



REDLANDS CHRONICLES

March 2020

SECRET INLAND EMPIRE: A GUIDE TO THE WEIRD, WONDERFUL AND OBSCURE

Larry Burns, Speaker
Monday, March 23, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.
A.K.S.P.L. Contemporary Clubhouse
173 S. Eureka Street, Redlands

LARRY BURNS draws inspiration and ideas from the heady mixture of sights, sounds, peoples, and places of the Inland Empire. He fears and welcomes a future run by sentient robots, and wonders what they will talk about and do for fun when they are in charge. He is a founding member of the Inlandia Institute, a regional non-profit literary organization, and teaches English at Riverside City College. His latest book, *Secret Inland Empire: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful, and Obscure*, is available now across Southern California.

As the name implies, the Inland Empire is an ambitious collection of communities. The "I got this" ethos is alive and well here. It's a confidence that comes from living in a place that is wide open like the fabled American frontier. The two counties that comprise the Inland Empire (the IE), Riverside and San Bernardino, make it California's largest metropolitan area. It's population and popularity grow year after year.

The biggest secret about the Inland Empire is the number of ways that they lead the state, the nation, and the world with innovative practices, ideas, and commerce. Home of the first McDonald's, it perfected the taste that took over the globe. Sampled a Flaming Hot Cheeto lately? Invented here, by an hourly employee. This region's citrus symbolized health and prosperity in the 20th century. Today, 90% of our dates come from their eastern deserts.

Innovative? This is where Dr. June McCarroll redesigned highways by adding the white line - the first mile by her own hand. It's home to the world's first Tesla-inspired 3-phase A/C generator power plant, a method employed in 90% of the world today. The largest animatronics studio, Garner Holt Industries, Inc., is not in Hollywood, it's here. This is where NASA placed the world's first Deep Space Communications Complex at Goldstone. Every single message from Mars, every probe photograph, comes here first.

The purpose of Burns' book is to share the wildest, wackiest, and most wonderful places and people that make up this diverse and storied community.

Society programs are free and open to the public.



Dear Redlands Area Historical Society Members,

We are looking forward to author Larry Burns' presentation on Monday, March 23rd at 7 pm at the Contemporary Clubhouse. Larry will share with us the delights and surprises in his latest book, titled *Secret Inland Empire: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful and Obscure*. Larry is a English instructor at Riverside Community College and a founding member of the Inlandia Institute. He is also the author of *100 Things to Do in Riverside, CA Before You Die*, published in 2017.

Our April 27th meeting is the second edition of the *Roadshow* featuring Redlands memorabilia. Please take time to go through your drawers, closets, files, garage, and other nooks and crannies to see what you might want to bring. Although there won't be appraisals, we guarantee your fellow Society members will be interested in what you have selected. Please begin to think what you might want to share. Details are to follow.

Please join me in welcoming Erin S. Benson as our newest RAHS board member. Erin and her husband, Jack Lukehart, are the proud owners of a Spanish Colonial Revival home. They were honored with a 2019 Heritage Award. Erin chairs our Ways and Means committee.

Gerry and Linda Brassfield of Blue Eagle Video create a video record of our monthly programs, including the Heritage Awards and our meetings at the Contemporary Club. A copy of each program goes to the Heritage Room of A.K. Smiley Public Library with copies going to the speaker or speakers. We sincerely appreciate Gerry and Linda's continued efforts! If you are interested in obtaining a DVD of any of the RAHS programs, please contact Gerry and Linda at 909-882-2003 or via email at blueeaglevideo@aol.com. The cost is \$5 each.

Documenting the histories of the annual Heritage Award properties is an exciting and rewarding task, as well as a privilege. I am sure you will be thrilled and excited by the variety of architectural styles featured and amazed by the stewardship of the property owners. Please mark your calendars for Monday, June 8th, 6:30 pm, at Trinity Episcopal Church for the annual Ice Cream Social followed by the presentation of the awards.

