



# REDLANDS CHRONICLES

September 2016

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## REDLANDS CITIZENS FINDING SHELTER IN THE ATOMIC AGE

STEVE SPILLER, SPEAKER

Monday, September 26, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.  
Assembly Room at A.K. Smiley Public Library  
125 W. Vine Street

Steve Spiller, Executive Director of the Mission Inn in Riverside, will take the Redlands Area Historical Society members on a nostalgic trip into the late 1950s and 1960s during the Cold War years.

Spiller wrote an unpublished manuscript in 1978 for the University of California, Riverside for a MA degree named "Revival of Civil Defense 1961-1962 A Community Reacts." While researching this paper Spiller discovered some twenty-five bomb shelters built in Redlands.

Last October, Spiller gave the expanded power point presentation for the Redlands Fortnightly Club. His program is illustrated with literature of the Cold War and warnings given by the Federal Government to prepare.

The nuclear age caused a great deal of anxiety after the Russians exploded their first bomb. Our foreign policy fashioned by Secretary of State Dulles believed "brinkmanship" strategically could nullify Soviet threats.

Steve Spiller identifies local salesmen that promoted bomb shelters and the contractors that would build them. City of

(Continued on page 7)

## OLD HOUSE GROUP POTLUCK

Wednesday, September 28, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.  
504 W. Fern Avenue

1903 MUST HAVE BEEN A GOOD YEAR for John McIntosh. In that year, he had Davis Donald build him a new \$5,000 home at 504 West Fern Avenue, on the corner of Buena Vista. He was also constructing a new brick blacksmith shop on Citrus and 4th, for his wagon and carriage business. This *Citrograph* notation was found by Marjorie Lewis, our new chairman of the Old House Group.

Other prominent Redlands families later owned this house, including the Neil Duncans, the Hubert Gowlands, and the author Sydney Burchell. In 1989 the house received a Heritage Award, and it was noted that the then-owners Anne and Allen Brett had done a lot of restorative work on the house and gardens. Today, many original features of the house and its carriage barn will be on display when Redlands Area Historical Society holds its annual potluck at this lovely 3,600 square-foot Classic Box home of Ryan and Denise Kelly.

Details are found elsewhere in this newsletter for the members who wish to join us there for a wonderful evening made possible by the generosity of this Redlands-loving family.



Please bring your favorite covered dish – last names beginning with the letters A-S (main dishes) and T-Z (desserts.)

- by Robin Grube

## A Letter from your President...

This month's newsletter heralds the start of the start of The Redlands Area Historical Society's new 2016-2017 year. Officers and board members were elected at our annual meeting held at the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Heritage Awards and Ice Cream Social. Officers elected to serve this year are as follows: Ron Running, President; Tom Atchley, Vice President; Steve Spiller, Secretary; and Susan Rettig, Treasurer. Returning board members are Marie Reynolds and Robin Grube. New board members are Jill Huntsinger, Marjorie Lewis and Marcus Paulson. Ex official members serving will be: Bill Blankenship, Past President; Leslie Irish and Sue McClure.

Many thanks go to Bill Blankenship who served as Society president for a record setting five terms! Sandie Green retired as a board member after serving for several years. Committee chairpersons for this next year will be as follows: Membership – Susan Rettig and Ron Running; Newsletter & Social Media – Marie Reynolds; Programs – Tom Atchley; Hospitality – Jill Huntsinger; Old House Group – Marjorie Lewis; Heritage Awards – Steve Spiller and Robin Grube.

Even though no official activities were held during the summer, the Society members were busy working on a variety of projects. Our website at [www.rahs.org](http://www.rahs.org) has been redesigned and is continually being updated. We are preparing for a visit of the California State Historic Resources Commission for their fall meeting on October 27 & 28. The Commission will be meeting in the Mitten Building on the morning of the 27<sup>th</sup> and touring the city in the afternoon. On Friday, October 28 the Commission will hold it's meeting in the City Council Chambers. The Commission will be reviewing nominations for the State and Federal listing of historic places as well as granting the City of Redlands its certified local government status.

This summer board member Sue McClure took on a special project. Sue volunteered to discover what had happened to one of the plaques on the Smiley Brother's statue in front of the library. The plaque had been removed but never replaced. Sue researched what was contains on the original plaque and had a duplicate made. The photo on page 8 was taken at the unveiling this summer. Thanks, Sue, for taking care of this! These historic plaques are important in sharing our rich cultural heritage.

