



REDLANDS CHRONICLES

March 2014

“Chinese in Redlands”

Presented by Tom Atchley
Monday, March 24, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
Assembly Room at A.K. Smiley Public Library
125 W. Vine Street

San Bernardino County established a water commission in 1855 to decide water rights ownership, monitor ditch companies, oversee zanjero rules, apportion fees and ditch assessments and follow state law regarding annual supervision of zanjias. In these first documents of San Bernardino County, Chinese men are noted for their work doing “zanja work” in the San Bernardino Valley.

The Chinese arrived in California in fairly large numbers months after the initial Marshall discovery was announced around the world. The Chinese referred to California as “Gold Mountain” and swarmed to the gold fields along the American River. They quickly ran into prejudice that became pronounced in Gold Districts that prohibited Chinese ownership in the mines. California law, passed in 1855, extended the discrimination to schools with Chinese excluded from California schools.

Anti-Chinese prejudice spread to San Francisco in the 1870's with Workingmen demonstrations chanting the “Chinese Must Go.” One of the worst examples of anti-Chinese demonstrations occurred with the hanging of Chinese men in downtown Los Angeles. Nationally, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882. The Chinese were the only ethnic group exclusively rejected by the American Government for immigration.

Despite the ethnic prejudice, Southern California, which began to grow in the 1870's, did much to attract Chinese men to labor. Southern Pacific Railroad hired the same engineers that built the Central Pacific to Promontory Point and they in turn wanted the Chinese work crews that proved so valuable in railroad construction. When the railroad completed its work through San Timoteo Canyon and San

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Old House Group Meeting

Wednesday, March 26, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.
1580 Elizabeth Street



High on a knoll, with a commanding view, sits the redwood shingled home Charles E. Gill built when he moved with his family from Chicago in 1900. For the next quarter-century this 3-story 5500 sq. ft. residence was home to quite a few family members plus servants and even lodgers. Mr. Gill planted a large grove of oranges, reaching from Center St. to Elizabeth, and also bordered by Henrietta. These 15 acres remained with the house until at least 1935. Mr. Gill, a bookkeeper, lived in the house until his death.

The Cochrane family moved into the house in 1926. In the 1930 census, we see that this family had 8 children, who must have enjoyed this Victorian home, with its original covered porches, balconies, and sun room. These were enhanced by the Cochrane's addition of extra dining space, and finishing more of

(Continued on page 2)

A Letter from your President...

Greetings to our members of the Redlands Area Historical Society (RAHS). I am pleased to inform you that at our February 24th general membership meeting Mayor Pro Tem, Paul Foster, presented to RAHS a generous donation of \$2000.00 from the Redlands 125th Anniversary Committee. The donation was to recognize RAHS for assisting with the planning and promoting of the 125th Anniversary's Extravaganza. On Saturday, March 15th the Society held for the first time a **historic walking tour of Summit Avenue**. The Summit Avenue tour was attended by 90 participants who were each given a surprise bonus to the expected two-hour tour. The surprise was an opportunity to tour the grounds of 451 Summit which historically was known as "Summit Point". In addition, the participants of the tour were welcomed at 105 Summit Avenue with refreshments generously provided by Susan and Gary Baughman. Their 1917 Craftsman home boasts of amazing views of the Redlands valley and the San Bernardino mountains. The tour concluded at the Lyon Estate, located at 52 Summit Avenue. Today the estate is owned by Norma and Jack Marrin, who have developed an elaborate network of gardens themed the Roman, Italian, French, Palm and Terrace Gardens. The participants were also able to walk the historic drive leading up to the home which was originally plotted in 1888 as Bow A.

