

REDLANDS CHRONICLES

February 2015

Redlands Men Participate in World War I

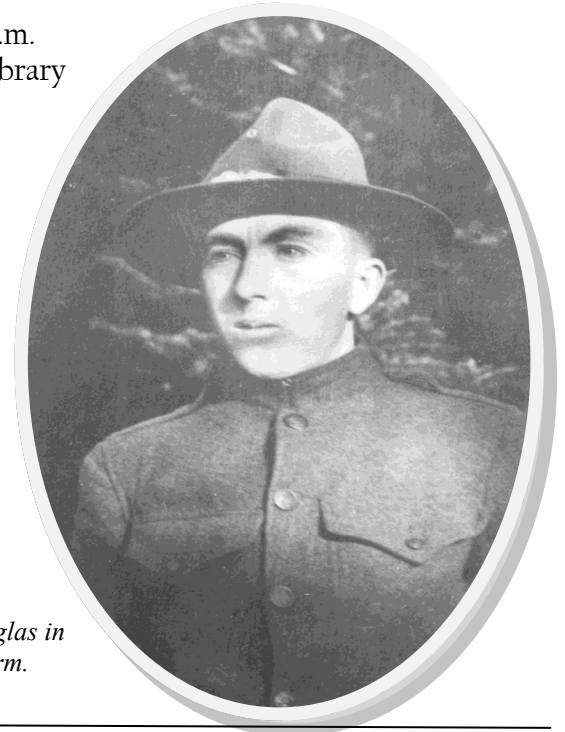
Ann Cordy Deegan, Speaker
Monday, February 23, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
Assembly Room, A.K. Smiley Public Library
125 W. Vine Street

Ann Cordy Deegan will present her research on Redlanders participation in World War I at the Redlands Area Historical Society meeting Monday, February 23, in the Assembly Room of A.K. Smiley Public Library at 7:00 p.m. Deegan researched thoroughly the men that fought in the Great War and followed them using the *Redlands Daily Facts*, military records, cemetery archives, National Archives and numerous sources to construct her presentation.

Deegan co-authored "Images of America: Early Redlands" last year with new Smiley Library archivist, Maria Carrillo, which featured profiles on some thirty photographers of early Redlands. This book is available at Smiley Library.

Deegan received her Ph.D. from the University of Maryland and her M.S. and B.S. degrees from the University of California,

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*Mr. Douglas in
uniform.*

Old House Group

Wednesday, February 25, 2015, at 6:30 p.m.

J. Warren Sleeper House

424 W. Olive Avenue



One of the most eye-catching homes on Olive is the "eclectic bungalow" owned by Chris and Tammy White. Perhaps its most distinctive feature is the "eyebrow" recessed veranda partway up the steeply gabled roof. It was built by a carpenter, J. Warren Sleeper, and he lived in it for many years. He put in many extra details that he would enjoy, as well as constructing the building so it could be used by multiple families at a time.

The house has been appreciated so much by its owners that it has only changed hands a few times. This Craftsman

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A Letter from your President...

On January 26th Redlands Area Historical Society held its monthly General Membership meeting at the A.K. Smiley Public Library featuring Redlands Fire Chief, Jeff Frazier. The program was titled *"The History of the Redlands Fire Department"* Chief Frazier shared with our members interesting stories of the first fire stations and the back ground of who were the first firefighters in Redlands. We thank Chief Frazier for taking time out of his busy schedule to prepare such informative and fun program for the Society. On January 28th the Old House Group meet at the home of **Chalmer and Sue McClure** located 845 Sylvan Boulevard, known as the *Claborn/Volock House*. We appreciate the McClures for allowing the Old House Group the opportunity to see the 1911 home as it was first beginning to be restored and at last month's meeting seeing it completely restored.

It is time again to renew your annual Society dues. Your dues for 2015 are **\$30.00 for an individual/family**. Dues to the Society provide each member with informative monthly programs, opportunities to tour Redlands historic homes through the Old House Group and a monthly newsletter that is informative and also serves as a reminder of the many opportunities you have each month to participate in the Society. 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 2015 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 and for helping us achieve our mission of educating the community on the many historic resources in the Redlands area.

