

REDLANDS CHRONICLES

October 2018

THE HEALTHIEST PEOPLE ON EARTH

John Howard Weeks, Speaker

Monday, October 22, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.

The Contemporary Clubhouse

173 S. Eureka Street

THE REDLANDS AREA Historical Society's October 22nd meeting in the Contemporary Clubhouse at 7:00 p.m. will feature John Howard Weeks discussing "The Healthiest People on Earth."

Weeks is a retired longtime columnist for the *San Bernardino Sun* newspaper. He has authored books on the Inland Empire, Mojave Desert, and San Bernardino Bicentennial that include county history.

Weeks grew up in Loma Linda and is the great, great-grandson of Seventh-Day Adventist founder Ellen G. White. Weeks earned degrees in English literature from the University of California, Riverside and Birmingham University in England.

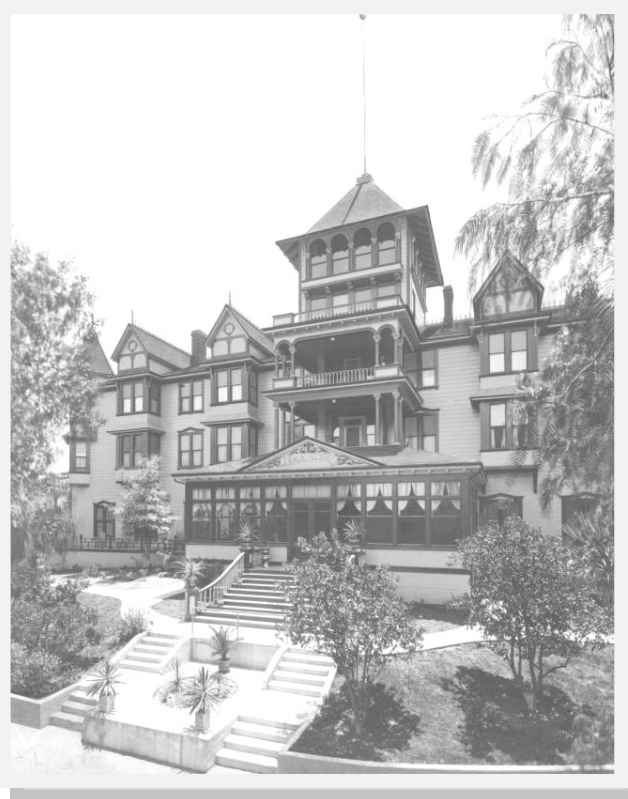
Weeks latest book humorously compares San Bernardino, the entrepreneurial fast-food capital of McDonalds, Bakers, and Taco Tia (to name a few) with Loma Linda, a noted "Blue Zone" of long-living, health conscious citizens. *National Geographic* research indicates blue zones are areas where people live ten years longer than average.

John Weeks became a local history encyclopedia on San Bernardino fast-food developers and their restaurants. Growing up in Loma Linda with a heritage for health led teenager Weeks to explore a tempting San Bernardino and the vices of the new food industry.

Redlands today is the home of the last Taco Tia on Orange Street. A 1960 Bakers structure is now a converted coffee shop on Redlands Boulevard. Copies of "The Healthiest People on Earth" with signatures will be available.

Programs for the Historical Society are free and open to the public.

-by Tom Atchley



Loma Linda Sanitarium, above. Taco Tia on Redlands Boulevard, is shown at left.



Dear Redlands Area Historical Society Members,

TO BEGIN, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Old House Group committee chair Marjorie Lewis, Hospitality chair Jill Huntsinger, and newly elected board member Kim Ennis. The three organized an exceptional Old House Group annual potluck on September 26th at the home of Art and Nancy Svenson. We are indeed grateful to the Svenson's for their gracious hospitality as we renewed friendships while enjoying the tasty dishes and rich desserts in the Svenson's backyard followed by a tour of their lovely home. Please join us for the next Old House Group meeting on Wednesday, October 24th.

One of the Society's longest running programs is the Heritage Awards. The program initiated in 1975, honors the owners of homes and businesses for the stewardship and preservation of their historic properties. To date, over 350 properties have received this award. The Heritage Award process takes several months, including selecting the properties, contacting the owners, conducting the research, and then, writing the individual citations. The awards are presented at the annual ice cream social in June. The properties must be 75 years or older and not listed for sale. One of the most rewarding aspects of the entire process is the research. If you are interested in assisting with the research, please let us know.