In the month of March the Society will feature three separate events for our members. The first event will be the March 15th historic walking tour of Bow B, Bow C and Grandview Drive, a first-time tour of the Society. On March 24th the Society will hold its monthly general membership meeting at A.K. Smiley Public Library with a presentation on **"the History of the Redlands Chinese Colony"** featuring Redlands Area Historical Society past president, Tom Atchley. On March 26th The Old House Group will meet and tour the Charles E. Gill Home, located at 1580 Elizabeth Street. The home is prominently located high on a knoll above Elizabeth Street and was built by Charles Gill in 1900 after he had relocated to Redlands from Chicago. For those of you who plan your calendars around our future events, I want to inform you that on **Monday, June 16th** the Society will hold our **Annual Ice Cream Social and Heritage Awards Presentation**. The annual event will again be held at the historic Burrage Mansion in Redlands. Please look inside the March newsletter for additional information on each of these upcoming events.

It is time again to renew your annual Society dues. Your dues for 2014 are **\$30.00 for an individual/family**. In addition, we have levels of sponsorships that also include your annual membership dues: **\$50.00 Donor, \$100.00 Patron, and \$250.00 Corporate Underwriter**. In 2014 a **Corporate Underwriter Sponsorship** includes your name or your business name to be listed prominently in each newsletter for the entire year. We thank each of our members for their continued support of the Society.

I look forward to seeing you at one of the many events that we have planned for our members in the future.

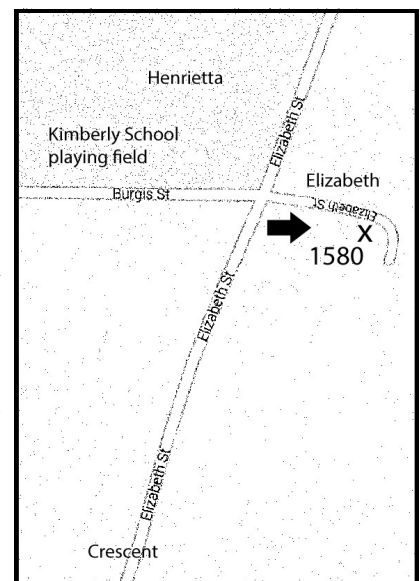
Bill Blankenship

(Continued from page 1)

the 3rd floor. The next owners were the Hills, who remained there until her death in 1968. At this point a developer had plans for the final 8 acres and thought about tearing down the house.

A timely offer by Tony and Marilyn Larson allowed them to move into the house, set in an acre surrounded by a circular drive, and its lovely cut-stone wall. They immediately started in with some needed repairs. Again the house was filled with the activities of a large family, as the Larsons raised their 8 children with plenty of space to roam and play. Marilyn continues to care lovingly for the property and to fill her home with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, now numbering more than fifty! She also provides space to missionary girls who spend a few weeks in our peaceful community.

The home is filled with mementos of a large family and a life well-lived within its walls. Drive up Elizabeth Street to the intersection of Elizabeth, turn uphill towards the cul-de-sac and drive into the driveway and park near to the grass allowing room for others to park behind you and to exit the circular driveway. On leaving drive foreword around the back of the house to return to Elizabeth cul-de-sac. Come join us and help congratulate Marilyn for continuing the Redlands tradition of saving and restoring and living in one of Redlands historic treasures.



The Historical Society would like to welcome the following new members:
Kathryn Harmon, Thomas McClung, Jim & Paige Spee, Heidi Taber and Jack Wilshire
And thank our Corporate Underwriters:

Wes & Peggy Brier

Leslie Irish & Rebecca Manguam



*What do you know about
these structures?*



Call RAHS at 307-6060 and leave a
message
or email sccmarie@yahoo.com

Redlands' First City Trustees

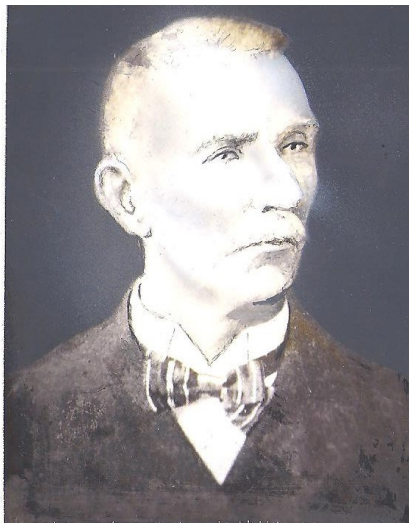
THE FIRST CITY TRUSTEES (City Council) of Redlands was composed of some outstanding talent that filled city positions with skilled individuals and passed the first ordinances to manage and govern the new community 125 years ago.

