

REDLANDS CHRONICLES

April 2019

HISTORY OF THE MILL CREEK ZANJA

Tom Atchley, Speaker

Monday, April 22, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.

A.K.S.P.L. Contemporary Clubhouse

173 S. Eureka Street, Redlands

This slide show presentation by Tom Atchley encompasses the "History of the Mill Creek Zanja" for the entire twelve-mile length. The presentation will take place in the Contemporary Clubhouse, 173 S. Eureka Street.

The Mill Creek Zanja celebrates a bicentennial year this spring. The Redlands Conservancy completed a linear park and walking path from Lincoln Street to Wabash. The Historical Society plans a September plaque unveiling in Sylvan Park.

Mill Creek Zanja is a Bicentennial Landmark of the California Resources Commission and California Registered Landmark number 43. The Zanja has been recognized by the Redlands City Parks Department, San Bernardino County Museum and has a National Register designation as well. The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors was presented a certification that the Zanja was a Historic Civil Engineering Landmark in 1972.

Zanja history was first celebrated in the history of Redlands by Edith Parker Hinckley in her book titled, "On the Banks of the Zanja."

Tom Atchley gave a bus tour of the Zanja in March for the Redlands Area Historical Society. "Driving Tour of the Mill Creek Zanja" was published by the Redlands Conservancy in 2009. Booklets may be purchased at the Citrograph Print shop on E. State Street.

Tom Atchley and the Redlands Junior Historical Society researched and wrote the driving tour. Atchley is a retired social studies teacher at Redlands High and was advisor for the Junior Historical Society. He is a member of the Save the Zanja Committee of the Redlands Conservancy. Atchley has presented walking tours of historic neighborhoods, downtown Redlands and teaches a class on Redlands History with Dr. Larry Burgess twice each year.

The Power Point program follows the course of the Zanja from Mill Creek above Greenspot to Loma Linda and Mountain View Avenue. Native Americans, Spanish priests, Mexican land grant owners, mountain men and some of the first settlers of the San Bernardino Valley all played a role in the history of the Mill Creek Zanja. This irrigation ditch signifies the beginning of agricultural development in the San Bernardino Valley.

The program is free and open to the public.

- by Tom Atchley



*Two Women Taking a Cool Walk Through the Zanja Water
in Crafton in 1890.*

Dear Redlands Area Historical Society Members,

Thank you for the overflowing attendance at our most recent meeting of March 25th. You filled the Contemporary Clubhouse to learn about the Society's newest research tool – the **Redlands Timeline**. Based on Tom Atchley's extensive research, Society board member Ron Running and retired Esri computer engineer Ben Parker joined Tom in this original effort. The team of three combined text, photographs, prints, maps, and other materials utilizing Esri's Story Map platform and World Atlas to create the dynamic, opportunistic tool now available to a world-wide audience. Check out the orientation video on YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=silwDwKTaFM>. To access the Timeline simply go to the link on www.rahs.org or type in **Redlands Timeline** on your web browser. A special thank you to those at Esri for developing this remarkable piece of software.

The RAHS Old House Group had an enjoyable time at the Eureka Street home of Gene and Carol Melcher on March 27. Their restoration of the Victorian cottage is a remarkable 'labor of love'. We are truly grateful to the Melchers and the many other homeowners who graciously open up their homes to the Old House Group. On April 24th the Redlands Conservancy is hosting us at the Mission Asistencia. In recent months the property was transferred from the San Bernardino County Museum to the Conservancy. We look forward to visiting the site and learning about the Conservancy's plans for the California State Historic Landmark.

Our love affair with the Zanja continues. Please join us on Monday, April 22nd at the Contemporary Clubhouse for Tom Atchley's presentation on the this humble, yet transformative irrigation ditch. There will be a celebratory picnic *on the banks of the Zanja* in Sylvan Park as we dedicate a plaque in recognition of the Zanja bi-centennial in September.

Another reminder. Our annual Heritage Awards and Ice Cream Social is on Monday, June 17 at Trinity Episcopal Church beginning at 6:30 pm. We look forward to seeing everyone as we honor this year's deserving homeowners.

With kindest 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

Leslie Irish & Rebecca Mangum

Jill Huntsinger, Redlands REALTOR, CAPITIS Real Estate, www.finedigs.com

Esri

Heritage Award Winners

CHARLES BROWN RESIDENCE

550 W. Sunset Drive

Built circa 1933

Glenn & Betty Beck, Owners

Welcome to this Spanish Colonial masterpiece. On April 26, 1933, the *San Bernardino Sun* reported that Charles A. Hunter an architect out of Palm Springs will have plans finished within a month for the Charles A. Brown home to be built on Sunset Drive adjoining the Clarence G. White estate on the West. Prior to the plans being finished, the "extensive site" was already being improved with pipe lines and landscaping. By June 28th, contractors Ernest Off and Ray Wilson of Palm Springs had submitted the building permit for this estimated \$20,800 estate on four acres.

