



REDLANDS CHRONICLES

March 2015

Redlands: A Community Response to World War II

RAHS Vice President, Tom Atchley, Speaker
Monday, March 23, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
Assembly Room, A.K. Smiley Public Library
125 W. Vine Street

REDLANDS AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY will continue with the World War themes that began last month with the presentation by Dr. Ann Deegan and "Redlands Faces in World War I." Tom Atchley, vice president of the group, will present "Redlands: A Community Response to World War II" when the historical society meets Monday March 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room of A.K. Smiley Public Library.

While researching the demise of the citrus industry, Atchley created an index file on World War II, the home front and what Redlands citizens did to support the war effort. The Power Point presentation begins with a captured Japanese submarine used in the attack on Pearl Harbor that was photographed traveling through Redlands by the *Mentone News* in January 1942. Japanese subs fired on the Santa Barbara oil fields. The *Montebello*, a Union oil tanker was sunk December 24th off the coast. Redlands

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World War II Troops are led past the Fisher Building on Orange Street in 1942.

Old House Group

Wednesday, March 25, 2015, at 6:30 p.m.
Samuel and Elizabeth Simonds House
501 Walnut Avenue



Many homes in the Residence Plat, near the Wissahickon Inn, were built at the turn of the century. So, too, was the home we are visiting this month. Mr. and Mrs. Simonds arrived in Redlands with their single daughter, Clarissa and chose to build on 2 lots. In 1904, the building permit listed the cost as \$3,000 for a six room dwelling. At that time, it was identified as being 301 Walnut on the corner of California Street. Today the number is 501 and the cross street is now called Ramona.

People from all walks of life have enjoyed the setting and

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A Letter from your President...

Greetings to our members of the Redlands Area Historical Society (RAHS). On Saturday, February 21st, the Society held for the first time a **Historic Walking Tour of Eureka Street**. The Eureka Street Walking Tour was attended by 50 participants who were each given a surprise bonus to the expected two-hour tour. The surprise was an opportunity to share refreshments and tour the restored home of **Joe Boczki and Mandy Lacher** which is located at 515 South Eureka Street. The 500 block of Eureka Street is a designated historic district with homes designed and built by Garrett Huizing. The homes feature prominent Craftsman bungalow designs of granite porch piers, unusual rock gardens, open verandas, protruding rafters and low roof lines.

In the month of March the Society will feature three separate events for our members. The first event will be held on Saturday, March 7th, which is the second part of the Eureka Street Historic Walking Tour. On March 23rd the Society will hold its monthly General Membership meeting at A.K. Smiley Public Library with a presentation on *"Life in Redlands During World War II"* featuring RAHS Vice President, Tom Atchley. Tom's program will be a great follow up to the interesting and informative presentation from Ann Cordy Deegan in February which was titled *"Redlands Men Participate in World War I"*. On March 25th The Old House Group will meet and tour a beautiful home, located at 501 Walnut Avenue. For those of you who plan your calendars around our future events, I want to inform you that on **Monday, June 22nd** the Society will hold our **Annual Ice Cream Social and Heritage Awards Presentation**. It 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 RAHS dues. Your dues for 2015 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 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.

I 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
Jill Huntsinger, CAPITIS Real Estate Jerry & Brenda Bean
Rochford Foundation



Homes South of the Post Office.

Eureka Street



180 South Eureka Street.



256 S. Eureka Street, above; 344 S. Eureka Street, at right.



Crafton Schools

- by Tom Atchley



The first school in Crafton was started in 1875 to educate Cahuilla Native Americans. The school was located on the south-west corner of Opal Avenue and the Mill Creek Zanja. The school building was an adobe home constructed by Lewis and John Cram in 1855. They later moved to Highland and formed the Cram School District in the 1860's. The adobe home was rented by the Nicholas Earp family from 1866 to 1868. Yes, this is the father of Wyatt Earp; Wyatt lived in the home as a young teenager.

In 1875, Rose Belle Robbins, the daughter of Eliza P. Robbins Crafts, started a school for Cahuilla Indians. She

taught English, math and reading and charged one dollar per month. She educated 15 to 25 students per school season. Rose's father, Ellison Robbins, had been superintendent of San Bernardino County Schools in 1858. Her mother, Eliza Persis (Russell) Crafts, was one of the first teachers in the county. Rose's adopted father, Myron Crafts, encouraged his step-daughter to also pursue a teaching career.