Thank you for responding promptly with you membership renewals and thank you for your support. If you have misplaced your remittance envelope, you can go online at www.rahs.org and submit your renewals on Paypal.

With best wishes,

Steve Spiller

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

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Heritage Award Winners

JOSEPH & CAROLYN KITCHING RESIDENCE

Elizabeth Crest

Built in 1891

Jim Ziemer & Dr. Mary Hurley, Owners

HIRAM H. SMITH arrived in Redlands from New Haven, Connecticut, in 1884, and acquired 230 acres on Redlands Heights. By 1888, he planted 173 acres of oranges and grapefruit. In 1887, Smith subdivided his remaining holdings into several parcels for sale as the Smith Subdivision #2.

Ammon P. Kitching came to Redlands in 1888 and purchased land in Redlands Heights for himself and his brother, Joseph C. Kitching (1832 – 1921). Joseph was a Civil War veteran serving in Company K, First Vermont Calvary. The Kitching brothers owned Kitching Wool Manufacturing Co. of New York. They purchased raw wool and produced clothing and blankets, becoming millionaires in the process. Ammon Kitching partnered with Frank Brown in the Alesandro development investing over \$1,000,000. Kitching Peak near the Whitewater River is named for Ammon after he became president of the Bear Valley Irrigation Co. in 1891.

Joseph and Ammon both built homes south of Elizabeth Street in 1891 for

\$3,000 each. Joseph planted a 15-acre orange grove from Fountain Street east to his new home. He obtained 21 shares of Redlands Heights water from his brother, Ammon. Carolyn, his wife died in 1919 and Joseph died in 1921. Both are buried in the Kitching family plot at Hillside Cemetery. Carolyn and Joseph had three children: Charles, Frank, and Louis. The three graduated from Redlands High. Charles fought and died in World War I. The Kitching family and Frank Brown family became life-long friends. Edward Judson Brown, the son of Frank and Jesse Brown, died in 1968 and is buried in the Kitching plot of Hillside Cemetery.

Joseph and Carolyn had their home almost completed by November of 1891. They chose a home from the *Cooperative Building Association* book plans of 1883, by Robert W. Shoppell, architect, in New York. Their choice was a Victorian Charles Eastlake two-story home featuring the Eastlake geometric designs found in the period furniture. The first story has an entrance veranda, reception room, dining room, kitchen, and one

bedroom. The second story has four bedrooms.

The foundation is constructed with Taylor Bros. bricks. The front entrance is crowned with a half-timbered gable, shingle siding, and two roof dormers on a steep gabled roof. The present owners replaced the cement steps with polished wood steps to the front Queen Anne wraparound porch. Plain square posts, undecorated brackets, support the veranda roof and a wood balustrade encloses the porch. The Gothic tower has windows and geometric wood squares found in Charles Eastlake furniture. The east side of the home shows a possible sleeping bedroom with many windows. The rear entrance has the same set of second story windows for summer sleeping. The west side of the home has the continuation of the wraparound porch, brick chimney, and shingle siding. Lattice woodwork allows for venting under the veranda. Redwoods, palms, and avocado trees surround the home. A circular drive leads from Elizabeth Crest Drive that is lined with roses. The first view of the home is breathtaking.

The home remained in the Kitching family from 1891 to 1929. John A. and Julia Steward purchased the home in 1929. John Steward was the Mutual Orange Distributors Packing House manager. Steward sold the home to George and Lura Easley in 1932. The Easley family enjoyed the home until 1944 photographing the 1937 snow, family, Easley car, front view of the home, grandpa rocker, grandma and chickens along with riding horses, pet monkey, neighbor's home, and the neighborhood in the 1937 snowstorm.