By July 13th of the same year excavation for the massive basement was being completed. An article in the *San Bernardino Sun* noted, "Contractor Has 10 Men on House Work."

This amount of local men on one job was notable due to the number of years we were into the Great Depression. In total, only five homes were built in the City of Redlands that year and none to this level of expense. Brick and stone mason, Lew Gist, also built the iconic Panorama Point lookout. In August another newspaper article notes M. L. Chauncey would install \$3,000 worth of furnaces and *the first ever* air-conditioning system in Redlands. It was stated in this same article that the residence is now at a \$30,000 price tag.

Upon the completion of construction Mr. Charles A. Brown deeded the front corner of his lot to the City in preparation for the rounding of Sunset Drive. This was a generous gift to the city for the once deemed scenic trail widened and paved in 1936.

Charles A. Brown came to Redlands with his wife as a retired attorney from Chicago of Brown, Boelicher & Dienner, Patent Attorneys. Brown was a sailor, horseback rider, member of Union League, Ruth Lake Country Club, Hinsdale Golf Club, Mays Lake Hunt Club, and The Law Club.

By 1939 Mr. Brown had passed away and left Caroline C. Brown a widow at the Sunset home. In late 1943 R. S Rhoades, Los Angeles geologist with extensive oil interests purchased the home from widow Brown when she moved on to the Claremont Inn. Rhoades owned the home for a very short time, only four years. His mother Ella S. Rhoades passed away after only six months

in Redlands. She is buried at Hillside Memorial Cemetery.

Colonel Donald A. Stevning and wife, Charlotte Hall Brown, were residents by 1947. Stevning had tremendous ties to the Coachella Valley. Commonly known as "Don", he was the General Manager of the L. V. W. Brown Estate, a citrus shipping firm in Highland, Riverside, and the Coachella Valley.

Mrs. Stevning was a standout member of the Assistance League and hosted dozens of events at the home.

In 1997, the estate was sold to Paul G Emerson II and wife Elizabeth for \$790,000. Mr. Emerson is best known for his fine jewelry craftsmanship at Emerson & Farrar downtown. Paul and Elizabeth lived on Sunset for 12 years.

550 W Sunset sits much in its original state as it did when construction was completed in late 1933. The grounds were designed to have something flowering and in bloom year-round and still do to this day. Residents and guests alike are beckoned to enter the south courtyard garden by a cerulean color, hand crafted wooden door adorned with a clover like pattern including five cutouts. and luck. Upon entering the massive courtyard, you are transported into a place of the past. Prominent features here include the original pergolas, loggias, and the serene koi pond. The mature palms, wisteria, and evergreens dance in the afternoon breeze. The east garden features a large curved pergola, manicured hedge walkways, and a terraced rose garden. To the north sits the largest of all outdoor venues. This expansive areas attributes are lush green lawns, sparkling pool, and quite possibly one of the most breathtaking north facing views in Redlands.

The south facing entrance to the home has the most striking feature of a full length cross vault walkway supported on the courtyard side by five Tuscan columns and capped with intricately detailed scrolled ornaments. The underside of the walkway has retained the soft seafoam blue green ceiling making the curvatures change color as the light moves through this space.

There are seven chimneys. None are matching and three are purely decorative.

Upon entering the main house, the barrel ceiling foyer is flanked by two significant rooms.

To the right is an impressive formal parlor with beamed ceiling and numerous sets of French doors leading to the north and south. One of the most prominent features is the massive concrete fireplace and mantle standing over five feet tall.

To the left of the foyer sits the formal dining room again adorned with ceiling millwork mimicking the formal living room. The extraordinary feature here are the walls. This dining room has the privilege of being dressed in the finest wall paper known. Zuber is French made since 1797. The panels are wood blocked print on hand brushed background, then finished with vibrant colors. This particular pattern is "EL Dorado".

Only one major modification has been done since 1933. In 1955, the Stevning family commissioned Gordon Donald to build a family room on the north side of the dining room and a complete kitchen remodel. The family room features a fireplace wall complete with in door barbeque. The kitchen was finished with all the popular materials of the 1950s, plywood and Formica.

Today, Glenn and Betty Beck reside at this impressive residence. They acquired the property on April 7, 2009. Glenn, a native of Aspen Colorado, founded his business, Beck Oil, Inc. in 1967 in Victorville Ca. Betty is an attorney and her firm Betty Auton- Beck, PLC has been in the Citibank building since the early 1990s.