In the month of February we will feature three separate events for our members. The first event will be the two part walking tour of Eureka Street, a first time tour for the Society. Part 1 of the tour will be held on Saturday, February 21st and will meet on the corner of Eureka Street and Palm Avenue. The second part of the tour will be held on Saturday, March 7th and will meet on the corner of Fern Avenue and Eureka Street. The cost to attend each part of the tour is \$10.00 and guests are welcome. On February 23rd the Society will hold its monthly General Membership meeting at A.K. Smiley Public Library and on February 25th the **Old House Group** will meet. Please look inside the February newsletter for additional information on each of these upcoming events.

I would like to thank all of our members who have already renewed their annual dues and those members who will be renewing their dues in the month of February. I will look forward to seeing you at one of the many events that we have planned for our members in the future.

Bill Blankenship

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

Wes & Peggy Brier Marjorie Lewis ~ Realtor, Redlands Vintage Homes
Jerry & Brenda Bean Rochford Foundation



500 Block of Eureka Street, from Scenic America. Courtesy Archives, A.K. Smiley Public Library.

Union Ice Company in Crafton

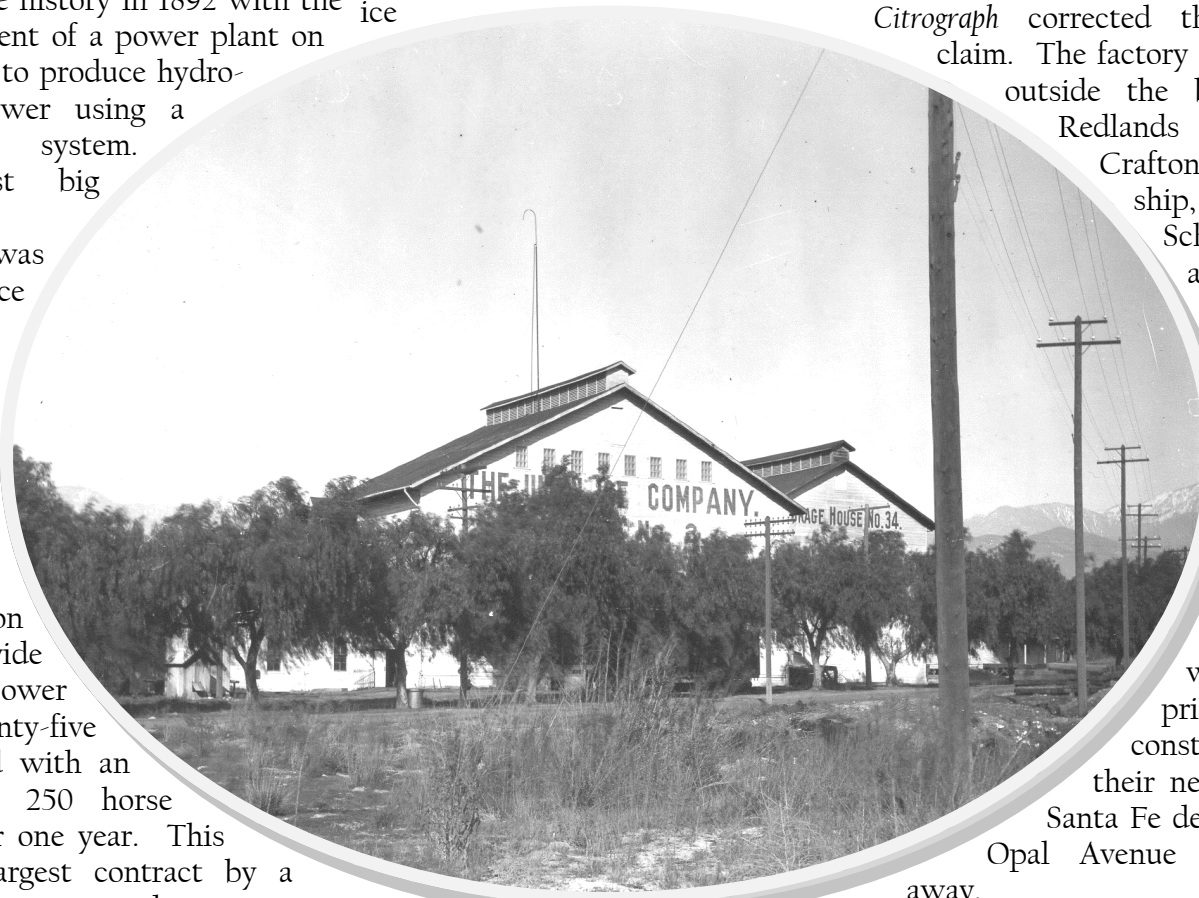
- by Tom Atchley

The Redlands Electric Light and Power Company led by Henry H. Sinclair, Henry Fisher and George H. Crafts made history in 1892 with the announcement of a power plant on Mill Creek to produce hydro-electric power using a three-phase system. Their first big contract customer was the Union Ice Company. In December of 1892, the power company signed a contract with Union Ice to provide 150 horsepower for a twenty-five year period with an option for 250 horse power after one year. This was the largest contract by a power company to produce ice on the west coast.

Union Ice had a facility in Redlands and as late as May 1892 shipped 42 tons of ice to Redlands from Truckee, California. The ice was used to preserve railroad shipments of fresh fruit such as apricots, peaches, plums, and grapes. Several Redlands canneries used vast amounts of ice from early spring until late fall each year. Redlands men cut ice on Big Bear Lake in the winter and stored it in caves and shaded canyons under sawdust and tarps. The long trek down the mountain on the backs of burros cut into the ice blocks. Vast quantities were needed so most ice was used to make ice-cream treats.

