



REDLANDS CHRONICLES

April 2014

More Treasures from the Elias F. Everitt Photographic Collection

Robin Grube, Michele Nielsen and Ron Running, Speakers

Monday, April 28, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Assembly Room at A.K. Smiley Public Library

125 W. Vine Street

For the last year, Historical Society board members Robin Grube and Ron Running, in association with Michele Nielsen, have been working on scanning and cataloging the close to 4,000 prints in the Elias Everitt Photographic Collection at the San Bernardino County Museum. In 1897, Elias Everitt became the manager of a Redlands photographic studio at the age of 60 years. While advanced in years, Everitt created some of the most notable early images of Redlands from 1897 to 1924. In 2013 the Historical Society helped to fund the Museum's exhibition of Everitt's work which is still on display.

This trio of experts will be sharing their favorite images which depict early life of Redlands. Some of the themes that will be shown are portraits, families, groups, community events, parades, trades, early transportation, architecture, and interesting interior shots. The goal of the scanning and catalog effort is to make the Museum's collection more accessible to the public. Ron and Robin will demonstrate how researchers will be able to use the photo imaging in their

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Old House Group Meeting

Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

632 Walnut Street



Old House Group members who remember visiting this home in 2011 will be pleased to see the many improvements made since then. Sean and Lauren have constantly worked to bring their 1912 bungalow to a higher level of comfort, while staying true to its original charm. It has been transformed from a foreclosure property that needed many repairs to a comfortable home with duplicate moldings to match the originals, new plastering and trued-up walls. Lauren's father was an architect, and she had the vision to re-do the kitchen and 2 bathrooms without being daunted by missing walls.

Sean is a Master Gardener, and is responsible for the newly planted 20 fruit trees and many drought-tolerant plants in both the front and back gardens. They have worked hard on the large projects such as replacing some of the foundation, re-roofing for the first time in 100 years, and adding central heat and

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A Letter from your President...

I would like to begin by thanking all of our members who in the past month attended the special events that were sponsored by the Redlands Area Historical Society (RAHS). The events included our Bow C, Grandview and Bow B walking tour, the General Membership meeting and the Old House Group meeting.

Springtime in Redlands brings many community events that uniquely define our community and these are two of my favorites. The Redlands Bicycle Classic celebrated its 30th consecutive year and again brought thousands of spectators to see world-class bicycle racing through the streets of historic downtown Redlands and neighboring communities. What a great opportunity to showcase Our Town. Later this month the Redlands Horticultural and Improvement Society will be hosting its annual Garden Tour on April 26th and 27th. Redlands Horticultural and Improvement Society was founded in 1889 to assist in beautifying Redlands and to encourage our early community members to create gardens. They celebrate the fact that they are California's oldest garden club. If you have never participated in either of these events, I encourage you to do so.

The previous month featured a unique presentation titled "Chinese in Redlands" presented by Tom Atchley, past president and RAHS member of our Board of Directors. His presentation covered the contribution that Chinese men brought to California and he covered the many important Redlands projects that were made possible due their work. Also in the month of March, the Old House Group led by RAHS board member Leslie Irish, treated our membership to a unique opportunity to tour the 1901 Charles Gill Home which is located at 1580 Elizabeth Street. The home is owned by Marilyn Larson and the family has beautifully maintained this home for over four decades. I would like to thank Marilyn Larson for sharing her lovely home and for giving our members this special opportunity. In addition, on March 15th the RAHS held our historic walking tour of Bow C, Grandview and Bow B, which was highlighted with the opportunity to tour several unique gardens on Grandview and Bow B. I would especially like to thank the following homeowners who opened their gardens for our tour participants: Elaine Brubacher, 240 Grandview; Stan and Ellen Weisser, 237 Grandview; Dr. Paul and Marcia Swanson, 215 Grandview; and Dr. Roy and Myrna Smith, 3 Bow B.

Our General Membership meeting and The Old House Group meeting will be further detailed in this month's newsletter. I would also like to inform all our members that the 2014 Heritage Awards and Ice Cream Social will be held on Monday, June 16th at the Burrage Mansion. This year's event will begin at 6:00 p.m. when we will recognize owners of local residences and their businesses for their careful stewardship of these fine examples of historic Redlands architecture.

