

# REDLANDS CHRONICLES

November/December 2018

## HOLIDAY PARTY

Wednesday, December 5, 2018, at 6:30 p.m.  
430 West Highland Avenue, Redlands

THIS QUEEN ANNE-STYLE HOME was built by the Donalds for orange grower James Forest Redhead and his wife, Carrie. The cost was \$3000. Though construction began in 1901, the residence was not completed until 1903. Mrs. Redhead was an invalid and required removal to Los Angeles for treatment shortly thereafter, so in 1905 the house was sold. (Mrs. Redhead died a year later and is buried at the Hollywood Forever Cemetery. Though Mr. Redhead remarried and returned to Redlands, he is also buried in Hollywood.)

The purchaser was Mary Swift Thoms, daughter of early Cincinnati settler Briggs Swift and wife of prominent Cincinnati attorney and capitalist Joseph Clark Thoms. Mr. Thoms practiced law with Alphonso Taft, father of President William Howard Taft,

who resided opposite the Thoms mansion in Mt. Auburn. In 1887, Mr. Thoms had stayed at the Terrace Villa Hotel

with his 16-year-old daughter, Eunice. Almost 20 years later, in 1904, Eunice and her husband, Robert Livingston Resor, were wintering at the Wissahickon Inn when they encountered their future abode just a block away. Mr. Thoms commissioned D.M. Donald to add and modify the home at a cost of \$900 and the Resors began their occupancy in December 1905. A wealthy financier, Mr. Resor was president of the Denton Company in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Resors spent many winters in Redlands with their four children, Joseph, Mary, Eunice and Isabelle.

The Resors lived abroad in Europe in the early 1910s. When they returned to the States the family traveled around the country. Since their daughter no longer used the Redlands property, the Thoms sold the place to Ulysses F. Lewis in 1920.

Judge Lewis stayed there for over 35 years. His wife, Agnes Fleming Lewis, served on the Redlands School Board for many years and was a longtime member of the Contemporary Club. Daughter Lucy was a renowned harpist at Oberlin Conservatory of Music. In the mid-1950s, Dana Gross, a former executive of Quaker Oats Company, acquired the property. Gross' nephews, Robert & Courtland, founded the Lockheed Company.

Later occupants include the Blair and DiGirolamo families. Current owners J.E. and Mary Jo Holmes invite Society members to visit their historic residence on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

The home received a Heritage Award in 1978.

- by Marie Reynolds



430 W. Highland Avenue, 1977. Courtesy Archives, A.K. Smiley Public Library.



Mrs. J. C. Thoms' blue silk and satin brocade dress for receiving visitors at home was designed by Maison Worth of Paris circa 1878. Courtesy Cincinnati Art Museum.

## *Dear Redlands Area Historical Society Members,*

We look forward to seeing everyone on Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> for the annual Christmas/holiday open house from 6:30 to 8:00. (As a reminder, there are no Society or Old House Group meetings in November and December.)

The RAHS board is beginning the selection process for the 2019 Heritage Award recipients. For those interested in researching or assisting in researching the history of the homes, please let us know. Jill Huntsinger is the committee chair.

About three or four years ago the Society launched a new website – [rahs.org](http://rahs.org). The site was designed by White Frog Designs of Redlands and championed by former Society President Bill Blankenship. White Frog gave us a professional and appealing presence on the World Wide Web that was lacking. Websites are not something you throw up there expecting not to make any changes. The Board is working with White Frog to enhance the website and make it even more “user friendly.” We are also addressing a problem that has prevented people from paying memberships online (if they so wish). We plan to have the problem addressed by the end of the year and, in time, for annual renewals in January 2019.

For those interested, the Society has a Facebook page - The Redlands Area Historical Society, Inc. - and an Instagram account (@RedlandsHistoricalSociety). We are indebted to board member Dr. Marcus Paulson for his inspiration and helping us navigate the intricacies of social media.

As we look forward to 2019, our first meeting in January will focus on the founding and development of the Redlands Area Historical Society. Please join us on Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Contemporary Club House.