We are looking forward to a full year of interesting programs, walking tours, old house visits, research and social activities. We have need of volunteers to help with the website, old home research, walking tours, social media or hospitality. Anyone interested in participating is encouraged to contact myself or any of our board members.

*Ron Running*

Phone: (909) 798-1289 Email: [ronrun5@yahoo.com](mailto:ronrun5@yahoo.com)

The Redlands Area Historical Society would like to thank our

### CORPORATE UNDERWRITERS:

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**Jill Huntsinger, Redlands REALTOR, CAPTIS Real Estate, [www.finedigs.com](http://www.finedigs.com)**

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# HOME AFTER 120+ YEARS



*Above: Riddel and Grant Family Members Pose in front of the J. O. Riddel House at 758 Center Street. Dr. Paulson Found this Photo in Pasadena.*

LOCAL ORTHODONTIST Dr. Marcus Paulson has a hobby. It is finding original and undocumented items from Redlands' past. He collects old photographs, books, and anything to do with Our Town. Whether using his metal detector to search yards and basements or hitting the junk sales, he is glad to find anything relating to Redlands.

Recently, he was excited to bring home a few photos he found through a dealership in Pasadena. A couple had the word "Redlands" on the back along with several names. That was all he needed to start his research. He soon discovered the house in the photo was of 758 Center Street, which looks completely different today as the second story had burned down and hadn't been rebuilt; however, the first level remained today very similar.

Elated that the house still existed, he was able to track down and contact the current owners, Chuck and Julie Mendoza, about something special he had found. He didn't inform them what it was—he wanted to do something unique for them.

Using wood he obtained from the basement of another old house and square nails from Redlands, he constructed several old-style picture frames for the photos and arranged a meeting with the Mendozas. As the photos were presented, the Mendozas were overwhelmed with joy and amazement to see the house into which they'd put so much love and work restoring over the years. They were also quite interested to see the faces of the original owners and the family who lived there. Dr. Paulson was rewarded by seeing the photos return to the home they originally came from over 100 years before.

*- by Marcus Paulson*



**JOHN O. RIDDEL**  
(1863—1926)

J. O. RIDDEL was born near New Haven, Conn., in 1863, and resided there until he came to California, in 1890, he was married to Miss Minnie E. Grant, a daughter of George M. Grant, of New Haven. They have one child. On coming to Redlands, Mr. Riddel was for four years assistant to E. A. Tuttle, city engineer, and also engaged in growing citrus fruits, having nearly twenty acres in oranges and lemons. He owns the oldest grove in Redlands proper, a seedling orchard on the corner of Center street and Olive avenue, set out by E. J. Waite for Messrs. Judson & Brown. The first orange tree was planted to celebrate Washington's birthday, in 1882. This tree was planted on the lot where Theodore Clark's residence now stands. It afterwards died, but the orchard planted three months later and now owned by Mr. Riddel had better care and a better fortune, and is now among the best seedling orchards in Redlands.

Source: *Illustrated Redlands*, 1897, p. 23





# WATER RESOURCES

-by Tom Atchley

JUDSON & BROWN by early 1881 had invested in land in East Highlands, Lugonia and the mesa south of the Mill Creek Zanja. They purchased water shares in the Sunnyside Ditch, North Fork Ditch, Cram-Van Leuven Ditch and Plunge Creek. In a few instances Judson & Brown flipped property and water shares for quick profits. But overall, they collected water shares while selling surplus land in what appeared as a haphazard speculative real estate scheme with no theme for development. Judson & Brown had no preference for either East Highlands or the plain south of the Zanja. Circumstances that led to serendipity opportunities moved their attention to land south of the Zanja over East Highlands.

By the latter part of 1880, Judson & Brown owned 37 water shares in various ditches and 1500 acres across the valley. By 1881, they purchased 320 acres from the Southern Pacific Railroad and within two years bought an additional 4,000 acres from William Somers, Ben Barton, Orsen Van Leuven and the railroad. However, they did not own enough water to promote 500 acres to sell.

