



REDLANDS CHRONICLES

September 2019

ARCHAEOLOGY OF CHINATOWN & SONORATOWN

Donn Grenda, Speaker

Monday, September 23, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.

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

173 S. Eureka Street, Redlands

PHASE II OF THE PACKING HOUSE DISTRICT shopping center led to the excavation of both segments of Chinatown and Sonoratown in Redlands.

The Redlands Area Historical Society invited Dr. Donn R. Grenda, president of Statistical Research, Inc.(SRI) to speak about the discoveries made while unearthing artifacts from both sites for the September 23 meeting at the Contemporary Clubhouse 173 S. Eureka Street at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Grenda holds a B.A. in both Economics and Anthropology from the University of Redlands. He received his Ph.D in Anthropology from the University of Arizona and is also a Registered Professional Archaeologist.

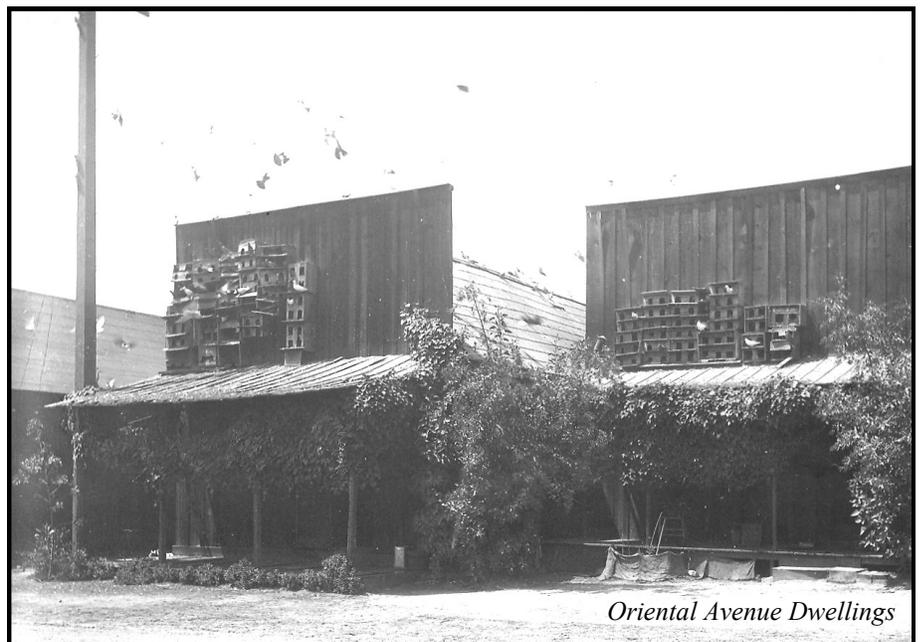
Grenda is a past member of the California State Historical Resources Commission, Redlands Historic and Scenic Preservation Commission and Redlands Planning Commission. He is active with the Redlands Conservancy.

Both the Oriental Chinese site and Sonoratown are located within blocks of the Stuart Street headquarters of SRI. A number of items were found at both sites that increase the historical knowledge of the two communities. A Chinese laundry and barracks building had Chinese coins, soy sauce bottles, alcohol containers and a host of trash pits that provided artifacts.

Dr. Grenda will present a power point program that will illustrate SRI discoveries. All the artifacts are destined for the Museum of Redlands.

Historical Society monthly programs are free and open to the public.

-by Tom Atchley



Oriental Avenue Dwellings

Dear Redlands Area Historical Society Members,

Welcome to the Redlands Area Historical Society's new year. The monthly programs (in September, October, and January through April), the annual Heritage Awards, the Old House Group, walking tours and other events and programs combined provide numerous opportunities to become better informed about our community's history. A special welcome to those new to the Historical Society.