Union Ice signed another contract with the Bear Valley Irrigation Company to supply the water. The ice

Mentone was quick to boast the factory as a sign of the colony success. Scipio Craig, editor of *The Citrograph* corrected the Mentone claim. The factory was just feet outside the boundary of Redlands and in the Crafton Township, Crafton School District and Crafton Voting Precinct. Mentone was just northeast of the building site. Regardless, Mentone watched with pride the construction of their new hotel and Santa Fe depot, both on Opal Avenue just blocks away.



Union Ice Company factory on the southeast corner of Colton and Wabash in 1906, showing two large buildings and the electric poles that brought the power.

company bought land on the southeast corner of Colton and Wabash Avenue next to the Bear Valley canal. Redlands Electric Light and Power Company promised to construct a \$100,000 plant and distribution system to supply power. Construction on the power plant and \$60,000 Union Ice factory proceeded all summer long. Union Ice contracted to supply 10,000 tons of ice with a labor force of fifteen. Newly completed Santa Fe tracks passed within less than one-hundred feet of the factory.

Union Ice manufactured the first blocks of ice September 16, 1893, from the completed plant. By October, orders for ice exceeded plant capacity even though the plant was producing 32 tons daily. Redlands Electric increased the power to 250 horsepower and Union Ice began building a second large building.

In December 1893, a Union Ice engineer tested the new machinery with F. H. Knorr and J. H. Beath, Union Ice officials, in attendance. The power blew out a piston head and did \$1,000 in damage to the machinery. The following week with

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repairs completed the press was invited for a tour. Craig viewed exceptionally clear ice and 1600 pounds ready to ship to San Bernardino. He remarked, "coming from inside cold storage was like going from Maine in winter to Redlands in an instant."

The success of Union Ice Company in Crafton prompted the Redlands Electric Light and Power Company to stretch power poles to Redlands and San Bernardino. The founders of the Redlands Company quickly laid plans for the Southern California Power Company and built three power houses on the Santa Ana River by the late 1890's. Just after the turn of the century two new power plants were added to the mouth of Mill Creek Canyon.