The Redlands Area Historical Society takes great pride in presenting this 2018 Heritage Home Award to Glenn and Betty Beck.

-by Jill Huntsinger



BEAR VALLEY DAM AND 1884

- by Tom Atchley

MEN BEGAN MOVING to McNeil Camp June 14th to begin work. Newspapers constantly say the work-force numbered 100 but 60 men seems more likely. The Fanning, civil engineer pamphlet called *A Practical Treatise on Water Supply Engineering* became a daily guide for Brown.

Since crossing Mill Creek and the Santa Ana was treacherous Brown decided to leave Redlands with his family, wife Jesse, mother Rebecca, Emeline, Elwood, Reuben, and Ned via the desert side with the Boyd supply wagons. Emeline the oldest child is four. She bonded with her dad during the summer following him nimbly across the dam watching him as he supervised the laying of each block. Ned was born in April and is two months old. The plan was to stay with dad through the summer. Everything else for at least five months is packed in the wagons.

On June 17, Brown and his family meet James Boyd at Starke's Hotel in San Bernardino at 8:55 a.m. In Cajon Canyon they pass the slate rock cut at 10:20 and Vincent's by noon. The wagons reach the toll house (Lawrence's) at 12:55 p.m. a distance of 20 miles from San Bernardino. The next day the group left the toll gate, near Summit, at 2:45 p.m., Campbell's 3:55 and spent the night. The next day began at 4:00 a.m. reaching the next summit by 7:35 a.m. The road led to the Mojave River on the east bank 10:15, point of rock 11:57 and arrive at the large dry lake in Lucerne Valley and Rabbit Springs by 1:03 for lunch. Left Rabbit Springs at 3:11 p.m. following the road to Old Woman Springs to the Cushenbury grade at 5:40 p.m. and set up camp.

Other children joining the caravan were destined to Bluff Lake and Seven Oaks for the summer. Brown listed the names and ages, Stiles Benton 14, George Allen 13, Jean Lyman 10, Anges Clara 9, Harry Edward 6, Frank Edward 5, Ernest Ashley 4, Leroy 11 months and his mom, Clara.

June 19th began at 5:50 a.m. and

the caravan met Hill and Silas Cox while watering at a stream at 7:00. Passed the Well cabin at 7:10 and Johnson Cactus Flat by 7:35 and approached the steep hill. Began climbing the Cushenbury 8:00 and reached the summit by 8:47 and the upper lake (Baldwin) at 9:15. Arrived at Knight's at 10:00 a.m., and rested 20 minutes before arriving at log cabin 1:20 p.m. The Boyd heavy wagons

lumber. Beardstown was located west of Baldwin Lake and served as the community that once supported the Gold Mountain Mine and stamp mill. Thurman returned with the lumber and was then sent to Lugonia for a stove, mason tools, axes, and weir box. The metal weir was destined for the outlet of the dam to measure the outflow.

Calamity struck on Monday June



Bluff Lake was Claimed in 1883 by Dr. Benjamin Watrous and Became the Summer Home for Dam-Building Families.

did not reach McNeil Camp until the following day since the Cushenbury required slow going and snub lines placed to wench the wagons forward.

Crews had the two new derricks in place. One was placed to lift stone blocks onto the scows at the south side quarry and one placed on the center of the dam foundation. Brown released water from behind the foundation turning the exit wheel. On June 21 A.M. Ball arrived with a load of supplies and Dolly. Johnson, Bowles and Thurman were dispatched to Sam Beard's to buy

23 in the morning when the earth dam broke sending 50,000 inches cascading over the foundation again. Using barley sacks filled with mud, by the evening of the next day, the dam was repaired. Crew members Ben Johnson, Cooke, Butler, Philo Brown, A. G. Saunders arrived for work June 26. All day Brown ran preliminary curve levels and determined the elevations for each part of the curve and ended up using his calculations from 1883.

Elwood and Reuben woke up

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with cramps and Jesse sent Francisco to Redlands for sponges. Brown fired Gurnish, Fuller, A. Reed, John Murphy and Frank Luna. No reason was given in Day Book H. Cox joined the fired list July 19.

Wednesday July 3 work began on gate frame and culvert and completed 34 feet of culvert in one day by Mc Neil and McDonald. The Sanitary Engineering weir arrived for downstream measuring and placed without incident. Brown measured the top of the dam should reach 57 feet. July 18 the upper dam released the first water to test the dam culvert. Enough water was released to allow the scows to begin delivering stone. Each day Brown recorded the amount of cement used by counting the empty barrels. He measured the cubic feet accomplished each day to predict dam completion and the amount of cement he would need.