Our first event of this new year is on Saturday, September 21 at Sylvan Park beginning at 11:30 am. The Redlands Area Historical Society, the Redlands Conservancy, and the Contemporary Club have partnered to dedicate a new plaque along the historic Mill Creek Zanja in recognition of the 200th anniversary of this much-loved irrigation ditch. The event, titled "*On the Banks of the Zanja*" is inspired by Edith Parker Hinckley's landmark 1951 history of Redlands. The event, which takes place in the picnic area near University Street and the bandstand, starts off with a picnic lunch (BYO – drinks and dessert provided), music, games for children, and a dedication ceremony with brief remarks on the history of the Zanja and special guests with the unveiling concluding the day's activities.

RAHS program chair Tom Atchley has once again booked a wide variety of speakers for this coming year. We are continuing to hold our meetings in the Redlands Contemporary Clubhouse facility adjacent to the A.K. Smiley Public Library. We have outgrown the library's Assembly Room! A special thank you to Smiley Library Director Don McCue and his staff for access to the Contemporary Club.

On Mon., September 23rd local archaeologist Donn Grenda, PH.D will share with us the remarkable discoveries made during the recent excavations of the Redlands' Chinatown. The objects uncovered by Donn and his team at Statistical Research Inc. reveal such things as diet, social activities, and living arrangements along with the scale and scope of the buildings and much, much more. Be prepared for Donn's telling, thought provoking, and informative presentation. We look forward to seeing you on the 23rd at 7 pm!

A word of note – there will be no Old House Group Fall potluck since we are having the "*On the Banks of the Zanja*" event. The first Old House Group meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 30th.

The first walking tour of the season is the ever-popular Hillside Cemetery Tour. Please join us on Saturday, October 26th at 4:00 p.m. (at the old mausoleum). The cost is \$10 for RAHS members and \$15 for non-members. RAHS board member and Redlands historian Tom Atchley will lead the tour.

The Society remains committed to developing ways to further our reach through our website (rahs.org), Facebook, and other social media platforms. Stay tuned for future developments.

Thank you for your interest and support.

With warmest regards,

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

ON THE BANKS OF THE ZANJA

Picnic and Plaque Unveiling

September 21st, 11:30 to 1:30

Sylvan Park

THE REDLANDS AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, CONTEMPORARY CLUB AND REDLANDS CONSERVANCY wish to invite the public, City Council, and history lovers to Sylvan Park September 21 from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the Mill Creek Zanja

Part of the official itinerary involves a short number of thanks to individuals that have persevered over years to preserve the Zanja. The State of California Historic Commission listed "The Zanja" as #43 on the State Register in 1932. Redlands Rotary dedicated a plaque in Sylvan Park to the Zanja in 1965.

In 1937, Works Progress Administration paid unemployed historians to produce a "History of the Mill Creek Zanja." Edith Parker Hinckley reminded us all how important the Zanja was to Redlands with her book named "On the Banks of the Zanja" in 1951.

Gertrude Hagum and Alice Van Boven led the charge in the 1970s to have the Zanja on the National Register of Historic Places (#77000329.) The Redlands Conservancy funded the publication of "Mill Creek Zanja Driving Tour and Brief History" in 2009. The Conservancy planned and opened the first stretch of the Zanja walking trail this year with a park on Lincoln Street funded by Jack and Laura Dangermond.

Everyone needs to bring a picnic lunch with all the necessary items such as utensils and plates. Drinks and cookies will be provided. We also encourage everyone to bring folding chairs so the shade of nearby trees can be obtained.

The program consists of a very brief history and the unveiling of the new Zanja Plaque monument paid for by the Historical Society, Contemporary Club and Redlands Conservancy. We expect participation by the San Manuel Tribe, a city council member and Tom Atchley.

Gary Kasler built the cobble-stone monument and Mick and Sandy Gallagher completed the plaque engraving at Finishing Touch Engraving.



BEAR VALLEY DAM AND 1884

- by Tom Atchley

THE COMPLETED DAM was reviewed by State Engineer William Hammond Hall in 1885. Hall wrote, “[The dam] founded on granite, where the channel was sixty to seventy-five feet wide, and abutting against granitic mountain sides, at the top line it is about three hundred feet in length, in the form of an arch, having a radius of 335 feet, and it is 64 feet in height from extreme base to top of coping.”