EDWARD JUDSON was the top vote-getter with 257 votes. He was an Amherst graduate with twelve years of brokerage business experience before coming to Lugonia in 1876. He was hired to keep the books for the Sunnyside Ditch Company.

He met Frank Brown and together they sold the Redlands Tract; managed a fruit dryer; constructed a high line ditch for Highland, built the Redlands irrigation system; incorporated the Redlands Water Company; built the Bear Valley Dam; secured Santa Ana River water rights; bought 5,489.55 acres worth \$111,213.74 before city incorporation and were water barons with 84 shares in the Sunnyside Ditch, 74 hours in the North Fork Ditch; 24 hours in Plunge Creek and the principal managers of the Bear Valley Reservoir (Big Bear Lake).

Judson was a quiet reserved Presbyterian that loved horticulture endeavors with a nursery that provided free ornamental street trees for the Redlands Colony. The Judson & Brown firm donated the land for the Terrace Congregational Church, Episcopal Church, Methodist Church, Baptist Church, Kingsbury School, Hillside Cemetery and the first city park.

Judson was deeply concerned with aesthetics in Redlands. He wanted to establish wide streets, street tree borders, and



J. B. Glover



Edward Judson

well-manicured front yards. He was an avid horticulturalist and encouraged the settlement of Redlands with staunch hardworking families. The land policies of Judson and Brown discouraged land speculation and encouraged the construction of better quality homes and business buildings. He scolded James Edwards in 1882 for constructing a shabby looking home on East Cypress and explained what he wanted Redlands to be.

JAMES B. GLOVER came to Lugonia in 1870 having mined in the Owens Valley until 1865. He farmed with Israel Beal and eventually owned land on Pioneer Street. He opened the first clothing store in 1887. He received 251 votes in the election. He served eight years on the city council and then was elected to the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors for 24 years with 12 years as the chairman. He invented the Glover Road Oiler and championed roads throughout the county. Everyone knew Glover in both Redlands and Lugonia.

BENNETT CAVE received 244 votes in the city election. He was born on the banks of the Zanja in Crafton in 1866 and was only 22 years of age. His partnership with J. C. Reeves in the livery business and later C. L. Hayes demonstrated his hardworking style renting the best horses, carriages, wagons and providing hay, grain and coal to the community. His farming background led to his appointment as the Horticultural Commissioner for San Bernardino County.

CYRUS ANDREWS arrived in Redlands just as downtown Redlands lots were sold in 1887. He came to California via covered wagon in 1857 and settled in San Francisco. Later he taught school in Santa Ana and became the superintendent of city schools for San Diego, Santa Ana and Riverside. Professor Andrews and his brother opened Andrews Brothers Lumber Company on Orange Street. Later he was president of the Mount Carmel Fruit Co., Redlands Preserving Co. and began Cherrycroft in Oak Glen. While new to the community he still garnered 243 votes.

Andrews became a nationally recognized inventor. His 1914 talking picture patent was called the "Andrews Kinaphone System." He worked many years synchronizing light and sound and brought suit against the motion picture industry for patent theft.



Cyrus Andrews

HARRY SINCLAIR came to Lugonia in 1887 and planted a 30 acre fruit orchard on Pioneer Street. In 1877, Sinclair took a scientific course at Cornell University and then went into the shipping business with Lovell and Sinclair.

Sinclair quickly became a director in the Lugonia Water Company, South Fork Ditch Association and Terracina Hotel Company. He organized the Redlands Electric Light and Power Company revolutionizing electric power with the three-phase power generator. With the success of the Redlands Company he organized the Southern California Power Company



H.H. Sinclair residence

building power houses in the Santa Ana Canyon. These companies later formed Southern California Edison. The stone monument at the entrance of Mill Creek Canyon is dedicated to Sinclair.