We are looking forward to journalist ----- and columnist Howard Weeks presentation on Monday, October 22 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Weeks will weave together the Inland Empire's impact and contribution to the fast food industry (worldwide) while discussing Loma Linda's Blue Zone, one of only five such areas in the entire world and home to some of the oldest and healthiest people in the world. As a reminder, we are meeting in the Redlands Contemporary Clubhouse at 173 S. Eureka Street.

Each of our meetings is recorded by Gerry and Linda Brassfield of BLUE EAGLE VIDEO. If you are interested in obtaining a video copy of a particular program, please let us know. We are grateful to Gerry and Linda for preserving our history.

Did you know?

- The Redlands Area Historical Society, Inc. was founded in 1972.
- The Society submitted the application to place the Mill Creek Zanja on the National Register of Historic Places.
- The Society partners with the Redlands Conservancy in hosting the annual Historic Preservation Fortnight in May each year.

With warmest regards,

Steve Spiller

Redlands Area Historical Society would like to thank our CORPORATE UNDERWRITERS.

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ESRI

Heritage Award Winners

FRANK & ALMA SANFORD RESIDENCE

526 Alvarado Street

Built in 1913

Estaban Guatarrez, Owner

THIS PROPERTY was first owned by Anthony G. Hubbard, a mining millionaire. According to Redlands city directories, Frank Sanford was Hubbard's private secretary. A building permit was issued on July of 1912 in F. E. Sanford's name, but no tax records show improvements on this property until 1913 under A. G. Hubbard's name for \$2,100. Was this a gift to the Sanford's or a loan? San Bernardino tax records show Mr. Sanford owning the property from 1913 to 1928 along with his wife Alma.

Frank Eugene Sanford was born August 1864 in Indiana. He married Alma in 1895 in Los Angeles and died in Orange on October 27, 1926. Alma was born 1866 and died November 4, 1922. Both are buried in Hillside Cemetery in Redlands.

526 Alvarado is a two story Craftsman style with a medium gable roof with projecting rafters. The siding on the second story is wood shingle and the first floor ship lap. The house has an interesting combination of two and three sash windows with flat board trim that open in. The east facing front has a center door on the second story that opens onto a wooden balcony with wood posts and a wood slate balustrade. This balcony extends over the centered front door. This door has a large rectangular glass pane with wood below. A wood screen door covers the door. Two cement steps lead to the cement porch with two rock step piers and a balustrade that matches the balcony.

From 1928 to 1936 the Sanford's daughter, Aline, owned the

property. In 1939 Pansy Knoll Jensen and Harold W. Jensen purchased the property. Redlands survey form shows them here in July of 1974. In between 1939 and 1974, the Redlands city directories list others living here. City building permits list Richard Reiter in 1993, Scott C. Kunkler 2010, John Dinkelbach 2012, and 2014 the present owner, Estaban Guatarrez.

Mr. Guatarrez was born in Uruguay and came to the United States to Miami, Florida eighteen years ago to further his education. He is an architect by profession. Mr. Guatarrez lived in New York and Los Angeles before moving to Redlands. He was looking for a Craftsman style home as he liked the architecture. In a year's time he has remodeled the upstairs and created two bedrooms with two bathrooms, office, TV sitting area, walk in closet, and utility room. He also replaced all the dry wall

and wood flooring on the second floor. The first floor he turned one of the bedrooms into a TV room and added barn style doors. The downstairs bathroom was redone and a bench was added in the kitchen sitting area. Mr. Guatarrez kept as much of the original interior as possible. There are glass pocket doors leading into the dining room and the dining room and kitchen share built-in cabinets. The landscaping, especially in the back yard was all redone.

The Redlands Area Historical Society wishes to thank Estaban Guatarrez for choosing 526 Alvarado for his home.