“The top coping is three-feet two inches wide; the lower face [is] vertical for 48 feet, and the upper face battered so that 48 feet down the structure is 8.5 feet thick. At this plane there is an offset up and down-stream---the dam increases in thickness to 12 to 13 feet thick---and thence has a slight batter on both faces, so that at the extreme



View of Santa Ana Canyon above dam site showing part to be submerged.



foundation it has a thickness of 20 feet.”

Hall describes the rough-ashlar masonry that has a rubble interior all laid in a cement mortar and grouting. The stones measure from five feet in length to smaller sizes. The volume of the dam is 3,400 cubic yards. The south abutment rests on a massive granite outcrop that becomes part of the dam. The waste weir was built on the south side of a large boulder that is part of this outcrop. The flood escape-way or waste weir is 20 feet wide and 8 ½ feet high below the level of the crest of the dam. A culvert 3 ½ feet wide can measure water from a gate-opening 20 by 24 inches controlled by a sliding gate, on brass bearings, worked by a screw at the top of an iron rod to a

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wooden platform built even with the dam coping. In the first year the dam captured 40 feet of water and leveled to 37 feet for most of the irrigation season. 1885 is counted as a less than average precipitation year.

offered few amenities. The men had either beef or mutton during the summer months and potatoes with every dinner. The potatoes came from farmers in the Santa Ana Canyon, Oak Glen, and the Col. Tolles ranch in Lugonia. Fresh

bread was baked daily. Vegetables and fruit from the valley arrived every other day. William Speight and John Ring shared the cook responsibilities. William Myers continued as cook through the winter of 1884-1885.

The log cabins each had fire places with lantern lighting. Small springs in Pine Oak canyon provided water for each cabin. During the winter the water froze solid in the pipes and snow was melted. The company boat allowed for pleasure trips on Sunday. Brown encouraged family time at Bluff Lake and allowed poker playing at McNeil's and Bluff Lake. No mention of alcohol consumption is found in the records.

Frank Brown returned to Bear Valley February 14, 1885. This date was the anniversary of his winter trip in 1884. The snow was not as deep as the year before. The work on the waste weir was finished and well done. Brown commented on how a wall along the waste weir would protect the south abutment from cutting back. Brown checked the



The official figures on the cost of the dam are broken down into categories by Frank Brown. In the Bear Valley Land and Water Co. book 1 November 13, 1883 to March 31, 1886, Brown tabulates the expenses to \$68,000. Other sources vary with Hall adding \$7,000 for administration costs. The cement was the most expensive item. The cement cost \$13 a barrel with 1600 barrels used costing \$20,800. The men were paid \$2 per day with an extra \$.50 a day if they remained until the dam was completed in December 1884. A few of the men were fired but according to Brown's Day Books remained on the job after discipline was applied. Brown was respected as the dam superintendent and in later years laborers boasted about their participation in the construction.

The building crews were fed three times daily during the building summer and fall. Camp McNeil



Nearly completed dam.

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rainfall and snow record and determined that 1885, without further precipitation, would equal the poor year of 1874. Brown brought ice skates and skated across the lake to Camp McNeil the full half mile. The winter camp was occupied by R. Blanchard, G. Cooper, William Myers, Martin Ericson, Ernest Carlson, S. Carlson, Mike Cronan, Dan Holt, John Walsh, H. J. Hubbard, Isaac Ford, Albert Taylor and C. S. Bowles. Bowles was really the first dam keeper.

Brown and John Walsh returned to the lake June 2 by way of Sugar Loaf Mountain. Brown spent a day experimenting opening and closing the main gate until he could measure 500 inches in the lower weir. Brown expected William Hammond Hall, the State Engineer to arrive with Hiram Barton the next day. Hall gave suggestions for the waste weir overflow so water would divert from the dam foundation. The depth of the reservoir was 38 feet, 1 3/4 inches. Both Brown and Hall left for Seven Oaks and then measured the junction of Bear Creek and the Santa Ana.

