself will be the site of the conclusion of the day's events. The ceremonies will include a welcome by our mayor Pete Aguilar, and brief talks by our local historians, Larry Burgess and Tom Atchley. Former Mayor Carol Beswick will also speak. The Redlands Fourth of July Band, led by Curtiss Allen, Sr., will present several musical numbers. A brief sketch from the "Redlands, My Redlands" original musical production will also be performed. The actual performance dates of the musical will be November 15 and 16. Tickets are available at the City Clerk's office and other locations around town for \$5. The finale of the evening will be a spectacular fireworks display in the sky above the Redlands Bowl.

Volunteers are requested from the Historical Society membership to lead walking tours and to staff our information booths. Interested persons should contact Ron Running at (909) 798-1289.

Wilson and Berry

- by Tom Atchley

Over the past four decades, I've mentioned the Wilson-Berry block constructed in Lugonia on the northeast corner of Orange and Colton many times. I confess I really knew little of the two names associated with the business building.

In 1992, Milton Lane wrote about the Sweetwater Dam near National City in our newsletter. Lane, a former board member and inexhaustible researcher of the *Riverside Press and Horticulturalist* newspaper, divulged more information on Wilson and Berry. Lane's newsletter article suggests poor quality engineering on the Sweetwater dam by Frank Brown. This article warped my impression of Brown, which up to this time was a man of integrity and inspiration. Research this past year on Lugonia reversed my 1992 impression once again. I found the following:

Warren Wilson was born in Sacramento on September 15, 1856. He came to San Bernardino and purchased half interest in the *San Bernardino Daily Index* and *Weekly Index* in 1880 and became sole owner in 1881. Wilson founded the *San Diego Sun* and owned the paper from 1883 to 1889. Wilson was a director of the San Bernardino Street Railroad Company in 1883. He served as president and general manager of the *Los Angeles Daily Journal* from 1883 until his death in 1917.

Wilson was hired by Wallace W. Elliott & Co. of Oakland, California, to research and write a *History of San Bernardino County* in 1882. The history was published in 1883 and advertised the county in a promotional brochure style with illustrations by C. P. Cook of San Bernardino. The publication included San Diego County to spur better book sales. Wilson was only 25 years of age at the time. The experience gathering information for the book brought him into contact with Lugonia, Judson and Brown, their fruit dryer and the Redlands Colony.

Judson & Brown paid the premium price for a two-page spread including the Brown drawing of the Birds-Eye View of the Redlands Colony. Lugonia is described as a fruit-growing village with diversified soil, a school house, church and Sunday-school.

Wilson editorialized about the poor workmanship and engineering of Frank Brown on the Sweetwater Dam near San Diego in 1886. Brown defended his design and invited Wilson and John R. Berry, manager and editor of the *San Diego Union*, to tour the Bear Valley project and booming Redlands and Lugonia.



By August 1886, John R. Berry (left) had become the first city editor and later owner of the oldest newspaper in San Diego. Berry was appointed collector of the port of San Diego in 1890. He joined the *Sun* with critical comments that Brown was absent during much of the foundation work. Berry later became a colonel in the California National Guard commanding the Seventh Regiment during the Spanish American War.

Wilson was heavily invested in the Jamul Portland Cement Manufacturing Company near San Diego. Brown blamed poor quality cement delivered from this company for structural weakness on the Sweetwater Dam. The Wilson editorial criticizing Brown for suggesting the foundation work be removed was undoubtedly hinged on this bias. Indeed, Wilson became president of the Jamul Portland Cement Manufacturing Company on September 12, 1889.

Brown's invitation to Wilson and Berry led to a February 1887 jaunt to Bear Valley led by Brown. Wilson wrote, "Brown proved a genial and entertaining companion, and what he does not know about the water supply of the San Bernardino Valley isn't worth knowing. It is his life work. Brown has consecrated his energies, and no one can witness his enthusiasm in the work without faith in his ultimate triumph." *The Riverside Daily Press* journalist that poked along on a mule found Brown delightful and the Press report was further impressed with the newly completed Bear Valley Dam.