I will look forward to seeing you at one the many RAHS events that we hold each month.

Bill Blankenship

Newsletter Deadline

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

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.

REDLANDS' SECOND CITY COUNCIL MEETING

- by Tom Atchley

The second Redlands City Council meeting proved just how focused the council could be and how quickly they addressed community concerns as well as city government functions.

The clerk requested a City Seal to follow the California Constitution requirements for a sixth-class city. The council approved a \$5 seal manufactured by the Los Angeles Stamp and Rubber Company. The stamp simply says, "Redlands, Incorporated 1888."

Councilmen discussed the possibility of enacting a "chain gang" to punish city ordinance offenders. Councilman Andrews thought the idea was draconian and would cut into free labor in the city. The issue was brought up by a *Citrograph* editorial by Scipio Craig. No action was taken by the group.

Isaac Newton Hoag appealed to have the council declare Sylvan Street a "Boulevard." Hoag was the Santa Fe Railroad immigration advocate and agent to sell land in the Chicago Colony and Lugonia Heights. The appeal would break the Frank Brown plan to have all east-west streets called avenues and north-south thoroughfares streets. The council agreed with Hoag and declared Sylvan Boulevard the official name. The boulevard name remained rare until Terracina and Redlands Boulevards joined Sylvan with the special distinction.

Charles Paine, citrus expert, was asked to become pest inspector for the city without pay. He accepted, which was pronounced "the Redlands way."

A firearms ordinance was passed to prohibit the firing of firearms in the downtown area from sunup to sundown. The law was necessary to reduce the number of runaway horse teams that indiscriminate revolver and rifle noise created. Every butcher shop began the day slaughtering pigs, steers, goats and sometimes fowl with firearms. A similar ordinance in Tombstone, Arizona led to the shootout at the OK corral when ruffian cowboys refused to comply. The law required that animals be killed outside of the downtown and then be transported to the butcher shops.

To pacify gun advocates the council also approved a Rifle Club to use the land adjacent to the city reservoir as a gun range. The site today is Ford Park.

The most controversial item on the City Council agenda was the liquor license approved for the I. R. Brunn Saloon. Brunn, a San Bernardino native, operated the only saloon east of San Bernardino and paid a \$2000 bond to do business in Redlands. His business license fee crept up slowly with each new council. Prohibition petitioners booed the council liberally for their decision. The council, however, saw the saloon as a cash-cow for a city desperately in need of money. Future councils found the prohibition issue the most divisive problem for Redlands. *The Citrograph* always favored high license while the *Redlands Daily Facts* and *Leader* clamored for a dry town.

Future city councils often find themselves torn between the interests of the citizens v. city funding. What is the proper course for a council member? The city needs to prosper economically to provide city services but weighs political and special interest goals that are just as significant. Council members walk a tight rope in Redlands because the community considers itself exceptional while council members might only see budget items in black and red.

More mundane topics usually became the objects of council meetings. The City Engineer was ordered to install a culvert for the Highland Avenue arroyo. Domestic water company rates were discussed. The council adjourned to inspect the Orange Street grading project from Colton to Pearl. Walking the short distance from the Benton Johnson store council members found themselves ankle deep in mud and horse manure from the recent January rains.

The city clerk handed each council member his draft for a general nuisance ordinance that needed additional comments before a council vote. The homework assignment was due in a week.

THE PUTNAM HOUSE



Real estate and loan man WALTER A. MAIN of West Haven, Connecticut, was in failing health in 1891 when he and his wife, Carrie, had an elegant Queen Anne-style home constructed on Redlands Heights. The local newspaper described it in August 1891 as having 16 rooms and a value of \$6500. Though he was involved in local irrigation and electric companies, Mr. Main and his family did not reside here long; he returned to his hometown in June of 1893, apparently fully-recovered.



The house was rented to E. L. Davis; then leased to Charles French. Finally, in 1895, the property was purchased by widower Charles Putnam, an heir to the Putnam Publishing Company of New York and a fellow investor in Moreno/Alessandro Land companies.

CHARLES PUTNAM was very active in Redlands, serving as a director of Bear Valley Water Co., and the Alessandro Land & Water Co. He also sat on the A.K. Smiley Library Board from 1895 until his death in 1918, and for many years as its president. He left his Egyptian collection to the library and provided funds to furnish the first children's reading room. While president of the Library Board, he visited nearly every day to bring flowers from his garden.