Stone masons on the job were Earnest Vieweger, Alvin G. Saunders, Ed Reed, Barnard, Albert Taylor, Carlin, Bly, Tom Phillips, and Nickerson. The concrete men were two Mexicans, Ames, Murray and Findlay. Mortar men listed were Cook, Frank M. Knapp, Rimon and Gurnish. Gurnish previously was on the fired list. Each scow had a captain and they were Montague, King and Reeves. The quarry men were Andrew E. McNeil, Chapman, Fuller, Alexander, Johnson and Jordan. The derrick operators were Thomas, Augustus Reed, Borron, Frank Luna, Garcia, George Cassady, McDonald, and Shafer. Luna was also previously on the fired list. Charley Martin provided the extra concrete as needed. E. H. Converse, H. Y. Evans, Isaac Ford, Walter Butler, Charles Rowe, Philo Brown, Benton Johnson served in building as needed. Butler was the assistant engineer and wherever Brown could not supervise the mason work Butler was there.

Brown recorded the statistics of the dam in ink for posterity. The radius of the dam is 335 feet. The dam could reach 52 feet. On August 23, Brown sent a message to James Burt in San Bernardino, "My birthday, I'm 28 years old. We are just on time, just finished 6 feet of dam above foundation. If the Lord wills we can finish this year."

By September 8 the dam was 16



Remnants of the Mud Dam that Appeared in the 1950s when the Lake was Nearly Dry.

feet above the foundation. Brown figured the cost of tools for 1883 was \$661.05. The tools for 1884 amounted to \$1366.66. The bill was sent to George Meade in San Francisco. The week of October 4 Brown reported the crews laid 360 cubic yards and used 165 barrels of cement. Racing the advent of cold weather Brown advised the board of directors to allow a \$.50 a day bonus to induce laborers to stay on the job until completion. Most of the families living at Bluff Lake and Seven Oaks already left the mountains to escape the cold. Brown's family left as well.

Each week in October the cubic feet completed increased 1825, 2195 and 2360, 2540 cubic yards. The men worked with a familiar rhythm with one group loading a scow at the quarry and two scows delivering cut stone at either end of the dam. Men scurried like so many ants with buckets of cement to awaiting masons. The derricks dipped and lifted the rock loads directing the sculpted rock to the next position. Cement men used hoes to mix the lime, sand and cement in an endless gesture of a windmill. Hammers rang out from the quarry like drums that signaled a new split. The band symbol was a black powder explosion selecting a new boulder for shaping. By November the rhythm of building became 2800, 2914, 3047 and a crescendo of 3139 cubic feet.

Brown spent evenings writing

the North Fork owners concerning his thoughts regarding the new water claimed by the Bear Valley Land and Water Company. Fortunately the 1884 irrigation season began late due to the heavy rain and snow. The Santa Ana River ran high all summer and no one complained about the dams in Bear Valley blocking irrigation water. The 1884 rainfall was the second highest recorded in California history ranking second behind the flood of 1862 or 1867. Brown wrote the letters to R. Cunningham, Seth Marshall, Lewis F. Cram, T. S. Ingham, A. M. Aplin, George W. Beattie, Miller and Luinan. Brown formulated a plan that would guarantee a certain number of inches each irrigation month to avoid future problems. The same proposition letters were sent to South Fork owners Col. William R. Tolles, Frank Hinckley, Dr. Jacob Stillman, George A. Cook, Frank Morrison, David Morey, James Garrison, James B. Glover, David A. Shaw and G.H. Fullerton. Brown then wrote a list of concerns from each respondent and a response to address each issue.

On November 18, 1884 the key-stone was laid at 4:10 p.m. by Earnest Vieweger, mason. The 2 feet by 8 inch square stone was inscribed by Andrew E. McNeil "1884, F. E. Brown, ENG'R." Brown wrote, "The top of the stone is 50 feet, above the center of the dam which is

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250 feet between abutments." Brown wrote another keystone that read, "B.V.L.&W. Co., F. E. Brown Eng. & Supt." The men chose the shorter draft. The granite chosen for the keystone was found in September and saved for this event. Invitations were sent to Jesse Brown, the children, Mr. and Mrs. Dr. Watrous, and Mr. and Mrs. Benton O. Johnson. All were present for the festivities. The dam would rise another two feet for a distance of 335 feet and then the coping work would begin.

