

PAST PRESIDENTS PRESENT A VIEW OF 47 YEARS

Monday, January 28, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.

The Contemporary Clubhouse

173 S. Eureka Street

THE REDLANDS AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S January meeting will feature the past presidents of the Historical Society reviewing their time as president while the society changed over the years from 1972.

The Society actually began in 1900 with many Redlands pioneers. It was formed to preserve Redlands history and educate the citizens about the history of the town. As the original members died the monthly meetings ended around 1907. Scipio Craig, editor of *The Citrograph* newspaper, donated his vast photo collection and pamphlet archive to A.K. Smiley Public Library upon his death in 1908.

The new reorganized Historical Society chose Dr. Roger Baty as its president; Baty was a professor at the University of Redlands in 1972. Many of the first organizers were members of the San Bernardino County Historical Society. Alice Van Boven, an East Highland pioneer family member, took on the responsibility of incorporating the new society. Dr. Larry Burgess, new library archivist, became the first program chair. Monthly meetings were planned with a selection of speakers to educate Redlanders on their history.

Forty-seven years later, the Redlands Area Historical Society has had nineteen presidents. Five previous presidents are deceased. Each president serves with a board of directors that shape the direction of the society every two years. The ever changing transition of the Society will be presented by ten of its past presidents.

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



*Society Christmas party 1975 at the Critchlow residence .
Bottom row Roger Baty, Larry Burgess and David Critchlow.
Photo by Tom Atchley .*

-by Tom Atchley



A Home along the Zanja, 1888.

MILL CREEK ZANJA BUS TOUR

THE REDLANDS AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY will begin to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the Mill Creek Zanja with a bus tour of the Zanja on **March 2nd**. The tour will begin at 10:00 a.m. from A. K. Smiley Public Library along Fourth Street. The tour registration must be made in person at either the Historical Society Christmas Party December 5 or the January 28th meeting at the Contemporary Club at 7:00 p.m. The tour fee is \$40 per person and non-refundable. Either checks or cash will be collected beginning at the Christmas Party on a first come first serve basis.

The bus is air conditioned and first class with 44 seats. The tour will take approximately two and a half hours and return to the

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Dear Redlands Area Historical Society Members,

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR to each of you! The year 2019 is very special for Redlands and the Inland Empire. The Society, along with others, including the Redlands Conservancy, will celebrate the bi-centennial of the Zanja. Whether you know this irrigation ditch as the Zanja or the "Sankee," its construction by local Native Americans changed the landscape and led to a rich agricultural industry. The Redlands Area Historical Society recognized this significance when on July 29, 1976 they nominated the Zanja for the National Register of Historic Places. The ditch, already a State Historic Landmark and a Historical Civil Engineering Landmark, was considered in danger due to plans to alter the ditch by the County Flood Control District. The Society believed Sylvan Park was at risk and could not accommodate the increase in water anticipated because of the planned alterations. The city "lodged a protest against the nomination" fearing the historic designation could affect future flood control projects. The nomination was approved by the State Historic Resources Commission and signed by the Keeper of the Register on May 12, 1977. The Historical Society's annual ice cream social and Heritage Awards program on July 28, 1977 was a time to celebrate the Zanja's historic designation. Elsewhere in this newsletter is information on the upcoming Zanja tour led by Tom Atchley. Stay tuned for more information on this important anniversary.

The Society board is at work on the annual Heritage Awards. By now, eight property owners have received a letter notifying them of their nomination. Once they give us their approval, members of the board and other dedicated society members will proceed with the research of each property. The research is part science and part intuitive. Since 1975 over 350 properties have received this coveted award. Our goal is that the Heritage Awards will continue to encourage the restoration, preservation, and stewardship of our community's architectural heritage. The awards ceremony coupled with our annual ice cream social is held in June each year.

Within this newsletter is information on renewing your annual membership, including for your convenience a remittance envelope. If you so choose please feel free to go online and renew on the society's website at www.rahs.org.