Jim Ziemer and Dr. Mary Hurley, an orthopedic surgeon, bought the home in 1999. They have completed finishing the woodwork throughout the home. The veranda wood is all new and the concrete steps are now all wood that requires maintenance every six months. The home sparkles with care inside and out. The Redlands Area Historical Society is proud to present a 2019 Heritage Award to Jim Ziemer and Dr. Mary Hurley for their care and stewardship.

-by Tom Atchley



LUGONIA HISTORY: REDLANDS BEGINS

- by Tom Atchley

THE NEW SOUTH FORK DITCH was the first of its kind in San Bernardino County. The diversion gate from the Santa Ana was located near the present north Crafton Avenue. The ditch meandered through present day Mentone. Portions of the ditch are still visible along Brighton Avenue in Mentone. This ditch could hold half the normal flow of the Santa Ana River and was dug deep enough for even thunder-storm water. The ditch was paved with rocks and "cemented" with red clay from land south of the Zanja. Large stones weighing over fifty pounds were carefully placed on the curved bottom and sides of the ditch. The hope was to reduce the percolation of water and deliver a larger more reliable flow for all the share-holders. Weeds, debris and riparian trees would not grow as quickly and the rock-lined ditch provided easier maintenance.

Young George Beattie worried aloud that the water once turned into the ditch would carry away the rocks and the clay. The stone ditch was ceremoniously named "The South Fork Ditch, Sunnyside Division." Soon, the Water Commission Board used the shortened name "Sunnyside Ditch". Confusion abounds considering the new name. Portions of the new Sunnyside Ditch used the old South Fork course, Bearry Roberts Ditch and to top off the confusion, the Tenney Ditch. Pioneers, depending on their arrival on the south bench, used the name they were most associated with when they came to Lugonia. Some residents supported calling the community Sunnyside, since the name captured the new optimism.

Most assuredly, the new ditch provided settlers with reliable water. The Sunnyside Ditch was the most improved ditch in the county. Only

the Mill Creek Zanja owners could boast steel pipe from the mouth of Mill Creek to their old diversion dam near the present day Edison power house #1. The twelve mile flow of the Zanja lost most of its water before reaching Old San Bernardino.

Dr. Stillman invigorated the Lugonia community to a plateau surpassing that of Col. William R. Tolles. He constructed a winery and experimented with raisins, dates and wines and was a scholar, physician and author. His travels to Southern Europe brought new knowledge for viticulture, soil conditions and farming techniques for these crops. His vineyard was larger in size than Ben Barton's 80-acre vineyard planted in the 1860s.

Vineyards could now be found in Crafton, Old San Bernardino and Lugonia. Tolles, Barton, Borron, Hewitt, Beattie, Craw, Glover, Beal, Craig, Haight, Lindenberg, Ball, Shaw, and Stillman all had vines by 1880. Either the Southern Pacific with their high freight rates or the freight mule-company from San Bernardino utilizing the McFadden Brothers wharf in Newport could ship the raisins or wine.

Stillman's 280-acre vineyard, 120,000 vines of the finest varieties and his grand family residence crowning the terrace, where the University of Redlands administration building now stands, gave the Lugonia community some celebrity branding. By 1885, Stillman produced some of the finest wines in San Bernardino County. His winery led to the Vaché Winery founding in San Timoteo Canyon in 1881. Vaché established the Buena Vista label. Stillman's production of fine wines further supported Ben Barton's production of 30,000 gallons of wine in 1873.

Stillman tapped the Mill Creek Zanja for his domestic use. He constructed a water fall in the zanja, which turned a wheel hauling small containers of water up Administration Hill. Frank Hinckley, in Old San Bernardino, would copy the idea at his ranch in 1883.

Dr. Stillman reported that he sold his 280-acre vineyard, winery and vineyard for \$100,000 in December of 1887. He died in Lugonia at the age of 69 on March 2, 1888. Before his death he helped to organize the Lugonia Domestic Water Company and was



Stillman residence and winery.