With warmest regards,

*Steve Spiller*

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

Wes & Peggy Brier

Tim Watson—Mission Pediatrics, Inc.

Rita Shaw

Daniel Haueter & Steven Villa    Geoffrey Hopper & Associates

Marjorie Lewis - Realtor, Redlands Vintage Homes

Dr. Marcus Paulson DDS, MS—Paulson Orthodontics—[www.PaulsonOrtho.com](http://www.PaulsonOrtho.com)

Leslie Irish & Rebecca Mangum

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

ESRI

# Heritage Award Winners

## BURGER RESIDENCE

303 Normandie Court

Built in 1926

Steven Gaydos and Gina Ficarotta, Owners

F.E. CORSON AND C.R. HUDSON built sixteen petite homes on Normandie Court representing French "Chateaux" eclectic cottages. The homes are arranged in two rows facing each other across the narrow Normandie Court. At the end of the street are two larger lots that hold duplexes.

The houses were originally offered as rentals. Each home was built with a single car garage. The homes were fully landscaped and could be rented furnished or unfurnished. Although built as rentals they maintained their own separate legal identity in order to accommodate future individual sales. According to the San Bernardino County Archive records the homes remained rentals until the early 1940s when individual owners began purchasing lots.

In 1942 the home was sold to Salome & Edward J. Burger. There were a series of eight owners until 1989 when the home was purchased by elementary special education teacher Frank Glenn Moore. In the spring of 2017 the home was purchased by Steven Gaydos and Gina Ficarotta.

Steven and Gina live in Los Angeles but wanted to find a home in Redlands to be closer to Gina's mother and family. Steven contacted preservationist Brett Waterman, host of the DIY Network Restored television program, to see if Brett would have any interest in taking on the home as a project. Paradoxically, Brett was in search of a home in the Normandie Court neighborhood for his program. This

charming home was featured as Episode 7 of the program's second season.

The home features a steeply pitched crossed-hipped roof with no overhang and a gabled entry. The entry now features a low wall with arched front doorway leading to a vestibule area. An additional arched entry leads to the front garden area. The entry area features a period exterior light. The private back yard area is reached through a charming arbor.

The living room has 8-divided light casement windows. Other windows are double hung. Additional exterior details include a small-hipped dormer with horizontal slatted vents located on the street side. Stucco wall cladding is observed throughout the house. A

stuccoed chimney is capped with roofing material.

The interior of the home has been restored with period and style appropriate features. The new Batchelder tiled fireplace is the focus of the living room. The kitchen was restored with vintage refurbished appliances and the bath with a color scheme of period appropriate tiles.

The Redlands Area Historical Society commends the Steven Gaydos and Gina Ficarotta for their wonderful stewardship of this unique home.

*-by Ron Running*





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 2018-2019

President	Steve Spiller
Vice-President	Marie Reynolds
Treasurer	Susan Rettig
Secretary	Ron Running
Board Member	Kim Ennis
Board Member	Leslie Irish
Board Member	Jill Huntsinger
Board Member	Marjorie Lewis
Board Member	Marcus Paulson

Ex-officio	Ron Running, Past President
Ex-officio	Tom Atchley

### Committee Chairpersons

Genealogy	Ron Running
Heritage Awards	Steve Spiller & Jill Huntsinger
Hospitality	Jill Huntsinger
Membership	Ron Running
Newsletter	Marie Reynolds
Old House Group	Marjorie Lewis
Programs	Tom Atchley
Social Media	Marcus Paulson
Special Projects	Leslie Irish

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

## Upcoming Events

December 5, 6:30 p.m.

Holiday Party  
430 W. Highland Avenue  
SOCIETY MEMBERS ONLY

December 15, 10:00 a.m.

Fourth Street Walking Tour  
Meet at Cypress and 4th  
Cost \$10

\$

1st Thursday of the Month

Historic & Scenic Preservation Commission Meeting  
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.

Order copies from Blue Eagle Video at:

(909) 882-2003 or email: [blueaglevideo@aol.com](mailto:blueaglevideo@aol.com).