

REDLANDS CHRONICLES

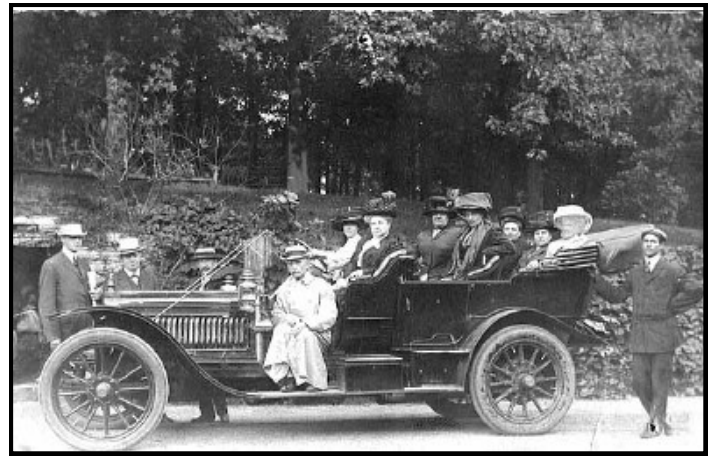
April 2015

The Ocean to Ocean Highway

Robert Rippy, Speaker
Monday, April 27, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
Assembly Room, A.K. Smiley Public Library
125 W. Vine Street

Robert Rippy will present the April 27 Redlands Area Historical Society program on the Ocean to Ocean Highway. Bob Rippy graduated from Redlands High in 1958 and San Diego State in 1963. He completed an MA in English at the University of Redlands in 1967. Rippy taught English at Yucaipa High for five years. His teaching career continued at San Bernardino Valley College for 33 years. Since 2002 Rippy has volunteered for the Yucaipa Historical Society and is currently the Program Director.

Long before Interstate 10 and Highway 99 Redlands was connected to the Southwest by the Ocean to Ocean Highway. Remnants of this highway include downtown Redlands Blvd., the outer highway street south of the freeway from the Yucaipa off ramp through Dunlap and sections of the outer highway through Cherry Valley. Pavement sections of the Ocean to Ocean



(Continued on page 7) Typical Touring Car Traveling the Ocean to Ocean Highway.

Old House Group

Wednesday, April 22, 2015, at 6:30 p.m.

Bates Residence
702 S. Center Street



Just a few homes built in 1900 can boast of the fact that only two families have ever lived there. The first residents were mother and daughter Helen and Edith Bates, from Philadelphia. Their home on the corner of Center and Clifton was built by Davis Donald. The blueprints have remained with the owners, and will be shown to visitors. The only changes made to the house occurred in the early 1930s with the addition of an elevator, a sun porch, and two bathrooms. All the original beautiful oak features are present, just as they were built.

Single daughter Edith remained in the house after her mother's death until about 1955. The house was empty for five years

(Continued on page 3)

A Letter from your President...

Greetings to our members of the Redlands Area Historical Society (RAHS).

The month of March brought several events for our members. On March 7th over 50 participants joined the second part of the Historic Eureka Street Walking Tour. On March 23rd we had a standing room only crowd to hear our Vice President, Tom Atchley who presented a very interesting program titled "Redlands: a Community Response to World War II". Finally, on March 25th the Old House Group met at the beautiful 1904 home of Zach and Tiffany Hadley, which is located at 501 Walnut Avenue.

In the month of April the Society will feature two events for our members. The first event will be a special Old House Group Meeting which will be held at 6:30 Pm on Wednesday, April 22nd. RAHS Members will tour the Bottenberg family home, which is located at 702 Center Street. The eleven room, two-and-a-half-story home was built in 1900 by Davis Donald for Mrs. Helen Bates of Philadelphia. This 1979 Heritage Home has had only two families reside at its prominent place on the corner of Center Street and Clifton Avenue. The second event will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 27th which is our monthly General Membership meeting. The meeting will be held at the A.K. Smiley Public Library and will be a presentation on the Ocean to Ocean Highway.