-by Karen Flippin



Preliminary Plans for Real Progress

BUILDING THE BEAR VALLEY DAM

- by Tom Atchley

ON JUNE 14, Brown left for Bear Valley with Benjamin Franklin Watrous, retired Civil War physician and East Olive Avenue land owner. Watrous was one of the first 33 investors in Redlands land. Brown posted his water claim and announced the Bear Valley dam project June 15, 1883. Simply stated the claim said,

"Notice-----I hereby claim the right to dam up this outlet, and to retain above said dam, all the water that flows into Bear Valley; recognizing however the summer rights of the North Fork and South Fork ditches.

I intend to use said water in Redlands and vicinity, for irrigating and domestic purposes.

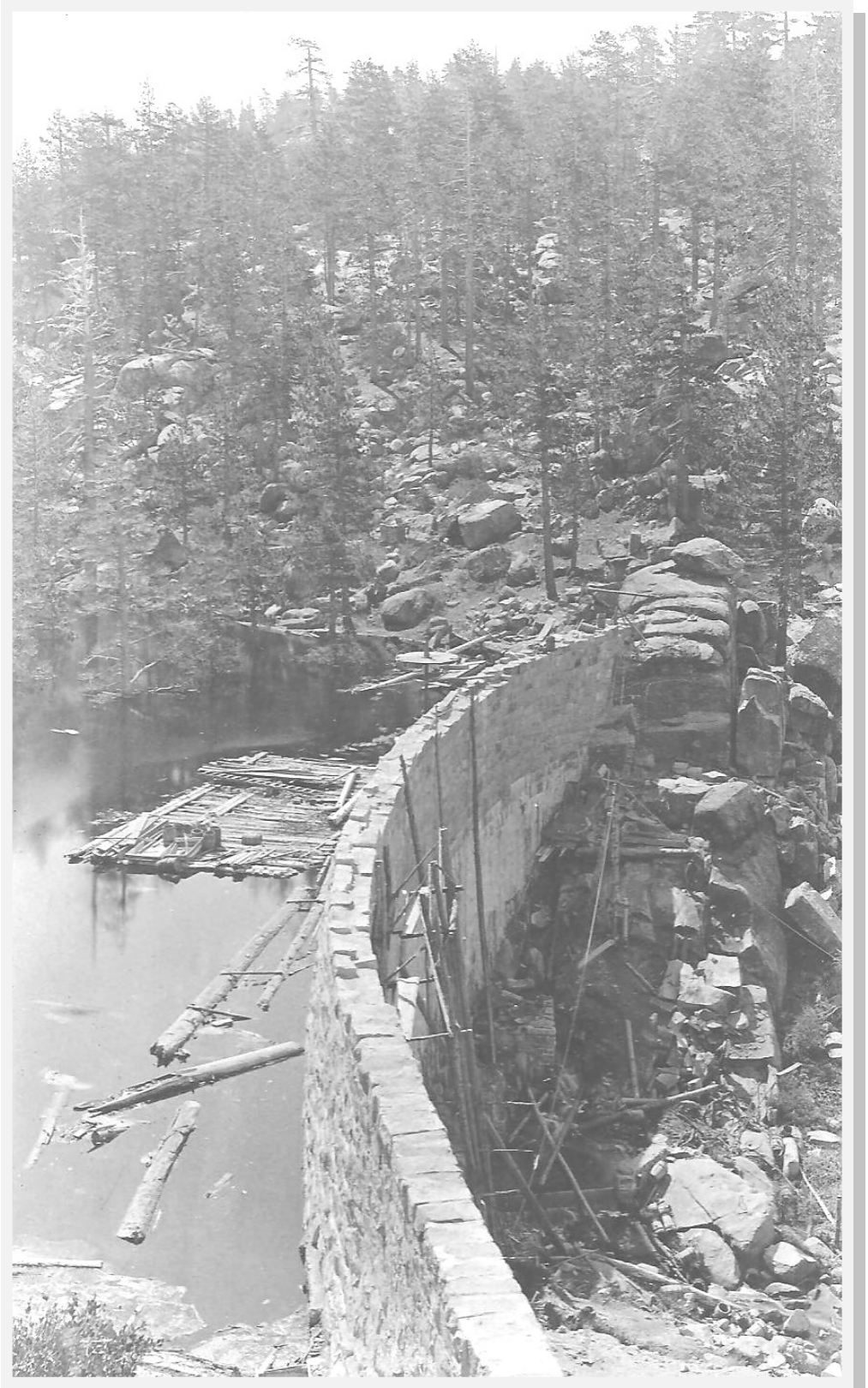
I claim the right to turn said [reservoired] water into the head of Bear Creek, and to flow it down said Bear Creek to its junction with the Santa Ana River, thence down the Santa Ana River, to the mouth of the Canon, where I will divert it from said Santa Ana River into pipes and ditches of sufficient capacity to carry all of said [reservoired] water.