In retirement, Sinclair raced his yacht "Luriline" across the Pacific capturing the sailing record for the time. Perhaps the voters recognized the genius of Sinclair in their 203 votes in the election of 1888.



Harry H. Sinclair

Politics was very much a part of the City Trustee slate of candidates in 1888. The Redlands area of the proposed town promised that Lugonia would have a majority on the elected body. Judson was

thought to be above the name fray and neutral in terms of Lugonia versus Redlands. Cave and Andrews represented the Redlands choices since their businesses were on Orange Street in Redlands. Glover was the pioneer Lugonia man joined by the newcomer Sinclair.

All the political maneuvering to get a balanced slate representing a new community was fictional at best. Judson letters revealed later that he really wanted the Redlands name to win. Cave, the so-called Redlands man, built a home on The Terrace just as soon as the election was over. Glover moved his clothing store south on Orange Street to downtown Redlands. The real name battle was more a real estate competition between Warren Wilson with his partner John Berry, owners of the Town of Lugonia subdivision versus the Town of Redlands subdivision and *The Citrograph* newspaper led by Scipio Craig.

Craig and his editorial sniping with the *Lugonia Southern Californian* bothered and somewhat embarrassed both Edward Judson and Frank Brown. In creating the Redlands News Company and hiring Craig, all Judson and Brown required was that the newspaper advertised Redlands. Craig let his emotions defending the name Redlands go too far in attacking Lugonia. In an interview with Emma Cryer nearly 100 years later, she related bitterness that the name Lugonia lost out to Redlands.

Politics aside, the elected men each came with a vision of what they wanted Redlands to become. The vision is clearly seen in the city ordinances established to set guidelines and further community goals.

First City Council Meeting January 12, 1889

After the November 26, 1888 incorporation election the council decided to begin city business on January 12, 1889. The first city hall was the real estate office of Judson & Brown in the second story of the Benton Johnson Co. store on The Terrace and Orange Street. Judson was chosen mayor.



Bennett W. Cave

The appointment of City Treasurer went to Frank Morrison, the pioneer Lugonia banker. City Marshall was filled by the election of William Brumagin. Brumagin arrived here in 1887 and worked for the Taylor Brothers on East State making cement pipes. Morrison Drive is between Grove and East Palm where the Morrison 1883 ranch was located.

Street Superintendent R. H. Kendall was a Civil War veteran with his latest job managing the stage coach station on the Whitewater River in San Geronio Pass. He became City Marshall in 1892, after a shootout with burglars who attempted to rob the Santa Fe Depot at night. His fame spread and Kendall Street is named for him.

City Engineer was not a popular position due to low pay and Isaac Ford kept up the work until 1890. Ford came to Redlands in 1884 while suffering from TB. His first job was working for the Bear Valley Irrigation Company surveying Bear Valley. He specialized in hillside irrigation terracing

the irregular hills of Redlands Heights. Albert Burrage hired Ford to terrace his Monte Vista property on West Crescent in 1900. Ford Park is named for Isaac Ford. His brother, H. H. Ford, a banker, has Ford Street named for him.



Frank Morrison

L. W. Clark was elected City Clerk. He had stories of "Bleeding Kansas" which took place during his childhood. He remained in the Kansas cattle business until the disastrous winter of 1887 froze millions of steers. Clark Street is named for him.

County Constable was also on the incorporation slate. Jose Rivera placed his name on the ballot after someone joked that a Mexican-American could not possibly win. He won elections for over three decades and made arrests both within the city and the surrounding county areas. He rarely used his handgun and developed a reputation that preceded conflicts with law-breakers. His prior experience included work foreman on the Bear Valley dam, Santa Fe survey team in Cajon Pass, and a partner with Juan Baca meat market at Fifth and Citrus Avenue. Constructed in 1885 the meat market was the first business in downtown Redlands predating the downtown survey by two years.