Brown returned to Redlands with his wife and children November 29. He left instructions with "Albert Taylor in charge with the power to discharge any man." Brown ordered J. McDonald to finish the waste weir and dump unused material in the front of the dam. C. Bly must finish the wall. The waste weir was constructed of wood and even with the top of the masonry dam on the south side of a large boulder. Issac Ford replaced Taylor as the man in charge December 13. The temperature reached 20 degrees with work on the waste gate nearly complete. A big snow storm began December 19 and men shored up Bowles cabin. Mr. Huntington arrived with the mail the next day. R. Blanchard followed Issac Ford in a note from Brown December 19. Despite the snow work continued on the waste weir with wood from Brown's first log cabin.

Work still continued Christmas Day with R. A. Blanchard and men working in the drainage cut. Snow began that lasted for 24 hours. Holt, Bowles and Blanchard kept sledding lumber for additional dam building equipment storage. Without a whisper in the official log book the dam was complete. The coping only covered some 40 feet beginning from the north side. Frank Brown knew long before the completion date that this dam was only temporary and the coping was not that important. His greatest work was doomed to languish under the water.

What may be the bonus pay list is found on one page of Day Book H. The list has the last names of Branch, Stephenson, Rogers, Muram?, Kingsley, Mann, Stark, Smith, Ball, Waite, Allen, Watrous, Ladd, Mrs. Mary Stephenson, A. H. Averill, Dewell, S. H. Averill, Cutts and Holbrook. Since the winter of 1884

proved to be a threat to the two dams, Brown decided to have Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Bowles, Dan Holt, John Walsh, R. A. Blanchard and a person named Meyer stay at the dam. These folks recorded their day to day chores. One large bunk cabin was converted as a home for Bowles and his wife. The scows were stowed on high ground. Evidently Albert Taylor relieved Bowles and his wife several months in the winter.

Brown was gushing with pride as the first cut capstones were laid. The capstone was not completed since the cold

terfered with cement curing properly. Brown considered this dam temporary and knew that a larger, higher dam was necessary to store water for repeated drought years.

Frank Brown wrote two drafts of a telegram and sent the second to his wife, Jesse. "Bear Valley is tremendous success. You must see it. Can you arrive at Brookside, Monday[?] F." "Bear Valley five times better than anticipated. You must see it. Can you reach Brookside Monday[?] F." §

-by Tom Atchley

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Page 24	Indep of work for 1884
Page 25	Log Cabin No. 2
" 26	" " No. 3
" 27	Boarding Camp No. 2
" 28	Store House
" 29	Fire Wood
" 30	Water Filumes (Hdam)
" 31	Day
" 32	Night Watchman (G. Dam)
" 33	Surveying
" 34	Trails & Roads
" 35	Derrick
" 36	Scow
" 37	Blacksmithing
" 38	North Cut
" 39	Preparatory work
" 40	Preliminary work (G. dam)
" 41	Quarry
" 43	Permanent (G. Dam) work
" 46 & 47	Foundation of Granite Dam
" 47	Cement
" 48	Line
" 49	Number of yds. Laid
" 50	Length " Dam

Frank Brown Day Book Entries of Work Completed on the 1884 Dam.

REDLANDS PRESERVATION FORTNIGHT 2019

Saturday, May 11	Town & Gown Picnic along the Zanja University of Redlands
Monday, May 13	Fortnight Opening Reception Mission Asistencia, 26930 Barton Road 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 14	Archaeology and Architecture of the R.J. Dunn Home Donn Grenda Assembly Room, A.K. Smiley Public Library
Sunday, May 19	Prospect Park 5k Walk 9:00 a.m.
Saturday, May 25	Conservancy Walk Along the Judson-Brown Ditch 9:00 a.m.
Sunday, May 26	Cutstone Curb Repair Demonstration
Tuesday, May 28	Redlands Forum – Nathan Gonzales “Walls, Ditches, and Gutters” ESRI Auditorium, 5:30 p.m.

Presented by the Redlands Area Historical Society & Redlands Conservancy



*Called “Hole in the Wall”
the Diversion of Mill Creek
into the Zanja Passed
through the 1939 County
Flood District Wall.*



REDLANDS AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
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Address Correction Requested

Historic Preservation Fortnight is May 11th-28th

Redlands Area Historical Society, Inc.

Founded 1972, Incorporated 1974

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Upcoming Events

April 22, 7:00 p.m.

History of the Mill Creek Zanja
Contemporary Clubhouse
173 S. Eureka Street

April 24, 6:30 p.m.

Old House Group
Asistencia on Barton Road
SOCIETY MEMBERS ONLY

May 11-28

Historic Preservation Fortnight

§

1st Thursday of the Month

Historic & Scenic Preservation Commission Meeting
City Hall Council Chambers
35 Cajon Street

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