Wilson and Berry were convinced the "village" of Lugonia, that Wilson wrote about four years earlier, was destined to boom with Bear Valley water. Wilson and Berry together bought 75 acres for \$30,000 in

March and subdivided the Town of Lugonia using newspaper street names. Beginning with the present Orange Street and ending at Church Street, the north-south newspaper names were Commercial (Orange), Alta, Times (Sixth), Herald, Tribune, Post, Call, World (Lombard), and Ledger (Church). East-west streets were named Sun and Union in honor of the San Diego papers they owned. This subdivision did not have the wide streets and avenues of the Redlands Tract. No street tree plan was prepared like Judson and Brown.

Wilson and Berry advertised liberally and their ads led to \$52,000 in lot sales by March 26, 1887 according to the *San Bernardino Times*. The partnership still owned half the original Lugonia Town subdivision. Their plans for a local newspaper was still months away from fruition. Their lot auction occurred in the same month as the Redlands Town Subdivision. This piggy-backing of a boom auction no doubt helped sales.

Wilson and Berry home lots were smaller than the Residence Tract of Redlands and also cheaper. No public transportation was necessary since a business district was on the corner of Colton and Orange with a post office, market, clothing store, high school, hotel and meat market nearby. The Redlands, Lugonia and Crafton Domestic Water Company incorporated July 19, 1887. Water supply for irrigation came through the 1877 Sunnyside Ditch. Additional water could be purchased from the Bear Valley Irrigation Company with a lake full of water since 1884.

Wilson and Berry announced plans to construct a two-story \$15,000 building on the northeast corner of Commercial (Orange Street) and Colton Avenue. Plans also included hiring George F. Weeks of the *San Francisco Chronicle* to establish a newspaper for Lugonia.

Brown unwittingly wanted to correct the newspaper errors concerning his work on the Sweetwater Dam and did so convincingly, but also created competition from two well-financed newspaper men from San Diego.

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(Wilson & Berry, continued from page 4)

The Lugonia Opera House opened with a great deal of fanfare in December of 1887. The *San Bernardino Times* wrote, "If anyone had the temerity, less than ten years ago, to stand on what is now known as Lugonia Terrace (Hogsback) and prophesy that in a few years a finely finished opera house would be erected on that naked and barren spot, which would call within its walls an audience of refined and well-to-do people, he would have been regarded as little better than an idiot." The paper provided a review of the "Great Georgia Minstrel Troupe" that performed with an audience from Redlands, Lugonia, Crafton and the Mission District. The second story was 60 x 80 feet, with a 14 x 21 foot stage decorated by Harry Leshner. Opulent opera chairs were supplied by James Ferris, of the San Bernardino opera house. Entertainment was presented twice a week.

James Glover moved his clothing store into the first story. Wilson and Berry had their office. Frank Morrison launched the Bank of the East San Bernardino Valley in an office. The *Lugonia Southern Californian* inaugurated September 3rd moved from a home to the new business block with a weekly paper. George Cook sold property from the building as well.

Benton Johnson's mercantile store (*below*) was across the street on the southwest corner of Orange and The Terrace. Judson and Brown sold Redlands land from their office upstairs. Judson and Brown had the only telephone and telegraph connection since 1882. Their office was humming every day in 1887 and once a week the Templar Lodge met upstairs to socialize.



Henceforth, Warren Wilson and John Berry spoke favorably of the East San Bernardino Valley and the Bear Valley Irrigation Company of Judson and Brown. Brown spent family vacations in Coronado and would visit the two newspaper men who were his peers and profited so much because of him.



(Lugonia, continued from page 1)

(Ironically, during the incorporation debate between the competing communities of Redlands and Lugonia, Judson quietly favored the historical Lugonia name but wanted the Redlands name to prevail since the name advertised the firm of Judson and Brown.)