After meeting these city employees the City Council put them to work immediately. The Street Superintendent was ordered to grade every street and inform each city resident of their responsibility to care for street trees, remove obstructions in the gutter and enforce the council decisions on the width of streets and sidewalks. Avenues in Redlands were each given a 16 foot clearance measured from the curb for a sidewalk and street tree planting. The council agreed that a park-like atmosphere could be achieved.

City Engineer Ford was required to achieve the council goal of no street in the

downtown with a greater slope than 5%. Ford hired a gang of laborers including Native Americans and Chinese and began scraping the hill from Pearl Avenue to Colton Avenue down Orange Street to meet the city standard. The first city owned building was a jail constructed of brick by A. E. Taylor for \$696. The jail was dubbed the "Redlands Bastille" and was located between Third and Fourth Street near an alley. Prisoners preferred chain gang work rather than sitting it out in the sweat box. The first occupant was a drunken Indian. Citizens requested a "chain gang" to repair roads and assist the street superintendent.

The City Marshall was instructed to enforce the city downtown new fire limits which required the removal of all wooden building, sheds, barns and tents. Stephenson Jewelry store, a blacksmith shop and the Baca & Rivera Meat Market were ordered removed since they were wooden structures. All arrests and fines levied would support the City Marshall pay and provide enforcement incentives. The Marshall was expected to collect business license fees each quarter; send the fees to the clerk for scrutiny and then forward to the city treasurer.

Crimes listed for 1887 that helped prompt city incorporation included stealing papers, selling liquor to Indians, public intoxication and vagrancy by tramps and hobos. Public safety issues included runaway horses, dumping raw sewage in the Zanja, shooting animals in the downtown, beating drums by the Salvation Army, and the hitching of animals on sidewalks and public thru fares. Annoyances such as barking dogs, crowing roosters, smelly pig pins, nude bathing in the Zanja, teenage profanity near churches and the railroad depot were common complaints.

The first City Attorney was Russell Waters, who carried a Chicago bar exam certification. Waters had informed the electorate

that his busy business schedule would not allow him to serve the city long. Citizens considered him the third "Father of Redlands" since he brought the Chicago Colony here in 1886. Waters was president of the Redlands News Company, Redlands Street Railway Co., secretary of the Redlands Hotel Co., general manager of the Bear Valley Irrigation Co., director in the Union Bank, director in the First National Bank, director in four water companies and with Judson responsible for bringing the Santa Fe Railroad to Redlands in February 1888. Waters served for two months but advised the acting city attorney, C. C. Bennett.

Bennett did more to shape city government than anyone. He prepared a plan for city departments that was adopted by the council. Bennett struggled for nine years to write city ordinances that were State Constitutionally legal and still met the goals of the council and citizenry. Several of his ordinances were revised after scrutiny by the courts. Writing city ordinances that remained fool proof was a challenge. Liquor laws in Redlands presented the City Attorney word-smith challenges to meet the intent of the law with clear definitions to avoid slippery law violators.

The new city was broke and unable to meet monthly payroll until a tax collection by the assessor took place. The city council voted to borrow \$1000 from the bank. The bank incidentally was owned by the city treasurer, Frank Morrison.

The city tax rate was fifty cents on each \$100 of assessed property value. Property was considered your home, land, orange trees, gold watches, mink stoles, miscellaneous clothing, fruit-drying trays, horses, carriages, and furniture. Studying carefully the 1889 City of Redlands Tax Book, which lists taxpayers in alphabetical order, one quickly concludes the assessor was extremely generous with tax bills. No one in

Morrison Ranch



F. P. Morrison residence at Orange Ave. 1890

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Redlands appealed their bill for 1889.

Delinquent tax payer's names were printed in *The Citrograph*. The paper also won the city bid to print public meeting notices, election notices, and new city ordinances. Official county legal information was also awarded to the paper.

Citizens descended on the newly elected city council with many requests. A prohibition petition signed by 180 men requested a city ordinance banning saloons

and alcohol. One citizen requested the council to remind Redlanders to securely hitch their horses to avoid runaways. Several young men, planning to form a volunteer fire department, requested the city fathers purchase 150 feet of fire hose. Councilman Andrews observed that the city did not have a single fire plug to attach the hose. The purchase of eight fire plugs was tabled until the financial situation could be improved.