The *Riverside Press and Horticulturalist* reported April 5, 1879 very interesting news for Frank Brown. William Ham Hall, the State Engineer for California, dispatched Assistant State Engineer, James D. Schuyler to investigate sources of the Santa Ana River for potential reservoir sites. Schuyler brought a Captain Sayward to

assist in this investigation. Judson & Brown both subscribed to this regional paper since Luther Myron Holt carried the most thorough news of San Bernardino County and was the expert on horticultural pursuits in Southern California.

Frank Brown's neighbor in Lugonia was Fred T. Perris. Perris completed the survey of the 1877 Sunnyside Ditch. The new ditch lost 25% less water and this afforded the real boom in the Lugonia settlement. Perris contracted with the Southern Pacific and California Southern to survey government land and then suggest the best possible land for them

to acquire. This knowledge of land and especially water resources certainly became privy to his neighbor and fellow engineer, Frank Brown. One wonders also if Frank Brown had knowledge of the Anthony Hubbard explorations of the Santa Ana River in 1875-1878. The Hubbard flume scheme was the first of many to follow. Brown certainly knew that the Sunnyside Ditch flume originally planned to deliver water to the Kenwood Colony west of Lugonia. Sunnyside flume in both 1874 and 1877 wished to deliver water and railroad fuel wood.

The State Engineer report on the Santa Ana River

reservoir sites was released in early 1880. Several reservoir sites on the upper Santa Ana were mentioned with the Bear Valley site receiving the best review. Businessmen in the region, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Carson, Nevada took notice. Lumbermen found the reservoir sites especially enticing for flume operations. Frank Brown wrote a paper for an advanced engineering degree to the faculty of the Sheffield Scientific School after he built the Bear Valley dam. In this paper, Brown spun a yarn about the Bear Valley dam site that was obviously manufactured to reduce the complexity of locating the



*East Highlands Bench with Citrus Plantings.*

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dam site and his prior knowledge. In fact, the state report launched a race to build a dam and control water in the upper Santa Ana Canyon.

Brown made the trek to teach school in San Timoteo Canyon for two years. He carried his transit, survey equipment, water buckets and aneroid barometer. The aneroid was capable of measuring the altitude of a given point fairly accurately. Brown was obsessed with this device. He discovered that the corner of West Cypress and Center Street had an elevation of 1466 feet. He measured the mouth of the Santa Ana River at the headwaters of the Sunnyside Ditch at 1897 feet above sea level. Early Lugonia residents scoffed at any idea of irrigating the plain south of the Zanja. Their opinion was based on viewing the mesa from the George Cook store at Orange and Colton Avenue. Orange Street and Redlands Blvd. elevation is 1371 feet. Obviously from this point water could flow down Orange Street but not up Cajon Street. Cajon and Olive is an elevation ten feet higher. Brown scoped a transit path beginning at a much higher point and transporting water along a higher line.

The aneroid obsession followed Brown throughout his life. He wrote the elevation of every point in Redlands, Highland, Mentone, Green-spot, Yucaipa, and the San Bernardino Mountains. On the Santa Ana River trail to Bear Valley he scribbled the elevations on every trip about every half mile. He could take these elevation notes and average them to determine fairly accurate measurements long before GPS. The aneroid barometer that Brown carried had much to do with the beginning of Redlands.



*Redwood Flume built by Judson & Brown for the North Fork Ditch.*

Hezekiah W. Ball, the burly Texan, moved to the Berry Roberts Settlement in 1870 provided the serendipity luck Judson & Brown required to begin their promotion of land and water for sale in Red Lands. Ball was a freighter and had oxen, mules, burros and horses to carry on his freight business mainly in the San Bernardino Valley and Mojave Desert. His stock lounged and defecated in the Sunnyside Ditch and Old Berry Robert Ditch. Ball claimed ownership of the Berry Roberts Ditch, even though this ditch was abandoned in 1877. Farmers paid an annual fee of one dollar to use the ditch. Women were especially indignant with Ball for his disregard of neighbors whose ranch wives used the ditch water for domestic use. The women shunned both Ball and his wife, Ellen. After ten years of neighborhood animosity Ball decided to sell and move.

Ball was anxious to leave the area and offered 160 acres of producing land and 33

shares in the Sunnyside Ditch for \$6,000. Judson & Brown were shocked by the low price and this led to the eventual sale of the fruit dryers to raise funds for the purchase. The transfer took place January 17, 1881. *The Riverside Press and Horticulturalist* reported Judson & Brown planned to plant 10,000 peach and apricot trees immediately. In East Highlands, farmers feared Judson & Brown would move their North Fork Ditch shares to land south of the Zanja. A petition was circulated in the press which said,

"Whereas, a paper has been circulated to the effect that the conduct of said Brown and Judson in this matter "has been utterly unjustifiable," we, the undersigned, the parties directly interested, hereby declare that the whole question has been satisfactorily adjusted, and on coming to a full understanding of the case, we believe the intentions of Brown and Judson have been perfectly honorable and throughout." Signed Francis

M. Keller and H. C. Keller, Asa Carter and Hezekiah W. Ball--  
-Legal Notice

Judson & Brown thanked the Keller's by naming a mountain peak above East Highland to honor their saving the peace. Judson & Brown enjoyed the good favor of East Highland and Cramville people by building their highline flume in 1880 and then later building a redwood flume at the Sunnyside and North Fork Division to save additional North Fork water. Litigation to move the North Fork water to the south side of the Santa Ana could only complicate any future development and Judson & Brown were wise to move their entire plans to the south side of the Zanja with entirely South Fork water.

Brown became intimately involved with the topography of the future development. He measured elevations from the mouth of the Santa Ana River to the future site of Terracina (West

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Redlands). He discovered the mouth of the Santa Ana is 1897 feet above sea level. The Zanja near the future Crafton School is 1638'. To the southwest East Citrus was 14 feet lower. He could follow the path of the Maria Armenta Ditch to Reservoir Canyon (Yucaipa Canyon and now Dog Park of Ford Park) at 1566 feet. A reservoir built in Reservoir Canyon could supply irrigation water for a new farm subdivision. Judson & Brown owned 50 shares of the Sunnyside Ditch that had 369 shares. Judson & Brown owned 1/7 of the water of this ditch thanks to the Ball purchase.

Luther Holt, Riverside editor, suggested one miners' inch of water for eight acres was sufficient. Brown's calculations were similar for citrus groves. Brown believed he would have enough water to irrigate 500 acres if none of the 50 shares of the Sunnyside Ditch water was lost in the ditch. Even though the new ditch lost 25% less than before 1877 the ditch still was a sieve to percolation. Brown concluded he needed to construct a new thoroughly efficient cement paved ditch that lost no water in transport. In January, Judson left for a three-week trip to New York to secure a loan or help from his relatives. The March 9, 1881 the *Riverside Press and Horticulturalist* advertised, "Lugonia Lands for sale, with water rights, Title perfect, points unexcelled, good (eastern society); church and schools; delightful, elevated situation, northerners almost unknown. Edward G. Judson, Lugonia, P.O., San Bernardino." The Ball property was placed on the market. Twenty acres with Sunnyside Ditch rights were offered for \$700.

Luther Holt also

suggested Judson & Brown form a Mutual Water Company. While the recommendation by Holt was preferred by water users; Judson & Brown needed revenue to pay for land and an expensive water delivery system. The Chaffey brothers in Ontario chose the mutual water company scheme but still fought lengthy water suits even with a mutual company.

The new development south of Lugonia caught the attention of the new State engineer, William Ham Hall. He arrived to inspect the Yucaipa Canyon reservoir plan of Frank Brown. Assistant engineer, Col. Schuyler, came with Hall but their analysis was never recorded by either



Brown or the local press. William Ham Hall did lavish pages of description of the Redlands water plan in his 1888 *Irrigation in California, San Diego, San Bernardino and Los Angeles Counties*. The attention paid in this field survey amounted to praise from authorities in Sacramento.

On April 9, 1881 the press announced a new sub division was to be placed on the market by Judson & Brown for \$20 to \$100 per acre. This land was in East Highlands on both the East Highlands Bench and along

the Third Street Cram-Van Leuven Ditch. Cheaper land was located on the sandy soil along Third Street while the expensive land was on the bench. Judson & Brown constructed canals and pipelines to each 10 acre piece. The bench property sold quickly but was ten to twelve miles from the railroad. The sale of this land was one small segment of the financing required to build substantial irrigation infrastructure.