The outlet above mentioned is situated at the lower end of Bear Valley, where it empties into Bear Creek Canon. F. E. Brown, witness B. F. Watrous, June 15, 1883"

The dam and water claim was recorded by William F. Holcomb, county recorder. Holcomb was the mountain man who launched the Holcomb Valley gold rush in 1860. Brown paid \$1.00 for the county service.

Brown carefully noted the "summer rights" of the valley ditch owners and skillfully avoided using the words "waste water right." He and Watrous returned to Redlands the next day and visited attorney Byron Waters in San Bernardino. Waters thought additional witnesses were necessary on the claim document. Brown also reviewed water claim law which stated, "within sixty days after the notice is posted, the claimant must commence the excavation or construction of the works in which he intends to divert water, and must prosecute the work diligently and uninterruptedly to completion, unless temporarily interrupted by snow or rain." This California Civil code was responsible for voiding all the previous claims at the "granite gap." Brown knew the clock was ticking.

Brown returned to Bear Valley and posted his second notice June 19th witnessed by Edward Judson, Charles Smith, and David



1884 Dam with scows and scaffolding. Photo by Collier.

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Morey. Smith and Morey were both new land owners in Redlands. The second notice does not mention the north and south fork ditches but for emphasis underlines Bear Lake as the storage reservoir.

Slauson and Garvey proceeded with the sale of Bear Valley's 3,280 acres of land for \$22,500. An additional 700 acres was obtained from the Southern Pacific Railroad which embraced the reservoir site, and part of the watershed. The sale was recorded July 3, 1883 in the San Bernardino Recorder's Office. The nearly \$7 per acre for Bear Valley land was outlandish for the time. Slauson and Garvey drove a hard bargain.

After filing on the dam site Brown made many two-day trips to the dam with prospective investors selling them on the potential. George Meade, owner of the Meade Company, was the owner of the largest dried fruit business in California. Brown met Meade in Riverside while shipping dried fruit from the Judson & Brown fruit drier. Brown needed the investment dollars from the "raisin king" of Fresno. Meade responded from San Francisco positively to Brown and took a tour into Bear Valley. Meade was a hardy investor and later built several substantial buildings in Redlands. Meade became the vice-president of the Redlands Board of Trade - the early Chamber of Commerce. He bought Prospect Hill as a site for a tourist hotel in the 1890s. His untimely death in 1896 redirected the history of Redlands.



"Monte Vista Home of Geo. W. Meade" on Summit and Cajon circa 1895.

Frank Morrison, a graduate of Yale scientific course 1878, was two years younger than Brown. They were both Yale grads. Morrison came to Redlands in 1882 and bought 24 acres on East Palm Avenue in 1883. He planted a vineyard, deciduous fruit trees and a few acres to citrus. Morrison became a conservative financial conscious for Brown as the years passed. Morrison founded the Bank of the East San Bernardino Valley which was later renamed Redlands First National.

Brown returned to Bear Valley June 30th

combining a short vacation with an elevation study of the valley and numerous witnessed water measurements. Jesse, Emeline, Reuben, Elwood and Frank took a carriage to the mouth of the Santa Ana River and then proceeded by horseback and Cassus, the family mule, to Charles Mathew Lewis place at Seven Oaks. Brown wrote that the place seemed to be owned by Perry and Hill and they had fish ponds, raised vegetables and had milk cows, chickens, pigs and some alfalfa. The mountain trout were packed for restaurants in San Bernardino. Mail came every four weeks from San Bernardino. Brown negotiated with the men and offered to buy all their surplus crops to feed his planned work force in Bear Valley.