For those of you who plan your calendars around our future events, I am asking you to take note that on **Monday, June 22nd** 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. For additional information on upcoming events please look inside the April RAHS Newsletter and future newsletters.

I am pleased to inform you that after many months of work we will soon be able to showcase our new RAHS Website. The new website will showcase every Redlands Area Home that has received a Heritage Award and each Heritage Award recipients will be displayed on an interactive Redlands map. The website will also include back issues of our newsletters, updated calendar of events, gallery of historic photos, link to our Facebook page and much more.

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 Barich & Associates

(Program, continued from page 1)

Highway are also found along the south side of Interstate 10 to Cabezón.

The Ocean to Ocean Highway Association was organized in 1911 at a convention held in Phoenix that included the governors of California, Arizona and New Mexico. The objective was to foster the establishment of a national highway system with at least one road across the United States. The Redlands chapter was formed March 12, 1912, with George W. Wilder elected president. Wilder came to Redlands to improve his health and was the president of the Butterick Publishing with 3,000 employees. His company manufactured style paper patterns for clothing and printed the Delineator magazine in English, French and Spanish with a circulation of one million.

Wilder purchased a Spanish Revival home on Dwight Street and became a winter resident. In 1913, he created a model dairy called Hollow Hill at the entrance of Reche Canyon and Barton Road. Wilder became the national booster spokesman for the Ocean to Ocean Highway. He wanted Redlands to become the western entrance to Los Angeles after travelers crossed the Southwest deserts.

Wilder first tackled the route east of Redlands through Crystal Springs Pass, lower Yucaipa, Calimesa, Beaumont and Banning. He spearheaded a movement in Riverside County to build a descent bridge across the Whitewater River east of Banning. Wilder proclaimed there are but two "real spots on God's earth: one, New York and the other, Southern California." The effort by Wilder in 1913 determined the route of Interstate 10 in 1960.

George Wilder ideas encompassed "Good Road Boosters" in Congress and the historical minded National Old Trails enthusiasts. Wilder wanted states to collect license fees to pay for roads. He wrote articles in the Better Roads magazine debating the macadam asphalt road compared to cement or brick road surfaces. Sections poured in Redlands are all cement and have held up over time. Subscriptions by the Redlands Chamber of Commerce and Manufacturers Association led to volunteer days to construct better roads. Citrus farmers, college professors, lawyers, city council members, and businessmen grabbed shovels, picks and axes to build roads.

George Wilder was a one-man whirlwind for a good auto road across America.

Robert Rippy's presentation discusses the route debate Wilder presented in his power point program. Historical Society programs are free and open to the public.

(OHG, continued from page 1)

until bought by William Bottenberg. It then became a true family home, with 11 children making use of the 2 ½ stories, eleven original rooms plus additions, and a carriage barn. The house received one of the first Heritage Awards, given in 1979. Both the senior Bottenbergs died in 2010, and eventually it was lived in again by one of their children, Peter, his wife Michelle, and their three children. Since Peter has lived here almost his whole life, he has lots of history to tell us when we have the opportunity of viewing this lovely gem of Redlands Victorian architecture.