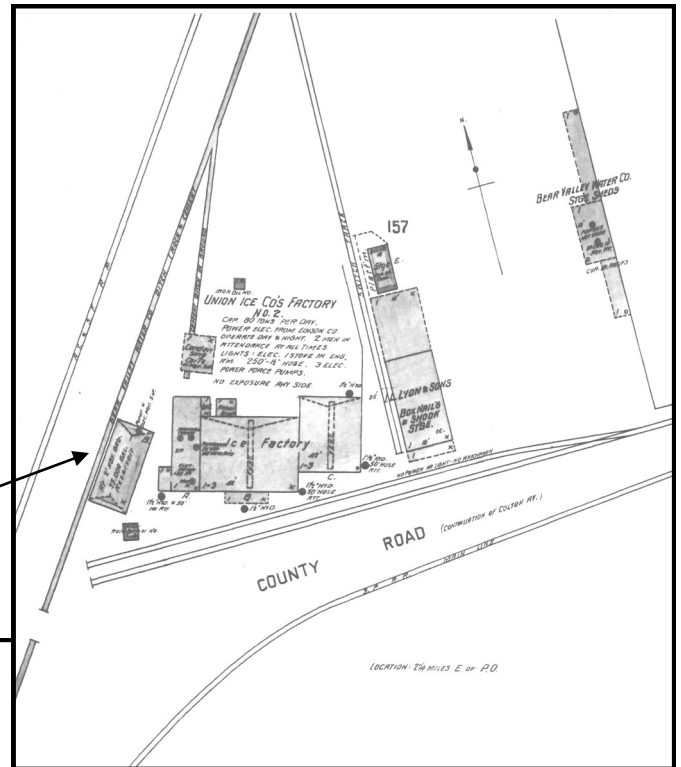
The paneled wagons from Union Ice soon delivered ice for ice boxes in Redlands kitchens. One of the last delivery locations was the James Eden home on East Citrus and Walnut in Crafton. Mrs. James Eden didn't get an electric refrigerator until the 1960s. ∞



Bear Valley canal was the source of water for the vast ice manufacturing plant.

Sanborn Map Company's 1908 rendering of Union Ice Company.

Bear Valley canal is shown adjacent to the 75,000 gallon reservoir.



Union Ice Company on the corner of Wabash and Colton Avenue.

Eureka Street Walking Tour

Redlands Area Historical Society has two walking tours planned for the next two months that will tour Eureka Street. Part One of the Eureka Street Tour will begin at 9:00 a.m. Saturday February 21 at the corner of Eureka and West Palm. This first tour of Eureka will travel north to Fern Avenue and then return to West Palm.

The homes on part one were built in the 1950s in the 700 block and 1920s in the 600 block. The 700 block defines the 1950s with car ports, cul-de-sacs, and the California Ranch style. No one contractor completed this subdivision.

The 600 block captures the Dike and Logie Subdivision with monumental street pillars, revival architecture, a few California bungalows and a street tree theme of incense cedars.

The 500 block of Eureka has a designated historic district with the Garrett Huizing California bungalow homes. Cobblestone porch piers, rock garden features, open verandas, low roof lines, protruding rafters and ribbon driveways for the new auto machines adorn this unique neighborhood.

The 400 block presents turn of the century homes that have both some modern features and carry-over designs from the Victorian Era.

The tour fee is \$10 and will be led by Tom Atchley, vice-president of the Redlands Area Historical Society and assisted by Bill Blankenship, president. Part Two of the Eureka Street Walking Tour begins March 7 at 9:00 a.m. on the corner of Fern and Eureka Street.

Society membership forms are available at the end of the tour along with historical society publications.

A home on Eureka Street.



*Huizing's subdivision,
500 block of Eureka Street.*

(Program, continued from page 1)

Davis. She has been working in history museums and archives and teaching in universities for over 30 years.

Her latest work on the City Directories of Redlands provides an in depth analysis of the directories. Her exhaustive research includes how researchers can use the directories for family research, home construction information, business and professional occupations, advertising, government occupations, parks, schools and streets. The City Directory book is available at the San Bernardino County Museum.