On August 7, 1882 the Crafton School District was organized by Charles R. Paine, George H. Crafts and Charles P. Barrows as trustees. Miss Sadie Townsend was hired as the teacher. A log cabin building was constructed on King Street just north of Colton Avenue and served as the school. One third of the students were Native Americans. County attendance records show 22 students attended regularly with ages from five to eighteen.

East Redlands and Crafton began to really develop by 1886. The Chicago Colony settled in East Redlands and brought many young children. They named these streets from their native Illinois: Wabash, La Salle, Dearborn and Lincoln to name a few.

Crafton Land and Water Company subdivided Myron Crafts' property and sales became brisk. The population that arrived wanted a modern school and disdained the log cabin school

house on King Street. A bond for \$6,500 was passed in 1887, which was a great amount for this rural area. The new school house was finished in 1888 and located on Wabash and the Mill Creek Zanja (shown above.) Students from burgeoning Mentone and Crafton attended the new school. Burros were used for transportation and tied in the small park near the Zanja. Crafton School District grew to two teachers in 1888. The imposing bell tower of the school house tolled each day at the beginning of school and again at the end. Mrs. Katherine Waite taught three decades at Crafton from 1886 to 1926.



Crafton School in 1938.

Crafton added new buildings and a library-office in 1925. A Works Progress Administration project included a \$6,700 new school for Crafton in 1936.

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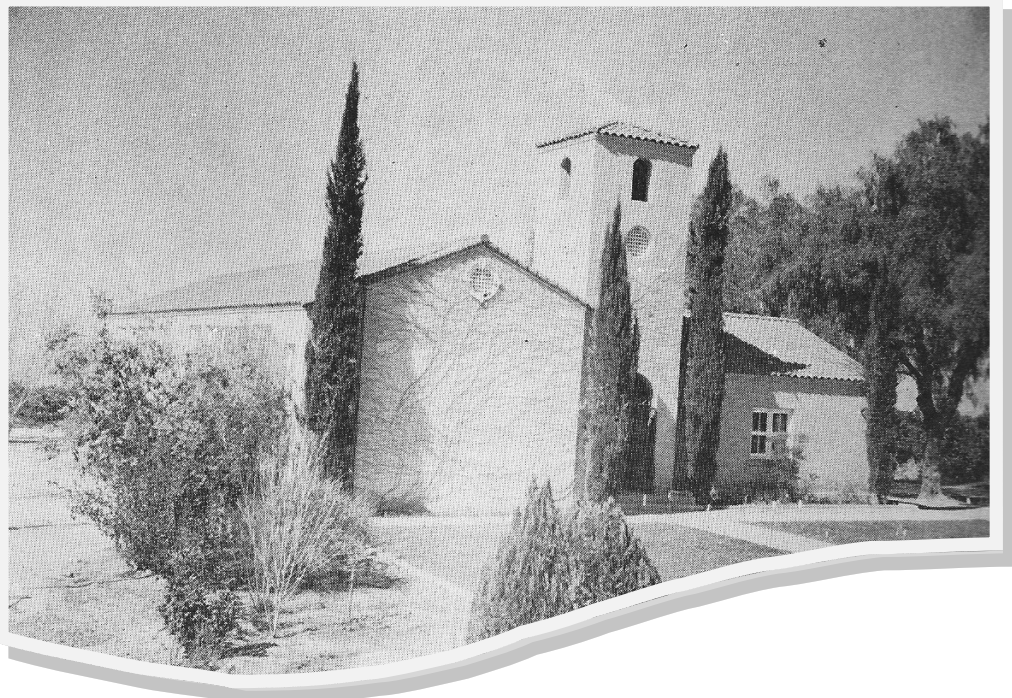
Rose Belle Robbins.

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Redlands' Kingsbury School was built on Cajon and Cypress, also in 1888. Redlands School District began in 1884 with a single room school house on West Palm near Buena Vista. The old school room was moved to Kingsbury and used as a kindergarten classroom until 1922.

In October 1891, Crafton, Lugonia and Redlands School Districts formed a unified high school district and created Redlands Union High.