ORDER YOUR DVD/VIDEO

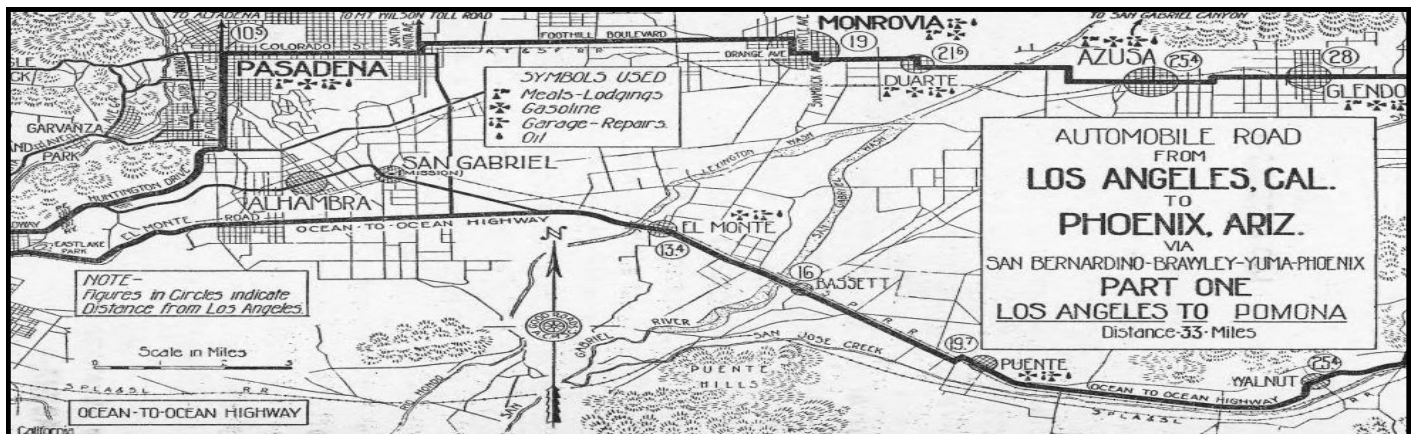
All of our monthly programs and Heritage Awards ceremonies are dutifully recorded by Gerry and Linda Brassfield of Blue Eagle Video. Videos are \$20 each.

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

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| April 22, 6:30 p.m. | OLD HOUSE GROUP
702 S. Center |
| April 25, 8:00 a.m. | Community Work Day
Hillside Memorial Park
Sign up at redlandsservice.org |
| April 27, 7:00 p.m. | PROGRAM
The Ocean to Ocean Highway
Robert Rippy, Presenter
A.K. Smiley Public Library
Assembly Room |
| 1 st Thursday of the Month | Historic & Scenic Preservation
Commission Meetings
City Hall Council Chambers
35 Cajon Street |

Historic Preservation Fortnight May 11—25



Genecology
Old House Group
Heritage Awards
Hospitality
Membership
Programs
Newsletter

Ron Running
Leslie Irish
Steve Spiller
Sue McClure
Ron Running
Tom Atchley
Marie Reynolds

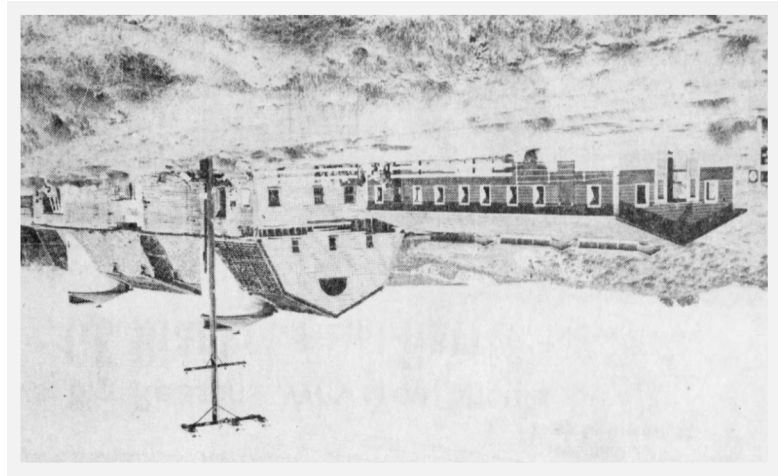
Committee Chairpersons

Ex-officio
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member
Secretary
Treasurer
Vice-President
President

Robin Grube
Marie Reynolds
Sue McClure
Leslie Irish
Sandie Green
Steve Spiller
Susan Rettig
Tom Atchley
Bill Blankenship

Board of Directors 2014-2015

Redlands Area Historical Society, Inc.
Founded 1972, Incorporated 1974

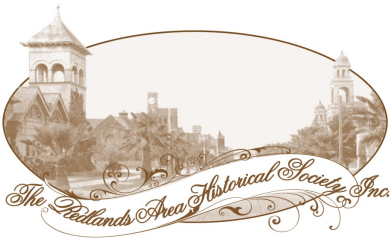


George Wilder's Redlands Home on Dwight Street and his Hollow Hill Dairy in Reche Canyon.



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

Address Correction Requested



MAY IS HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH