

## REDLANDS EXPLORE PHONE APP LAUNCH

Monday, October 23, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.  
Assembly Room at A.K. Smiley Public Library  
125 W. Vine Street

REDLANDS AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY has a special program planned for its October 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting planned at A.K. Smiley Public Library at 7:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room. Ron Running, current president of the Historical Society, and Ben Parker, a Historical Society member, have collaborated with two University of Redlands students and Professor Trisha Cornez to develop an app for both Android and i-Phones.

The enhanced phone application was completed by David Galindo and Sean Unger. They will demonstrate the application at the meeting that allows Android and i-Phone telephone users to view all of the 350 Heritage Homes awarded since 1975 on their phones. Attendees are encouraged to bring their smart phones to the meeting to demonstrate the app.

David Galindo is a senior computer science and math major. David grew up in East Los Angeles and attended Francisco Bravo Medical Magnet Charter School. Sean Unger is also a senior computer and science major and attended Carlsbad High School. Both students are members of the University of Redlands cross-country team.

The Historical Society paid the developer license fees of \$100 for each of the students so they could begin the program. The Historical Society intends to enlarge the apps to include lost Redlands buildings, landmark public buildings, and overlays of subdivisions and maps.

Both Running and Parker will demonstrate their recently completed story maps that will be located on the Society's webpage. The story maps will allow viewers to see Heritage Award winning homes by decades built. The story maps are made possible from a generous software grant provided by ESRI for the ArcGIS program.

Professor Cornez will also demonstrate a new display feature that she has developed that will allow viewers to view the historic subdivision maps throughout the City.

Historical Society programs are free and open to the public.

*-by Tom Atchley*



# A Letter from your President...

WE HAD A GREAT START to our 2017-2018 year with an interesting program on the history of Bryn Mawr School presented by Audrey Maier a local Redlands High School graduate. Our annual Old House Group pot luck was a success thanks to the hospitality of Donn and Janet Grenda at their beautiful Craftsman architecture home. Donn shared a fascinating story of how he discovered the history of the home by cleaning out the chimney!

This month we will be launching our new Redlands Explore App for both Android and iPhone users. Our program on October 23<sup>rd</sup> will include a demonstration of the apps by the University of Redlands team that helped us develop the application. Users of the app will be able to access the histories of our 350 Heritage Homes as you drive around our beautiful city. You will also be able to search by builder, architect or architectural style. The app allows you to plot your route to visit these wonderful structures.

Additionally we will also demonstrating recent additions and upgrades made to our [www.rahs.org](http://www.rahs.org) website. The primary additions are story maps that we've added showing the Heritage Award homes and historic buildings that have been lost over time.

The City of Redlands reviewed and approved the recently completed the *Citywide Historic Context Statement* prepared by the Architectural Resources Group of Pasadena. This wonderful document outlines the developmental history of Redlands and reviews the architectural history of the City from 1810 to 1980. The Context Statement was funded by a State grant given to the City as a certified local government. The Statement can be found on the City's website at [www.cityofredlands.org](http://www.cityofredlands.org)

Don't forget to join Tom Atchley and Marjorie Lewis on our 9<sup>th</sup> annual Hillside Cemetery walk on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 4 p.m.



*An Actress at the Wyatt Opera House.*

## Ron Running

The Redlands Area Historical Society would like to thank our

### CORPORATE UNDERWRITERS:

Law Offices of Gary D. Baughman (APC)

Daniel Haueter & Steven Villa

Wes & Peggy Brier

Jerry & Brenda Bean

Dean & Candace Hadley

Marjorie Lewis - Realtor, Redlands Vintage Homes

Barich & Associates

Leslie Irish & Rebecca Mangum

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

ROCHFORD FOUNDATION

# Theatre and Movie Entertainment

- by Tom Atchley

THE FIRST entertainment for early residents of Lugonia and Redlands was located in San Bernardino at the Waters Opera House built in 1882. San Bernardino was able to book singing and opera groups from Los Angeles and the entertainment-starved East San Bernardino Valley gussied up for the evening and migrated west, choking on the dusty road following the family nag in an open carriage. Later in 1883, the regular stage service operated a late afternoon stage to San Bernardino for opera events.

Lugonia opened the Wilson-Berry building in February 1887 with opera bookings in its upstairs theatre (north east corner of Orange and Colton). Short plays without an orchestra pit delighted the local community.

Redlands responded with the Academy of Music Opera House in 1891. The building was constructed by George W. Meade (northeast corner of Orange and Citrus) with a 500-seat theatre upstairs. Mostly vaudeville acts mixed with singing and dancing troupes formed



*"Raisin King" George Meade's Academy of Music Building Still Stands at the Northeast Corner of Citrus and Orange. Courtesy Archives, A.K. Smiley Public Library.*

the basis of entertainment. Redlands High School held their first graduation exercises in 1894 in the Opera House.

In 1904, the spacious Wyatt Opera House was built on the northwest corner of Orange and Colton. The 1896 Casa Loma Hotel on the opposite corner would help fill the 2,000-seat theatre. Vaudeville acts reigned supreme a Wyatt. The introduction of moving pictures helped bring the Wyatt to its downfall in 1929.

The Empire Theatre was the first to show moving pictures in May 1907.

The Air Dome Theatre opened in July 1908 on West State and Fourth Street. The ten-cent admission with an orchestra of five pieces dramatized the outside venue. The Air-Dome was so popular new theatres sprang up all over the downtown. The California Amusement Co. owned by Frank Cook was responsible for the theatre construction.



*Wyatt Opera House.*

*(Continued on page 4)*





*Actors on Stage at the Wyatt Theater in 1919.  
Courtesy Archives, A.K. Smiley Public Library.*

The Majestic Theatre was at 502 Orange Street with a large moving picture screen for enthused viewers. In August of 1912, a panic due to infantile paralysis (polio) closed all the theatres.

Essanay Film Company discovered Redlands, with its rich filming possibilities for westerns. The company built full stages in Lugonia and hired the services of local cowboys in May 1915. The films were usually not over twenty minutes in length. The favored film location was the Santa Ana Canyon just above the lower power houses. Savage Indians chased Concord Stage Coaches down the Edison road to the mouth of the canyon next to the flowing river. The steep canyon walls gave a real wild western feel to the films. For downtown scenes of a western town, East State Street was dressed with a few more hitching posts, saloon and hotel signs.

Fox Film Corporation owned by Lester Scott, Jr. used the W. E. Grigsby home on West Cypress as a plantation home for the southern themed film called "The Fighting Blood" in December of 1915. The film production made the front page of the *Redlands Review* paper.

Dudley Motion Picture Manufacturing Co. #2 located in Redlands in March 1916. The company had a studio on East State and Seventh Street. The Redlands Chamber of Commerce paid a \$5,000 subscription to

induce the company to locate in Redlands. Movie people invaded town in April and filmed the production of "Mary Magdalene."

Dudley Motion Pictures completed "The Land Just Over Yonder" in May and, like Essanay, found Redlands

perfect for western movies. Their modern plant allowed for stage studio shots for owner Julius Frankenberg directed by Peter B. Kyne. The director used Smiley Heights and Mirror Lake for locations. For special scenes Sylvan Park and the University of Redlands provided substantial buildings in June 1916.

Dudley Co. used 500 extras for the filming of "Humanizing Mr. Wimsby." The Redlands Orange Growers Association building on Fifth Street became the Wimsby Sugar Beet Co. for the film. The company spent \$400 a day in payroll in July and still had 300 extras at work in late July. Theatres in Redlands proudly presented the "Humanizing of Mr. Wimsby" in August 1916.

Redlands Beauty Films chose a Redlands site September 3, 1916. Julius Frankenberg was the new manager-director of the company. Beauty Films planned twenty-six films with the first called "Pietro the Detective." "Pietro's Dreams" followed in January 1917 with a new star, Vivian Rich. The third Pietro film was released in February.

Fujiyama Feature Films came to Redlands and were introduced in the *Redlands Review* September 12, 13, and 15, 1916. Papers did not have any further mentions of this company and perhaps



*The Majestic Theatre was Located at 502 Orange Street.  
Courtesy Archives, A.K. Smiley Public Library.*



they only released films here and did not produce them locally.

The Kalem Film Co. located in Redlands February 3, 1917. The Majestic Theatre opened a new building in October 1919 with a Kalem film.

The City Directory for 1917 lists The Airdome, The Empress (later The Loma) at 107 W. State, The Grand at 102 W. State, The Majestic and Wyatt Opera House.

Liberty Theatre showed motion pictures in 1923 and had a short life.

With the demise of the Wyatt Theatre the same time the new West Coast Redlands (Fox) Theatre opened on Cajon Street the march of entertainment continued. Harry M. Sugarman built a theatre larger than the population of Redlands could support because he went to school here and believed Redlands would grow. Fox theatres were both vaudeville and movie theatres. The opening film was "Naughty Baby" on December 28, 1928 (see ad at right). An organ in the orchestra pit kept time with the movie. The Redlands Community Players were upset over the final closing of their beloved Wyatt.

World War II required Redlanders to provide additional war-worker housing for those toiling daily at the San Bernardino Air Depot. (Norton



*The W. E. Grigsby Residence at Terracina and West Cypress Avenue Stood in for a Southern Plantation Home in the 1915 Fox Film Production, "The Fighting Blood".*

AFB) The upstairs of the Fox was converted into apartments and the old vaudeville dressing rooms on the Grove side were sacrificed for more apartments. Seating at the Fox went from 1600 to 1472. Grove could now only seat 493.

Grove Theatre closed its doors first in



*Jim Tally and Harry Naugle Opened the Empress Theater in 1911 on West State Street, near Fourth Street. It was also Known as the "Liberty", "State" and Finally, the "Loma" Theatre Before it was Remodeled as McEwen's Carpet Showroom by Architect Clare Day. Courtesy Archives, A.K. Smiley Public Library.*

1951. The management blamed television and especially the Tri-City Drive Inn in Loma Linda, Baseline Drive Inn in San Bernardino and The Fox was remodeled into two theatres in 1951 with the Grove on Vine and Fox on Cajon.

Fox remained open until the 1970s, when a flurry of theatres were built. San Bernardino had a multiple screen theatre on Orange Show Road and a new complex on the west end of the Inland Center Mall. The Del Rosa Eight was popular on Highland Avenue. The Old Cooley Ranch had a theatre just below Grand Terrace.

Redlands garnered its first theatre since the closing of the Fox when George Krikorian built his fourteen-screen theatre on Eureka Street. In 1997, "Titanic" proved so popular that most of



(Continued from page 5)

the screens showed the film repeatedly. Krikorian Cinema 14 overtook Walmart to provide more tax dollars to Redlands than any other business. Krikorian wanted to expand by tearing down the Mutual Orange packing house to the east and expand theatre parking and new screens. Redlanders voiced concern over the prospect of losing another former packing house.

Harkins Mountain Grove debuted its multiple screen theatre (that boasts very comfortable seats) in 2017. Redlands is back to two theatres and it only took one hundred years.

Today Redlanders relish the Community Music Association programs at the Redlands Bowl each summer that began in 1924 under the leadership of Grace Mullen.

Redlands Footlighters at first used the empty Grove Theater and then built a new facility on Barton Road next

to the Asistencia. Footlighters present six productions per season.

Lifehouse Theater is located at 1135 N. Church Street, repurposing the previous Christian Church building. Outdoor performances are featured every summer at the Alice Meeker Sewall Theatre in Prospect Park.

Redlands Opera Theatre was founded five years ago to fill a need for a performing opera company. Smaller chamber concerts are often performed at the Mission Gables Bowl House.

Redlanders remain active theatre patrons in 2017. The Redlands Bowl holds the record for sustained community attendance. Grace Mullen promoted the idea of variety in musical tastes and this is reflected each year in the Bowl programs.

- by Tom Atchley

## THE MAYOR of REDLANDS

# Proclaims:

*That in order to introduce the*

*Beautiful New*

## Redlands Theatre

to the residents of the City of Redlands and the people residing in the Orange Belt Community, I have entered into an agreement with the management of the NEW REDLANDS THEATER for the benefit of all the residents of this community.

"For a limited period" the public will be offered the opportunity of witnessing the GREATEST SHOW IN THE VALLEY in the MOST BEAUTIFUL THEATER IN THE VALLEY at the general admission of

## 25c For Any Seat In The Auditorium

except loges.—Redlands has heretofore been unable to offer such comfort, nor such environment, with such entertainment as is presented on both STAGE and SCREEN and by the MARVELOUS ORCHESTRA as in the Beautiful West Coast Redlands Theater.

I, as Mayor of Redlands, am proud of the opportunity to extend this novel invitation to you.

Signed, ALLEN WHEATON,  
Mayor of Redlands.

Note.—Prices subject to change without notice on all stage or picture attractions governed by producers.

This invitation is not construed as a price change as it is only in effect for a limited period.

When general prices are referred to same will be those prices that prevail NOW or

General Admission 50c, Loges 65c, Balcony 30c.

These 25-Cent Prices Become Effective Sunday, Feb. 24



*Fox Theater, Previously Known as the West Coast Redlands, Opened in 1928. Courtesy Archives, A.K. Smiley Public Library.*

# Heritage Award Winners

## FRANK MYLER HOME

Built in 1890

24 S. Eureka Street

Chalmer & Sue McClure, Owners

IN 1890, Mr. Frank Myler, a gardener, purchased lot 6 in the tract called First Addition of Ladd's Subdivision which was developed in 1897 by T. W. Ladd and built a small Victorian cottage.

This neighborhood was considered a popular place to live due to the proximity of transportation and close to the downtown and shops - and as we know today, the preference for living near downtown still remains in 2017. In 1905 Mr. Myler sold the home to a physician, Dr. J. R. Payton and his wife, Eliza Payton. Dr. John Payton was born in Iowa in 1857 and studied medicine at Willamette University in Oregon where he met his wife, Eliza. Eliza was the daughter of one of Oregon's flour mill owners. J. R. and Eliza Payton had one daughter, Grace. After purchasing the home, Dr. and Eliza Payton hired local building contractor, R.C. Cunningham, to convert the home from a one story Victorian into a two-story Classic Box design with strong Craftsman elements. The building permit #708 is dated March 20, 1906. The cost was \$3,800. The two questions on the permit that we take for granted today were: will there be any plumbing and, will there be any electric wiring? Both were answered in the affirmative.

One might inquire as to what caused Dr. and Mrs. Payton to change the home's style from Victorian to Classic Box of approximately 2700 sq. feet? Perhaps it was due to the Arts and Craft movement becoming very popular during this time and the Victorian Era ending. Dr. Payton constructed his home to have a separate doctor's office with private entrance. That is the reason for the two main entry doors on the front porch. If you were a patient of Dr. Payton's you would be welcomed into the reception room upon entering the right side door. The adjacent room on the same side of the home was the actual examination room. A set of doors separate the office reception room from the family's private residence.

On the front exterior the architectural style is called Classic box with Craftsman influence due to the hipped roof, the gable roofed dormer in the center of the East side of the roof, and the double front columns are square style and sit on large, cut stone bases. Note the very large front bay window. On either side of the private family's

front door are leaded glass side lights in a straight line with a diamond pattern.

Although the exterior was completely rebuilt to resemble the more modern look of the times, the interior on the downstairs is a combination of Craftsman and Victorian elements. The formal entry has the Craftsman influence with a square staircase newel post and without ornamentation. Yet, the fretwork and Corinthian columns that separate the formal entry from the large parlor symbolize the Victorian era. The fireplace egg and dart design on the mantle is from the Victorian age. The formal dining room has retained its original woodwork from 1906 and pocket doors.

There have been about 12 owners since the home was first built. The owners who resided at the home the longest were Glen and Mary Milligan. They purchased it on June 18, 1913 from Dr. Payne's widow, Eliza Payton, for six dollars. Following Mary Milligan's death in the early part of the 1960s (after almost 50 years of living in the home), her grandson, William Rohrer, bought out his brother's side of the estate. In 1967 when William Rohrer sold the home, there were six more owners until the present owners, Chalmer and Sue McClure, purchased the home on September 23, 2008.

The McClures have completed many

renovations on this home, including all new electrical wiring, plumbing, and central heat and air. The wood floors were refinished and the exterior of the home stripped of its old paint and colors chosen to match the integrity of the Craftsman influence. A new wall was built in the backyard and a lovely garden planted which gives Chalmer and Sue much joy. Sue is a musician and Dr. Payton's reception room is now her beloved music room and home to her harp and piano.

Besides improving and maintaining their beautiful home, Chalmer and Sue McClure keep a watchful eye on the Smiley Brothers' statue seen from their large picture window. What a glorious view they have of our beautiful library, so lovingly given to Redlands by the city's *Patron Saints*, twins Alfred and Albert Smiley. On Christmas holidays, you might see the Smiley brothers wearing a red plaid scarf and a Santa hat, or other fashion attire according to the season. This is Sue McClure's work - bless her heart!

The Redlands Area Historical Society is pleased to present this 2017 Heritage Award to Chalmer and Sue McClure for their hard work, dedication, and the love they have shown with the continued restoration of 24 S. Eureka Street.

-by Marjorie Lewis





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

Address Correction Requested

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

Board of Directors 2017-2018

President Ron Running	Vice-President Tom Atchley	Treasurer Susan Rettig	Secretary Steve Spiller	Board Member Robin Grube	Board Member Jill Huntstinger	Board Member Marjorie Lewis	Board Member Marcus Paulson	Board Member Marie Reynolds
Ex-officio Bill Blankenship, Past President	Ex-officio Leslie Irish, Special Projects							

  

Committee Chairpersons	Genealogy Ron Running	Heritage Awards Robin Grube	Hospitality Jill Huntstinger	Membership Marcus Paulson	Newsletter Marie Reynolds	Old House Group Marjorie Lewis	Programs Tom Atchley	Social Media Marcus Paulson
------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------------	------------------------------	------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-------------------------	--------------------------------

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

## Upcoming Events

October 21, 4:00 p.m.	Cemetery Tour Cost \$10 Meet at the Mausoleum	October 23, 7:00 p.m.	Redlands Explore Phone App Launch Assembly Room, A.K. Smiley Library 125 Vine Street	October 25, 6:30 p.m.	Old House Group 860 W. Palm Avenue SOCIETY MEMBERS ONLY	November 18, 9:00 a.m.	Alvarado Street Walking Tour Cost \$10 Meet at W. Palm & Alvarado	1st Thursday of the Month	Historic & Scenic Preservation Commission Mtg. City Hall Council Chambers 35 Cajon Street
-----------------------	---	-----------------------	--	-----------------------	---	------------------------	---	---------------------------	---

**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).