Warren Wilson gave the first short history of Lugonia in *History of San Bernardino County* published by Wallace W. Elliott & Co. of Oakland in 1883. The half-page review of Lugonia "village" mentioned the fruit colony with an emphasis on Judson & Brown's fruit dryer. Redlands - just two years in the making - included a birds-eye view, two-page map and another page of description. Wilson never intended to write a real history; his book was written to propel real estate values in Southern California and to sell the book. Judson & Brown's purchase of the fold-out page insured better coverage for Redlands colony.

Ingersoll's Century Annals (1904) gave a five-page description of Lugonia that every local history book copied thereafter. Most of the information has been researched this past year and will change the perspective of local history. Board member Tom Atchley intends to fill in the blanks of an incomplete story with photos explaining some of the key points.

Redlands Area Historical Society programs are free and open to the public. Information regarding membership is available at the meeting.

(Old House Group, continued from page 1)

when he discovered The House of David, a religious sect, and stopped shaving and cutting his hair. He resigned from the Elks Club and the Methodist church, and began predicting the Second Coming. In January 1919 he resigned from the bench, and entered into the official record a strange "pronunciamento" consisting of prophetic bible quotes. Within a year, he sold his home and orange grove and moved his family to the sect's communal headquarters at Benton Harbor, Michigan. The sect operated a successful amusement park and even had two traveling baseball teams. Harry eventually became the leader of the sect.

Mrs. Cora Felton, a widow, briefly occupied the home after the Dewhirsts, followed by attorney Frederick C. Hornby from 1925 to 1928. In 1929 the property was purchased by Andrew and Margaret Lee. Dr. Lee, an osteopathic surgeon, and his wife raised five children in the home.

Subsequent owners include the Cohen, Lewter, Wood, and Corcoran families.

Presidential Visits to Redlands, Part III

- by Tom Atchley

President William Howard Taft was the third president to visit Redlands October 11, 1909. Taft's visit was anti-climatic compared to either the McKinley or Roosevelt tours. Taft's visit was by automobile and mostly mundane, brusque and without pleasure for the president and the audience of citizens in San Bernardino, Redlands and Riverside.

Taft came by Southern Pacific Railroad and was visiting Yosemite's Mariposa Grove and the giant sequoias there on October 8th. News that day in the *Redlands Daily Facts* announced that Redlands men were taking ammunition to aid the posse in the Willie Boy man hunt. Charlie Reche was wounded at Mesquite Springs along with tracker, Segundo Chino. Henry Pable and Ben DeCreveceour would wait Willie Boy out at Warren's Well. The lead story ended with a posse member rumor that Willie Boy might have taken his own life.

On October 11, Taft was visiting San Pedro's proposed fortifications and had given 128 speeches and traveled 6,266 miles on his exhausting travels. Also in the morning, Taft visited the Sawtelle Veterans Home and by auto toured Los Angeles and later Pasadena to have a 12:45 luncheon. Santa Fe would then deliver the president to San Bernardino and then tourist cars in Lugo Park would follow Colton Avenue through Colton to Redlands. Portland Cement included a blast of 21 major explosions on Slover Mountain to welcome the cheerful president.

Security for the president included both mounted and dismounted guards. National Guard units of Redlands Company G and 50 sheriffs from both Riverside and San Bernardino Counties arrived for the event. In addition, one car of the president's entourage had secret service men and Marshall Wallace of Redlands supervised the park tours. Another

posse left Redlands on the Willie Boy hunt. The press gave more mileage to the Willie Boy story than the less lively Taft trip.