Word that a dam project was underway was announced by the Riverside paper July 7, 1883. With a huge headline, "Contemplated Storage Reservoir in Bear Valley" the press described the valley and water supply. The water fund investors were listed along with the amount of land purchased. The story mentioned that cement for the \$10,000 dam would travel through Cajon Pass and then the Cushmanbury grade to Bear Valley. Luther Holt, the editor, along with James Edwards, Charles Truesdell, Alonzo Ball, Edwin Dwinell Hale, F. Rowe, Lon G. Haight, and Walter Butler all witnessed for Brown that only one inch of water flowed through the granite gap July 4, 1883."

From June to August 1883, Brown assigned weir construction projects on the tributaries of the Santa Ana River. Each metal weir would allow accurate water measurements. Measurements were taken at the Santa Ana Divide in the mouth of the canyon. Stream measurements included Alder Creek (Keller), Bear Creek junction, Cold Creek, Forsee Creek, Deer Creek, Converse Creek, Seven Oaks, Fish Creek, South Fork, and East Creek (Cienega Seca). Measurements were witnessed and taken by Jesse Brown, Frank Brown, Edward Judson, Walter Butler, James Edwards, Edwin D. Hale, Frank Cook, John F. Walsh, Earnest Vieweger, Dan Holt, George Phillips, C. S. Bowles, W. B. Herrick, Andrew Edward Mc Neil, Albert E. Taylor, George Cassady, Alfred M. Ball, Benton O.

Johnson, Alvah Hill Averill, R. A. Blanchard, Frank P. Morrison, W. Hill, Charles Mathew Lewis, David Morey, G. L. Cooper, Will Cook, C. K. Dewell, Joe Gildner, James G. Burt, Hiram M. Barton, S. S. Ball, August Knight Jr., Francis M. Townsend, Charles Truesdell, Philo Brown, Benjamin F. Watrous, Will L. Mc Haney, Jim Mc Haney, Isaac T. Ford, Luther M. Holt, Lon G. Haight, F. Rowe, Charles Smith, George I. Draper, A. C. Fowler, John J. Ring, and Silas Conklin.



Assistant engineer Walter C. Butler.

Additional men manned the measurement stations from September 1883 through the fall of 1884. Brown would use this data to prove that the source of the Santa Ana summer water was from these stations and not Bear Creek at the granite gap. The meticulous witnessed measurements became the defense of the Bear Valley Land and Water Company in the Isaac Hewitt v. Warren Story 1887 water case.

Judson traveled to Fresno to examine irrigating systems in that county and perhaps visit Yosemite. Morrison was asked to question civil engineers in San Francisco for the proper mixture of lime and sand. All those invested asked engineers statewide their suggestions on dam construction. While Brown listened to the incoming advice he drew his first preliminary drawings of a dam showing an ashlar-cut masonry dam which used the granite boulders at the dam site. Andrew E. McNeil, a naturalized Australian, began to blast a six-foot trench through the bed-rock 100 feet to begin foundation work in August. Walter Butler, classmate of Brown, was appointed assistant engineer and kept daily notes supervising the foundation work.

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Residence at Frank Morrison's 24-acre ranch on E. Palm Avenue circa 1890.

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Frank Brown and his family returned from a beach trip to Laguna. He hired Albert Taylor, Lugonia cement pipe contractor, to supervise all the masons for the dam project.



Cement pipe contractor Albert Edwin Taylor supervised the masons who worked on the dam project.

Samuel Carey Evans, of the Riverside Canal Company, wrote another letter questioning the building of a dam and the right to do so. He had written a similar letter in 1881 when J & B tunneled into the Santa Ana debris cone. Evans wrote, "In a recent similar case, [the court] indicated that it will hold all such diversions of water as infringements on prior appropriations for the main stream." Evans was unaware of the "waste water right" Brown would use to bolster his claim.

The measurement crews listed above became the preliminary work parties in Bear Valley. Andrew E. McNeil blasted a four foot trench nearly 100 feet long exposing the bedrock. Brown and Butler inspected daily for crevices and potential foundation weak areas. In several locations blasting went down six feet to find the elusive bedrock without seams. Brown wrote in Day Book F, "First mason work done on the dam at 2:45 p.m. September 27th, 1883 by Andrew E. Mc Neil."