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Brookside Winery, located at the corner of W. Fern and San Timoteo Canyon Road, was operated by the Vaché brothers.

chosen the chairman of the Redlands Incorporation Committee along with members Frank Brown, Anthony Hubbard, A.L. Park, Hiram Barton, R. E. Whitney, Charles R. Paine, George E. Otis and Frank Hinckley. Dr. Stillman, the Benjamin Franklin statesman and visionary leader, provided a Society of California Pioneer point of view on incorporation. Since Dr. Stillman was a collaborator with Bret Harte and the *Overland Monthly* he advised the committee to adopt a resolution for incorporation.

The editor of the *Lugonia Southern Californian*, George F. Weeks, called Dr. Stillman a "man of disquiet and unrest, naturally high strung and impulsive, genial, magnanimous and honorable." Stillman would continue to influence Lugonia and Redlands after his death. His daughter married Frank P. Morrison, who established the Bank of the East San Bernardino Valley. Stillman money helped finance the Bear Valley dam and irrigation development carried out by Frank Brown and Edward Judson.

Edward Glover Judson was in

Lugonia just months before the arrival of his future partner Frank Elwood Brown. Research reveals that Judson left New York December 31, 1876. He came to California by way of the Isthmus of Panama and then arrived in San Francisco. He came to Lugonia because Isaac N. Judson had settled in Highland, using water from the North Fork Ditch. The "Glover" middle name did not reveal any relationship to James Brown Glover, who came in 1870. Judson could have easily been part of the Kenwood Colony of Connecticut men, that arrived just months later. Clearly though, Frank Brown did not meet Judson until March of 1877.

The *Los Angeles Times* of February 16, 1877, carries an advertisement seeking 50 laborers to construct a water ditch. Applicants are instructed to apply to C. E. Brink, near Crafton, or to E. G. Judson or Dr. Campbell at a drug store in San Bernardino. Mostly unskilled laborers with a few skilled carpenters to construct the bulk-heads at the mouth of the Santa Ana were required. Frank A. Miller, son of

Frank Miller of Mission Inn fame, was the construction boss. Miller was only twenty at the time and took advice from E. G. Judson, a trained accountant from a New York stock-broker's office. Judson was in charge of the financial decisions of the ditch construction and performed auditing duties. Perhaps a connection with Dr. Stillman could explain his sudden arrival in Southern California. Stillman never revealed a connection and the reserved, proper Judson never revealed a reason for coming either. Young George Beattie did comment that he learned much from Judson.

Judson was a native of Bridgeport, Connecticut, and a graduate of Amherst. His financial experience began in the book business of New York and then transferred to a brokerage firm for twelve years before moving west. Intriguingly, Frank Brown's future wife, Jessie Freemont Smith's father, was involved in the New York book business. Judson lived at the Crafton Retreat while attending to the financial management of the new Sunnyside Ditch construction. Judson arrived just as Lugonia would leave its first primitive settlement beginnings. His education alone would make him a settlement leader, but the new Sunnyside Ditch propelled the entire settlement forward.

Judson purchased ten acres on Pioneer Avenue for \$110 and laid out an orchard of citrus and fruit trees. Both Judson and Brown displayed active interests in horticulture. Judson went a step further becoming infatuated with the climate of Southern California and ornamental trees of many varieties. His nursery on Pioneer Street was only matched a decade later by his nursery on West Highland and Center Street.

KENWOOD COLONY

Charles Nordhoff's "*California: A*

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Book for Travellers and Settlers or California: For Health, Pleasure and Residence 1873" captured the imagination of farmers, tubercular patients and tourists. When the railroad was completed "seeking the elephant" out west was now comfortably possible. Numerous eastern investors sought opportunities in California and the land of Manifest Destiny. While the wild-west was now somewhat tame the dime store novels sold California as somewhat otherwise. Colton was at the end of the line out west. Going to the ends of the earth in California led visitors to Colton, San Bernardino, Riverside and Lugonia.