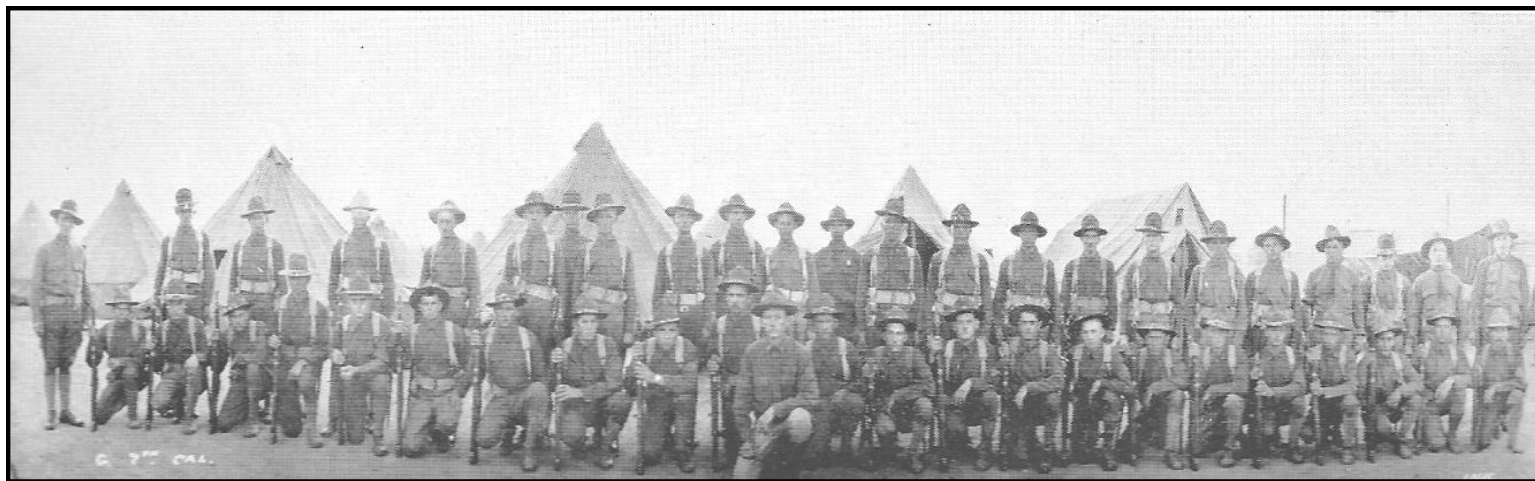
Redlands Area Historical Society programs are free and open to the public. Programs are provided to educate the public on the history of the area. Membership information is available at each meeting.

(Old House Group, continued from page 1)

home features many built-ins, including 3 beds that cleverly unfold in different rooms. You will enjoy seeing the door that goes to nowhere.

When the first Whites first purchased the property in 1965 it was known as the Hollyhock House, for the profusion of flowers in the back yard. In 1997 it was inherited by the young couple who are now preserving and enjoying this unusual home.

Please join us as we visit this little-seen architectural gem.



Redlands' Company G during WWI. In front is Captain Ernest L. Danielson, who led the outfit to Arcadia and Camp Kearney.

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

February 21, 9:00 a.m. Eureka Street Walking Tour, part I

February 23, 7:00 p.m. Program
Redlands Men Participate in WWI
Ann Cordy Deegan, Presenter
A.K. Smiley Public Library
Assembly Room

February 25, 6:30 p.m. Old House Group
424 W. Olive Avenue

March 7, 9:00 a.m. Eureka Street Walking Tour, part II

1st Thursday of the Month Historic & Scenic Preservation
Commission Meetings
City Hall Council Chambers
35 Cajon Street

Historic Preservation Fortnight May 11—25



REDLANDS AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
P.O. Box 8775
Redlands, CA 92375
(909) 307-6060

Address Correction Requested

Redlands Area Historical Society, Inc.

Founded 1972, Incorporated 1974

Board of Directors 2014-2015

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Vice-President	Tom Atchley
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Heritage Awards	Steve Spiller
Hospitality	Sue McClure
Membership	Ron Running
Programs	Tom Atchley
Newsletter	Marie Reynolds



R. J. Farguhar residence on the corner of Eureka Street
and W. Cypress Avenue, circa 1927.