Citizens also requested additional city staff to provide a pest inspector, health

officer and city recorder. The council met once a week formally and more often informally to tackle the long list of issues. By December 1889, 49 city ordinances were passed that branded the city with distinction in the county at large. Patterns of aesthetics would be followed. A responsive city government was expected with laws that varied from other cities. Civic pride created a civic culture that became a heritage with both citizen involvement and a city government supporting the citizens.

(Chinese in Redlands continued from page 1)

Gorgonio Pass the unemployed Chinese men established Chinatowns in Riverside and San Bernardino.

Ben Barton, Vache brothers, Frank Morrison and Dr. Stillman hired gangs of Chinese to plant, harvest and dry grapes in their extensive vineyards. Judson and Brown hired Chinese to work in their fruit dryers in Highland and Lugonia. The Berry Roberts Ditch Company and later the Sunnyside Ditch Company had Chinese men perform the annual ditch work. The Mill Creek Zanja owners in Crafton and Old San Bernardino hired Chinese to construct the dam across Mill Creek each spring, repair breaks, remove debris and shovel sand from the Zanja.

As Redlands became a reality in the early 1880's, Judson and Brown had Chinese work crews build the Judson and Brown ditch to Redlands along with Native Americans. A Chinese community developed near the Brockton Colony in Lugonia. In fact, the first fire reported in the newly incorporated City of Redlands was in Chinatown, Lugonia.

Albert and Alfred Smiley had Chinese work crews build the trails, roads, stone walls and plant much of Canyon Crest Park in 1890.

The Bear Valley Irrigation Company employed vast numbers of Chinese to blast eleven tunnels in the Santa Ana Canyon for the high line water line to Moreno Valley in 1892. Near the mouth of Warm Creek the industrious Chinese built a brick enclosure around a warm spring to create a large bathtub for laborers to enjoy at the end of each work day. The long tunnels through the Bad Lands to Moreno Valley were completed under budget thanks to the Chinese.

A Redlands Chinatown appears in the City Directory of 1900 with the resident men and women noted on a separate page. A business district grew along "Oriental" Street



Lee Bing and his vegetable wagon.

between Orange Street and Texas. Several Chinese stores, restaurants, laundries, vegetable gardens and boarding houses were noted in the *Redlands Daily Facts*, *The Citrograph*, and *Redlands Review*.

Local newspapers echoed the early California prejudices against the Chinese with epitaphs disapproving of the Chinese long pig-tails, clothing, language, food, gambling, opium drug use, and their lack of American assimilation.

While the Chinese as a group were spoken of disparagingly; individual Chinese men were hired as family cooks, housekeepers and complimented for their thrift and work habits. Photographs of Chinese with family groups such as the Edwards' and England family are noteworthy. However, business photos that surely had Chinese employees do not show Chinese in the photos. Some restaurants in Redlands specifically noted in their ads that no Chinese were employed as cooks.

The Panic of 1893 brought Anti-Chinese feelings to the breaking point in Redlands. A demonstration against the Chinese at the corner of State and Orange became a near riot. Company K of the San Bernardino National Guard was called to Redlands to restore calm.

The program will introduce Redlands Chinese men from photographs discovered in the National Archives. A China-American Treaty in 1894 required Chinese to apply for any return visit to China. Applicants were required to have three character witnesses, resident and employment history, height, weight, age and most important financial standing. The Treasury Department was required to monitor this information and take a photograph of the applicant and ensure that no Chinese left America with unpaid debts. The applications stored in the archives are a treasure chest of Chinese history in Redlands.

The program is free and open to the public.



REDLANDS AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
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(909) 307-6060

Address Correction Requested

Redlands Area Historical Society, Inc.

Founded 1972, Incorporated 1974

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Charlie Him came to Redlands in 1890 and worked as a domestic cook for William H. Glass on West Palm, and also at Seven Oaks Resort in the San Bernardino Mountains.

Visit us on the World Wide Web at www.rahs.org