Brown brought his wife and Sylvanus Thurman to Bear Valley August 8th. They met Dr. Barton and began a short vacation at the lake house. Brown ran levels on Van Deusen Canon and enjoyed duck hunting along Baldwin Lake. The entire irrigation season of 1885 only dropped the lake to 35 feet. James Smart joined Gus Knight with horses in Bear Valley and visitors to the



valley often traded their burros to ride horses while in the valley. Gus Knight could see a future as a recreation destination.

Frank Brown wrote February 25, 1886, "[I] believe this is destined to become the finest mountain resort in California." Just below this quote E. A. Tuttle, a civil engineer that Brown hired to survey the town site of Redlands, wrote, "The work of building the Bear Valley dam is the best quality and will be a lasting monument to the engineer who had the work in charge."

One summary of the dam was given by Russell J. Waters August 21, 1886.

"It has been wisely said by someone, that he who makes two blades of grass grow, where one grew before is a public benefactor.

life giving fluid so necessary in this country, has furnished food and clothing to thousands of his fellows, and is entitled to the respect and commendation of his neighbors, and the blessing of future generations."

"Californians may look with pride upon this grand factor to the future industries of their State. It vastly exceeds the promise made by the originators, and I believe will stimulate similar enterprises throughout the State, which will result in incalculable good."

The summer of 1884 a tent city arose in Bear Valley as Redlanders spread under the trees to escape the valley heat. The dam keeper kept a record of each visitor having each sign their name and place of residence. Many visitors wrote short messages that remain part of the record. George Crafts, a Crafton fruit and sheep rancher, wrote that "he was familiar with Bear Valley for 25 years and thought a dam would be useless since the valley would percolate the water beneath." He admitted the pleasure of being wrong.

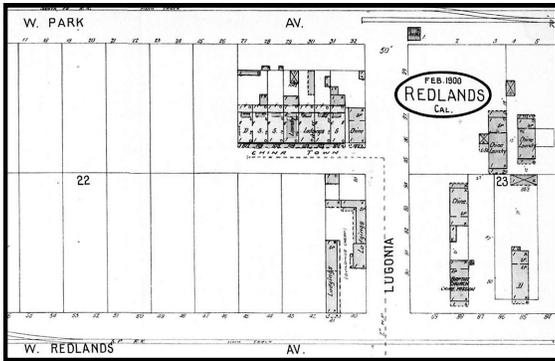
Carrying out that principle, one can truthfully say that he who saves millions of gallons of water--
--- that



-by Tom Atchley

REDLANDS AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY WOULD LIKE
TO WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

Matthew Delaney
Kevin Durr
Ein Garcia
Wendy Guffre
Brittany Hagen
Michael & Marcia Hemphill
Aaron Jacobs
Robert McDonald
Jamie & Krista McPhail
John Morgan
Elaina Santana
Lee F. Schelin
Joseph Siler
Sarah Stanley
Philip Terhorst
Sarah Turner
Bill Wilson



Chinatown is shown on this 1900 Sanborn map between the Santa Fe and Southern Pacific railroads tracks.

Newsletter Deadline

All RAHS members are encouraged to submit articles for *Redlands Chronicles* to Marie Reynolds at sccmarie@yahoo.com by the 1st of each month.

Upcoming Events

- September 21, 11:30 a.m. *On the Banks of the Zanja* Picnic
Sylvan Park
- September 23, 7:00 p.m. Archaeology of Chinatown & Sonoratown
Contemporary Clubhouse
173 S. Eureka Street
- October 26, 4:00 p.m. Hillside Cemetery Walking Tour
Meet at the Egyptian Mausoleum
Members \$10, Non-members \$15
- November 9, 10:00 a.m. High Avenue Walking Tour
Meet at Chapel & High
Members \$10, Non-members \$15
- §
- 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: blueeaglevideo@aol.com.

10th Annual
HILLSIDE CEMETERY
Walking Tour

Saturday, October 26th

Four o'clock p.m.

Meet at the Egyptian
Mausoleum

\$10 for members

\$15 for non-members



A Chinatown discovery.



Visit us on the World Wide Web at www.rahs.org. Follow us on Facebook  and Instagram.

Redlands Area Historical Society, Inc.

Founded 1972, Incorporated 1974

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