Our first meeting of the New Year is on Monday, January 28th beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Redlands Contemporary Clubhouse. We will focus on the founding and development of the Redlands Area Historical Society with the help of several of those who have served as president during our nearly 50-year history.

With best wishes,

Steve Spiller

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

Wes & Peggy Brier

Tim Watson—Mission Pediatrics, Inc.

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ESRI

Heritage Award Winners

WILLIAM BATTY HOME

28 West Cypress Avenue

Built in 1927

Scott and Bernice McGraw, Owners

MR. WILLIAM BATTY was born in Canada in 1857. After retiring in Toronto, he came to Southern California in 1918 and started a new life as a builder. By 1920 he had arrived in Redlands. His first project was large, five homes around Fern and Buena Vista. He, his wife Mary, and his sister Alice lived in the largest one while he completed 28 W. Cypress Avenue.

Mr. Batty decided to build what might be termed a Spanish Eclectic style stucco house. It is two stories, and shows off a roofed porch above the covered area by the front door, and a second set of two covered porches on a side elevation. What catches the eye first is the roof silhouette of irregular parapets extending beyond the flat-leveled roof. Most of the windows have dark wood flat frames with brackets supporting small roof-tile awnings. A garage was built for each dwelling, but cannot accommodate a car of today.

28 West Cypress is on the corner and wraps around onto Fourth Street. This house is actually a duplex as it has a common wall with a smaller unit facing Fourth. This apartment is around 900 sq. ft., and has always been rented out by whoever owned the main house. It has some of the same features: beautiful interior French doors, hardwood floors, and similar newel posts on the stairways. The materials are finer in the large unit, such as Honduran mahogany, and it even has a second staircase. All these features have been highly regarded by the current owners, Scott and Bernice McGraw. They also are grateful for the partial cellar.

Mr. Batty finished the house in late 1927. It is not known if his wife, Mary, even got to enjoy her new home, as she died in early 1928, and the newspaper article about her death gave her address as the older one on Fern. In 1929 Mr. Batty married Redlands nurse, Carrie Walter who was 21 years his junior. Alice Batty continued to live with them. She died in 1943, and William died in

1944. Carrie continued enjoying the house until her own death in 1956. At this time, ownership passed to William and Mary's daughter, Nellie and Frank Scott. Frank's death in 1970 was the end of 43 years of continuous occupation by this family.

Mr. Vernon Lee purchased the home in 1970 and began renting it to families, the first time children had ever lived there. In 1981, current owner Bernice saw a sign out front and rented it sight unseen because she was so attracted to its style. She eventually convinced her landlord to sell it to her and she embarked on an adventure to restore the property to its fullest potential. She always sought out the best workmen, carpenters, electricians, and other craftsmen who loved working on vintage homes and knew the old methods of construction. The house needed to be re-stuccoed. Bernice found someone to re-create the "cat's face" finish that was original in 1927. Her favorite project has been the large entertainment area centered on the swimming pool. She had new walls, an

outdoor food preparation area, and a lovely gazebo constructed.

Both Scott and Bernice treasure the original fireplace surround. The soft earth tones of handmade tiles depict a Spanish-type rancho, ox carts, and a man with sombrero. It resembles the work of Batchelder, but was created by Claycraft Potteries (1921-1939), in Los Angeles.

The hard work and attention to detail of current owners Scott and Bernice McGraw ensure that William Batty's home at 28 W. Cypress Avenue will continue to enhance their Redlands neighborhood. The Redlands Area Historical Society is pleased to present them with a 2018 Heritage Award.

-by Robin Grube





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Address Correction Requested

Redlands Area Historical Society, Inc.

Founded 1972, Incorporated 1974

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(Zanja Tour continued from page 1)
library. The Loma Linda Historical Society plans to serve refreshments at their Heritage Park on Mission Road near the end of the tour. The tour will follow the Mill Creek Zanja from Greenspot to Old San Bernardino and Mountain View Avenue in Loma Linda. Tom Atchley will narrate the tour.



Bristol Home along the Zanja, 1890.

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: bluecaglevideo@aol.com.

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