Redlands was disappointed that Taft entered California from the north depriving the "welcome city of Redlands" the opportunity for a third presidential welcome in a row. After being driven up and down the streets of San Bernardino, Taft was brought to Redlands in an open touring car. A caravan of automobiles met him at the Santa Fe Station in San Bernardino and from there they whizzed to Redlands waving to spectators along Colton Avenue. Taft, standing in his car, spoke just five minutes to an audience of 1500 school children near the Casa Loma Hotel. Temporary bleachers were constructed just for this five-minute oration. Congress had recently passed "Columbus Day" as a legal holiday. The president's remarks were mostly about the flag and what it stood for. Most of the children thought the flag stood for liberty.

President Taft noted the presence of the 53 members of the Grand Army of the Republic and ended his remarks to them by saying, "God Bless You." His homily about the flag was a bit high brow for the school children but the adults in ear-shot thought the president spoke well.

His last sentence offered Redlands his best wishes. "May you and the City of Redlands continue to have prosperity---continue to have beautiful children (laughter) that I see before me and the fruitful old age of the veterans that are before me in the audience." In



President Taft's Motorcade at West Citrus and Third

fact 52 members of the Grand Army of the Republic were in attendance.

From the Casa Loma the president was dashed up to Smiley Heights and thence through the parks. His car overheated and was permitted one brief respite. Dashing to Prospect Park, Taft entered by the private switchback road from the corner of West Crescent and Ramona, passing downhill to loop below Kimberly Crest and into Prospect Park.

Leaving Prospect Park onto Cajon Street poor over-scheduled Taft was sped down Cajon leaving Redlands boosters discouraged and disappointed in their momentary glimpses. Taft survived a twelve-hour day but only after leaving Redlands for more grueling tours of Riverside and a stop at the Mission Inn in Riverside. A special chair constructed in Redlands was sent to the Mission Inn to accommodate the 350 pound girth of the president for the evening dinner.

Redlands youth presented a bouquet of flowers and presented them to Taft at the Casa Loma. The card attached read, "To President Taft. Please accept these flowers from the Women's Christian Temperance Union of

(Continued on page 7)

(President Taft, continued from page 6)

Redlands, California, in appreciation of your turning down your glass forever." Prohibitionist Redlands was making a point along with impressing the president of the magnitude of our orange industry which needed devoted executive protection tariffs.

The auto group sped to Riverside with the pilot car occupied by Willis Booth, president of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, Mayor McNabb of San Bernardino, Mayor Kingsbury of Redlands and Mayor Evans of Riverside. The second car held the president, Senator Frank P. Flint, Captain Butt and James Sloan of the Secret Service. The third car was all Secret Service men. In all, twelve cars left a cloud of dust in the one hour visit of Redlands.

President Taft lost his reelection bid in 1912 losing to both Teddy Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson in the popular vote. He really always wanted an appointment to the Supreme Court and this he achieved. His enveloping smile and nodding head of approval to the curious crowds left a positive impression even if the abrupt visit did not.

Leaving by train the next day, Taft met with Mexican President Diaz in El Paso, Texas.

ORDER YOUR DVD/VIDEO

All of our monthly programs and Heritage Awards ceremonies are dutifully recorded by Gerry and Linda Brassfield of Blue Eagle Video. Videos are \$20 each.

To order a video contact Blue Eagle Video at:
(909) 882-2003 or email: blueeaglevideo@aol.com.

Newsletter Deadline

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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| September 11 | Old House Group Potluck |
| September 23 | Program "History of Lugonia"
Tom Atchley, Speaker
AK Smiley Public Library |
| October 28 | Program
AK Smiley Public Library |
|  | |
| November 2 | Bus Tours \$25
Redlands Mall, north lot |
| November 2 | Community BBQ Dinner \$7
Seatings at noon & 4:00 p.m. |
| November 2 | Exhibits
Contemporary Club |
| November 15 & 16 | ♪Redlands, My Redlands ♪ |

Do you have a favorite local roofer, plumber, electrician, handyman, painter, etc. who likes to work *gently* with old houses?

Kathy Behrens is compiling a list of your recommendations.

Contact kathybehrens@verizon.net