One of the first groups to take advantage of the completed railroad was the Kenwood Colony. These health seekers, Mediterranean climate explorers and agricultural colony folks formed an organization in New Haven, Connecticut to study and invest in California. Among the New Haven residents were A. H. Alverson, George A. Cook, Judge Stephen M. Booth and Frank Elwood Brown. They arrived in San Francisco after crossing the United States in 1877. They eventually inspected the land around Alameda, Fresno, San Diego, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and Colton.

The three-year-old Sunnyside Corporation had intended to supply water to lands west of Lugonia and south to the Mound City Station. The prospect of a nearby railroad connection and water was a great investor point to the Kenwood Colony settlers. This intended colony also met the purpose of the Sunnyside Company.

Mr. Chubbock, representative of the Southern Pacific Railroad in Colton, gave the men a tour of the East San Bernardino Valley. They decided to purchase 1600 acres of land from a San Francisco syndicate that also promised water for irrigation. The land was west of Tennessee

Street along the south side of the Santa Ana River. Part of the old Tenney Ditch crossed the southern part of the parcel. Citrus Plaza occupies the site today.

The San Francisco syndicate intended to build a dam in Bear Valley (Big Bear) and construct a v-shaped flume down the Santa Ana River to the site of Mentone. This San Francisco group consisted of William Hobart, Capt. Seneca Marlette and the Locke Flume Company. The first two gentlemen had constructed a flume to Virginia City from Marlette Lake northeast of Lake Tahoe. They sold wood for construction timber in the Comstock Lode Mine, wood for building Carson City and Virginia City. They also provided water for both domestic and mining use. Hobart Mills is still a town north of Truckee on highway 89. Hobart Reservoir still provides domestic water for Carson City.

Hobart's timber operations included plans for the San Bernardino Mountains. He purchased thousands of acres of railroad land and intended to move here when the gold and silver mines subsided. Seneca Marlette was the first surveyor general for California and later moved to Nevada and became the first surveyor general there as well. He provided the engineering expertise necessary for the contour flumes, inverted siphons and hydrology work. These gentlemen were wealthy and certainly had the means to carry out their land sales to the Kenwood Connecticut colonizers.

Their flume could supply the Southern Pacific Railroad with wood for their engines and railroad ties for the long desert crossing through San Gorgonio Pass. The wooden bridge construction across the Colorado River near Yuma, Arizona was estimated to take thousands of board feet of lumber and hundreds of redwood logs pile driven into the sandy river bottom.

Another flume operation in

Banning Canyon was completed before Hobart and Marlette were fully organized. Hall City was built at the base of the San Jacinto Mountains and a switch back wagon road supplied the railroad with oak and pine. Southern Pacific trains received their water from the flume and wood from Hall City. When Hobart and Marlette failed to build the flume, the Kenwood Colony received refunds and eventually many moved to Lugonia.

Frank Brown was one of these Kenwood Colony refugees. He met fellow Connecticut entrepreneur Col. William Tolles. He stayed for a time at the Crafton Retreat and was influenced by Myron Crafts and his beautiful ranch along the banks of the Mill Creek Zanja. Brown met Charles R. Paine in Crafton and was told of the San Timoteo teaching position. Paine wanted to fire the usually inebriated instructor in the Railroad District. Brown passed the State Teacher's Test and was hired for the first semester. He bought 10 acres from Col. Tolles just west of the new Lugonia Grammar School. He met the young George Beattie and tutored the young man, while staying at Tolle's home on Church and San Bernardino. Beattie lived on Church and Pioneer a short two blocks to the north. Brown spent his teacher's salary on land, building a home and purchasing a ticket home on the completed Southern Pacific through San Gorgonio Pass. Brown was given a leave of absence to return to New York and marry Jesse Freemont Smith.

In March 1877, Frank Brown met Edward Judson at the Crafton Retreat. Judson was still conducting work on the Sunnyside Ditch. Brown also met Fred Perris, the survey engineer for the ditch. Brown was a Yale Sheffield College graduate that specialized in arid western irrigation. Sheffield College was founded with Morrill Act (1862) federal funding.