Greenleaf School District formed in 1893 and built the Greenleaf School on Garnet Street just north of Mill Creek. This school served the Greenspot area and eastern Mentone. Greenleaf was torn down in 1950 with the opening of Mentone Grammar School.



Greenleaf School in 1938.



Students and their Teacher at Crafton School, 1915-1916.

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A Home in an Orange Grove.



Crafton School Teachers.



*Crafts Home ,
"Crafton Retreat"*

(Program, continued from page 1)

became psychologically motivated after the Battle of Los Angeles on February 24, 1942.

Quickly Redlanders organized the protection of the Big Bear Dam, an aircraft warning service, a total blackout of town, which included painting gold domes black on neighborhood homes and the round-up of "enemy aliens" in the community. A German spy was hunted down by the FBI. A Redlander was part of the famous "Doolittle Raid" giving the community the first real hero of the war and hope. Redlands homes were converted for war time housing to provide residences for civilian war workers at the San Bernardino Air Depot (Norton).

The citrus industry boomed during the war as the National War Production Board declared citrus production a national war priority. The Bracero Program began. Citrus fruit canning began with each G.I. K-ration box containing fruit juice.

The community organized rubber drives, blood drives, bandage collections, book drives, iron and metal drives, Red Cross drives, paper collection and bond drives to pay for the war. Redlands War Bond drives led the county for community support and set records throughout the war.

Women took an active part in the war. Boy Scouts, Redlands High, the City of Redlands, University of Redlands, Lion's Club, and Horticultural Society were a few of the organizations to support the war effort daily. Redlands Cannery sent thousands of gallons of vegetables and fruit to the supply depot for shipment. Gill Batteries were in the bombers, fighters, trucks and jeeps in the war. Redlands Tent Company employed 120 men and women making tents for combat soldiers. Abe Gardner road mixers were used by the Seabees on isolated islands in the Pacific to build airstrips. Fletcher Lumber Mill built crates to ship armaments and construct GI tent frames. The "spider lady" raised Black Widows to provide silk for cross hairs for bomb sites.

The *Redlands Daily Facts* was commended by west coast commander, General John L. DeWitt, for outstanding civilian defense organization. A Kiwanis Club Testimonial of Appreciation was held for the Facts October 5, 1944.

The newspaper ran pictorials of the war, the Ernie Pyle column, draft notices, letters from the front, citations for men and women, and daily reminders of community war drives. Overall the community united as never before or since.

Historical Society programs are free and open to the public and offer membership information and publications for sale.

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.

(Old House Group, continued from page 1)

house, a salesman, dentist, rancher, teacher, Norton AFB personnel, and a clock collector. The last long-time owners were the Quashnicks.

Five years ago, the young couple Zach and Tiffany Hadley bought the house. It had been repainted from dark brown to the nice light gray color it is today. They set about making changes to accommodate the needs of a family with young children. These projects included enclosing a sun room to be a new bathroom, a more modern kitchen, and extensive landscaping.

Please join us to visit this lovely and interesting old home.



Red Cross Gauze and Bandage Volunteers.

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| March 7, 9:00 a.m. | Eureka Street Walking Tour, part II
Meet at Eureka & Fern |
| March 23, 7:00 p.m. | PROGRAM
Redlands in WWII
Tom Atchley, Presenter
A.K. Smiley Public Library
Assembly Room |
| March 25, 6:30 p.m. | Old House Group
501 Walnut Avenue
MEMBERS ONLY |
| April 25 | Community Work Day
Hillside Memorial Park
Sign up at redlandsconservancy.org |
| 1 st 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

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| President | Bill Blankenship |
| Vice-President | Tom Atchley |
| Treasurer | Susan Rettig |
| Secretary | Steve Spiller |
| Board Member | Sandie Green |
| Board Member | Leslie Irish |
| Board Member | Sue McClure |
| Board Member | Marie Reynolds |
| Ex-officio | Robin Grube |

Committee Chairpersons

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Genealogy | Ron Running |
| Old House Group | Leslie Irish |
| Heritage Awards | Steve Spiller |
| Hospitality | Sue McClure |
| Membership | Ron Running |
| Programs | Tom Atchley |
| Newsletter | Marie Reynolds |

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



Crafton Children on a Donkey.

Newsletter Deadline

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