In 1908, Mr. Putnam had R.C. Cunningham build a \$5300 abode for his daughter, Lucy, across the street at 728 W. Crescent. Miss Putnam was instrumental in the organization of the Spinet club.



857 W. CRESCENT AVENUE

She died unexpectedly at the age of 43 on March 28, 1909, from complications of surgery, so it is not known if she ever resided in the home. Both daughters predeceased Mr. Putnam, and after his death, his son, George, lived in the home. George died in 1927, but Arthur Gregory and family were already living in the house by the time the Crescent Heights subdivision - which the Putnams fought in court - opened in 1925.

ALFRED EDGAR FORREST, president of North American Accident Insurance Company of Chicago, needed a winter home for his wife, Susie, had two children. In 1927 the Forrests had well-known local builder, Garrett Huizing, remodel the home into the villa we see today. The Forrest family occupied the home until the 1940s.

Because of later owners, the residence is sometimes referred to by neighbors as the "Mafia house". It was rumored that the residents owned a vineyard and had been involved in bootlegging during prohibition.

Local lore has it that the dome atop the home's tower was originally gold, but was painted black during World War II so that it wouldn't draw the attention of enemy planes. Carl and Catherine Murano said that when they purchased the house in 1971 the dome was a smudgy black. They re-painted it gold, and in 2013 sold the property.

As with many of the mansions on the Heights, the property was originally landscaped down to West Crescent Avenue.



-From Treasures and Hidden Neighborhoods



MAY IS HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH

The HISTORICAL SOCIETY and the REDLANDS CONSERVANCY are jointly sponsoring several activities during the National Historic Preservation month of May. Our theme this month is “Adaptive Reuse: How Redlands Benefits”. Be sure to check our website at www.rahs.org and our Facebook page for updates on the following activities:

MONDAY, MAY 12TH – 6 p.m.

Opening Reception for Club 125 members (owners of homes that are 125+ years of age) and the 2014 Adaptive Reuse Award winner at the Mission Gables Home at 168 S. Eureka Street. Free and open to the public.

THURSDAY, MAY 15TH – 6:00 p.m.

Dedication of The Terrace Park as Redlands Historic Resource #115 at The Terrace Park, near Sixth Street. Open to the public.



*Mill Creek Zanja at E. State and 6th Street, 1889, taken by Rudolph Phillipi.
Woodcutters camped along the Zanja chop wood for cooking stoves.*

SATURDAY, MAY 17TH – 10:00 a.m.

“Redlands Successes and Failures” Bus Tour along the Mill Creek Zanja lead by Tom Atchley . \$30/person. For reservations call (909) 307-6060.

MONDAY, MAY 19TH – 6:30 p.m.

Workshop: “Making Incentives Work for Your Historic Preservation Project”

A panel discussion on the various incentives that are available for historic preservation. The workshop will be held in the Assembly Room of the A.K. Smiley Public Library at 125 W. Vine Street, Redlands.

THURSDAY, MAY 22ND – 5:30 p.m.

Redlands Forum: “Never a Dry Redlands” the history and future of spirits in Redlands – presented by Larry Burgess and Nathan Gonzales at the ESRI Conference center. Reservations required through the ESRI website.

SATURDAY, MAY 24TH – 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

“Roots of Redlands” – A guided tour sponsored by the Redlands Conservancy of the one-square block where Redlands started at Nevada Street and Barton Road. Tour includes samples from Redlands unique eateries. Cost is \$30/person. For reservations call (909) 792-1800.

Tour of the Historic Mill Creek Zanja

THE REDLANDS AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY announced plans for a tour of the Historic Mill Creek Zanja, from its source east in Mill Creek to the west in Loma Linda. The tour is part of the Preservation Week celebration and will focus on preservation successes and failures in Redlands.

The three-hour tour will board the bus at McDonalds parking lot on the corner of Lugonia Avenue and Wabash Street at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday May 17. The tour is led by Tom Atchley, retired Redlands High teacher.

Reservations for the tour must be made by calling 909-307-6060 and leaving a telephone number. Later instructions will be given to mail the \$30 fee to the Historical Society.