Mc Neil, Albert Taylor and Ernest Vieweger, a naturalized German immigrant, began splitting granite in August while the foundation trench was dug. This crew of masons produced a variety of Ashlar-cut granite blocks that could be chosen as needed

for the foundation work. In 1947, F. C. Finkle, civil engineer, wrote a letter to Horace P. Hinckley, the manager of the Bear Valley Mutual Water Company. Finkle met Ernest Vieweger while building a dam on Lytle Creek and Vieweger made this statement. "He tested every block of granite placed for perfection and soundness, because he knew that the crushing of a single slab of ashlar masonry from pressure transmitted to it be the arch would cause the dam to fail." This, of course, was the reason Brown and Walter Butler examined each block before placing and making sure the amount of cement was proper.

Several preliminary projects before constructing the dam began in August. Isaac T. Ford, University of Pennsylvania civil engineering grad, came to Redlands in 1883 looking for employment. He was hired by Brown immediately to survey the Bear Valley



Civil engineer Isaac T. Ford.

reservoir site to determine the amount of water stored at each level of a completed dam. Ford produced the first map of the reservoir in 1884. His measurements included gallons of water stored as well as acre feet calculations. Isaac Ford became Redlands first city engineer from 1888-1889. Ford completed the first lot and block map of Redland in 1890. Ford, an amateur photographer, took the first photos of the Bear Valley dam construction in 1883 and the finished dam in 1884. Ford was 21 when he began surveying Bear Valley.

Brown sent a trail crew to widen and brush the Seven Oaks Pack Trail from present

day Camp Radford to the Bear Valley Ridge. The last work on this trail had been completed by William W. Mc Coy during the 1860 gold rush to Holcomb Valley. Horses and pack animals loaded with heavy equipment needed a wide path to ensure that loads would not hit tree limbs, rocks, brush and other obstacles.

Men were sent to Cushenbury Grade from the Lucerne Valley to the northern edge of Baldwin Lake to remove rocks and obstructions from the old roadway. The fall months attracted Serrano Native Americans to the Baldwin Lake area to gather pinon pine nuts. Brown had contacts with Serrano Native-Americans in Redlands and contracted with them to build a better road up Cushenbury. Chances are good these were the same men Robert Morton hired to build the road from Terracina to the Southern Pacific Railroad platform in May of 1883.

The first dam built in Bear Valley was two miles east of the granite gap. In the Bear Valley Mutual Water Company files this dam was called both the mud dam and Indian dam. Native Americans did much of the work after gathering pinon pine nuts. This coffer dam stretched from the present St. Francis Woods Tract by Lagunita Point northwesterly to Windy Point. The dam was scraped from the valley floor with Fresno scrapers pulled by two horse teams. The scrapers dumped their loads to complete an

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eight foot high dam that was over a half mile long. In the center a wooden gate structure was built by David Morey to allow the release of water.

Brown thought a coffer dam offered several advantages. The mud dam would keep the foundation site dry for the masons during the late summer thunder shower season. The dam would begin to store some water for the

next irrigation season and allow the dam investors to sell this additional water. As the masonry dam rose in height a lake regulated by the coffer dam water releases would alleviate the need for scaffolding on the upstream side of the dam. Scows floated down the lake from the quarry to the dam could float heavy loads easily.

The mud dam was first revealed from a dry lake bed in 1898. During this drought a forty

-foot section in the middle of the mud dam was breached to allow the upper lake to drain behind the dam. Again in the early 1950's, the mud dam was photographed in a dry reservoir by Bear Valley Mutual manager, Horace Hinckley.

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(To be continued in the next edition of Redlands Chronicles.)



Mud dam photographed in the early 1950s by Horace Hinckley.



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(606) 882-2003 or email: blueeaglevideo@aol.com.

Upcoming Events

October 6, 10:00 a.m.
History of Redlands High School
Tom Atchley, Speaker
Grace Mullen Auditorium, RHS

October 20, 4:00 p.m.
Cemetery Walking Tour
Meet at the Mausoleum

October 22, 7:00 p.m.
The Healthiest People on Earth
John Howard Weeks, Speaker
The Contemporary Clubhouse
173 S. Eureka Street

October 24, 6:00 p.m.
Old House Group
602 Alvarado Street
SOCIETY MEMBERS ONLY

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

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