The same April 9 article announced a 1,000 acre tract on the south side of the river being placed under a new ditch. The soil was considered similar to Riverside and the water right unquestioned and was located three miles from

Riverside Sub-Irrigation Co.

April 23, 1881 the pace of the new project quickened with the Judson & Brown purchase of a carload of cement with the Riverside Sub-Irrigation Company. Sixty barrels of cement weighed 24,440 pounds. No irrigation project had ever used cement to seal a canal. Judson & Brown would use the cement to plaster their canal and reservoir at the mouth of Yucaipa Canyon. The reservoir plan contained a 60 foot high dam with a reservoir covering 25-30 acres. The Riverside Company would construct cement pipe for the distribution lines from the reservoir. All was moving forward but Brown was haunted by the fear the project would lack sufficient water.

A second reservoir was planned for the head of Cajon Street just above Crescent Avenue. This reservoir would capture rain from Redlands Heights and with a simple pipe line connect to the main line on Cajon and East Crescent. This reservoir was never built but does demonstrate the desperation Brown had for additional water. Muddy water collected behind such a dam would pollute the pure water from the Santa Ana River complicating domestic use.

On May 7, 1881 Judson & Brown filed perhaps the most important claim in their short-lived partnership. This was the first water claim of Judson & Brown and it was written on Lugonia Fruit Packing Company letterhead.

"Notice is hereby given, that the undersigned, of San Bernardino County, State of California, do appropriate all of the water, flowing upon and beneath the ground, at or near this point of posting.

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Also all water that can be developed along the line, of the East Bluff of the Santa Ana Canon; between this point of posting, and the intersection of the said East Bluff, with the South Fork ditch. Said point of posting, is upon a tree near a [ciénega] at the foot of said East Bluff; a little south easterly, from the Division of the North Fork, and South Fork ditches of the Santa Ana River. We intend to use said water for Irrigating, Filling of reservoirs, Domestic use, and for watering stock. The place where we shall use it, is in Sections 33-34 & 35 T.1 S. R. 3 W. S. B. M. We shall divert it by means of dams and ditches of sufficient capacity to convey all the water that can be developed along the line of said East Bluff. Signed Edward G. Judson and Frank E. Brown."

The postscript on the back of the claim was recorded to fulfill California State Water Claim law that required work on a claim to begin immediately or not later than sixty days. It reads,

"I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the Notice, posted this day (May 7/81) by Judson & Brown.]

[Also that a gang of Indians under my directions are already at work developing said water, for said Judson & Brown."]


The County Clerk charged \$1.25 to record the document. \$

*\*Part II of WATER RESOURCES will be continued in the next edition of Redlands Chronicles.*

## D. M. Donald BUILDER


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use. 

## Upcoming Events

September 26, 7:00 p.m.	PROGRAM – Redlands in the Atomic Age Steve Spiller, Speaker Lyon Assembly Room A.K. Smiley Public Library 125 W. Vine Street
September 28, 6:30 p.m.	OLD HOUSE GROUP POTLUCK 504 W. Fern Avenue
October 22, 4:00 p.m.	8th Annual Cemetery Tour Meet at the Mausoleum
1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of the Month	Historic & Scenic Preservation Commission Mtg. City Hall Council Chambers 35 Cajon Street

*(ATOMIC AGE, continued from page 1)*

Redlands building permits dutifully recorded the homes that installed the shelters. Several neighborhoods caught the fever.

Two historical home books are for sale at each meeting along with a DVD of *Illustrated Redlands 1897*. DVD copies of the programs may be purchased from Ger and Linda Brassfield at [blueeaglevideo.com](http://blueeaglevideo.com).

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.

## 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](mailto:blueeaglevideo@aol.com).

## Newsletter Deadline

All RAHS members are encouraged to submit articles for *Redlands Chronicles* to Marie Reynolds at [sccmarie@yahoo.com](mailto:sccmarie@yahoo.com) by the 1st of each month.



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

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Programs	Tom Atchley

Visit us on the World Wide Web at [www.rahs.org](http://www.rahs.org)



*Photo credits (left to right): Susan Rettig, Robin Grube, Tom Atchley, Leslie Irish, the Smiley twins, Gerow Smiley (nephew of the twins), Sue McClure and Nathan Gonzales, city archivist.*



REDLANDS AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
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