The tour visits the original dam site that diverted Mill Creek into the artificial ditch in 1819. This “Zanja” or irrigation ditch is the oldest artifact in the county. The construction is an example of the cooperative effort to bring agriculture to the valley through the vision of Franciscan missionaries and Native Americans. Remnants of the Zanja are visible for nearly seven miles of its original course of twelve miles.

Research for the tour was published by the Redlands Conservancy in *Mill Creek Zanja, Driving Tour and Brief History* and is available from Citrograph Printing.

The tour will discuss the beginnings of Greenleaf, Green-spot, Crafton, Eastberne, Chicago Colony, Lugonia, Lugonia Heights, Redlands, Barton, Old San Bernardino, and the Mission District.

The Zanja had the first furniture factory in Southern California, the first water wheel for electric lights and the first pioneers of the east San Bernardino Valley along its artificial banks. Predating the Lugo San Bernardino Land Grant by two decades, the Mill Creek Zanja was built while Spain claimed California. Dating to the Mission Period the Zanja was built with engineering expertise and Native American manpower.

Tour participants will learn the location of the Crafton Retreat, Paine Ranch, Cram furniture factory, Nicholas Earp ranch (Wyatt’s father), Craig Red Hill Ranch, Bryne Ranch, Dearborn Reservoir, Cave Reservoir, Redlands’ Fire Dept. bell tower, Osburn water wheel, Zanja Festival, Stillman Winery, Barton Winery, Cottonwood Row, Hinckley Ranch, Van Leuven Ranch, Frink American adobe, and the site of the first orange trees in our valley. The bus will park on the site of the Alvarado Ditch and Serrano-Cahuilla work camp of early Redlands.

The Mill Creek Zanja has both State of California Historic designation and the National Register of historic places.

-by Tom Atchley

The ART DECO SOCIETY OF LOS ANGELES works for preservation of Art Deco buildings, gives tours, and holds monthly events in the Art Deco style at locations around LA.

Membership is reasonable and members are not required to attend any of their events.

Saturday May 17th, 6:00-10:00 p.m., they are hosting their annual "The Avalon Ball" - a glamorous night of dancing with Dean Mora's

Avalon Dance Orchestra, featuring authentic 1920's and 1930's music at the Historic Avalon Casino Ballroom on Catalina Island. Formal vintage attire admired but not required.

Advance tickets for members \$50 and non-members \$60. Purchase tickets online at www.brownpapertickets.com/events/384405.

For more info www.adsla.org.

-Kathleen Beall

(Everitt, continued from page 1)
genealogical and local history studies. Maybe you will recognize a family member or see your street as it once was.

Congratulations to Hazel Fuller, who correctly identified the Barnard home on W. Highland Ave. in last month's newsletter!

(Old House Group, continued from page 1)
air. But they have also paid attention to the small details - such as finding registers that match the originals, and having neighbor and fellow OHG member Bill Green mill them baseboards and window-sills to fit the original windows they were able to save.

Come and be inspired by the new life given to this 1 1/2-story Craftsman by this dedicated Redlands couple.

For more information contact Leslie Irish at (951) 201-9742.

The Redlands Area Historical Society would like to thank our **CORPORATE UNDERWRITERS:**

Wes & Peggy Brier

Jill Huntsinger, CAPITIS Real Estate

Leslie Irish & Rebecca Mangum

Marjorie Lewis



School House, above; Mr. & Mrs. Guest, 1912, below.



Redlands High School Baseball Team of 1902

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The Historical Society would like to welcome the following new members:

- Gary & Susan Baughman
- Frank & Deborah Garcia
- Beverly Gaston
- Dean & Candace Hadley
- Jill Huntsinger
- Walter & Mary Mook
- Conny & Carole Oamek
- Bernie & Evelyn O'Prey
- Susan Porter
- John & Laura Smith
- Roy & Myrna Smith
- Gerald & Janet Stanfield
- Joann Tortarolo

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

Paul McReynolds, Pastor of Central Church of Christ, by Elias Everitt

Redlands Area Historical Society, Inc.

Founded 1972, Incorporated 1974

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Programs	Ron Running
Newsletter	Marie Reynolds



REDLANDS AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
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Address Correction Requested

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