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This very project that both Judson and Perris were now conducting was the very reason Brown came west. He idealized irrigation of the dry plains just as the Lincoln legislation intended. All of his Sheffield instructors prepared him for a life that was eminently displayed that March of 1877. He immediately grasped an outline of the project and spoke to Judson earnestly on a bench overlooking the zanja at Crafton Retreat. At twenty-one his life work stood before him and college prepared him for this unique period in Southern California history. Enthusiasm for the development scheme convinced the older stalwart Judson to join the salesman-surveyor-engineer Brown. Brown would teach a semester; return east to get married; and return to complete a development scheme with Judson.

BROCKTON COMPANY

Railroad corporations realized the potential of their investment in the west could only reach potential through advertising. Newspaper articles, pamphlets, and books promoted the west as a Garden of Eden, health-seekers heaven, land of sunshine, and a dream world unlike any other place on earth. As each new railroad spur opened up new land the promise resounded with the themes to attract land buyers. Railroad land agents promised wide eyed easterners a chance to experience an unknown climate, western mountain vistas, and potential investments that would make the new Eden bloom. Land was cheap compared to the east and in the Golden State anything seemed possible.

Much like the Kenwood Colony organized in Connecticut, the Brockton Company was organized in Brockton, Massachusetts. Most of these settlers became the founding members of the town of Riverside in 1874. Brockton, Massachusetts was

one of the earliest communities influenced by Horace Mann and the need for public education in America.

Prior to the completion of the new Sunnyside Ditch in 1878, the Brockton Company arrived in Lugonia and purchased a block of land from Brockton Avenue on the north to Colton Avenue on the south. The eastern boundary was Washington Street and the western boundary Clay Street. In March, 1888, the Brockton Subdivision of Lugonia was placed on the market by E. F. Kingman and placed on the market with famous senators Henry Clay, John C. Calhoun and Daniel Webster as street names. Brockton Avenue was formally opened in 1896 and the fruit trees of the colony were removed to grade the avenue and plant ornamental trees. An irrigation ditch called the Brockton canal diverted water to their land from the main Sunnyside Ditch.

References to the Brockton Company begin in the Hewitt v. Story, 1887, trial mentioning the Brockton Tract in 1884 having 34 shares in the Sunnyside Ditch water and 100 acres of land. The company farmers built a Sunnyside Ditch connection to their land and planted deciduous fruit trees. Apricots seemed to be the favored fruit tree. By 1885, the Brockton Tract still had 34 shares of water but now encompassed 340 acres. The Sunnyside Ditch records only record several farmers owning this land. Assessments in 1884 indicate the company met their assessment responsibilities by hiring five Chinese men to work a day on the ditch. Earlier the same year the Brockton Company hired three Chinese to work a half-day on the ditch. Records also call the company the Brockton Girard Tract. The company was later named as one of the numerous defendants, in the suit by Isaac Hewitt (1887) against the Sunnyside Ditch and Bear Valley Irrigation Company.

Lon G. Haight became the

manager of the Brockton Company in 1882. Lon G. Haight knew members of the Brockton Company that moved from Riverside to Lugonia. His experience in orange and deciduous fruit growing began in 1875 and this led to his appointment as the superintendent for the Brockton Company. He moved to Lugonia in 1882. Haight would harvest tons of fruit from the Brockton Co. land and seek fruit dryers to process the fruit for shipment east. By 1889, Lon G. Haight founded the Haight Fruit Company of Redlands and his father who also moved from Riverside to Redlands. In 1891, President Harrison appointed Haight postmaster of Redlands.



Lon G. Haight

Ira C. Haight was born in Cohocton, New York in 1830. He was in Kansas during the "Bleeding Kansas" episode before the Civil War. His beliefs allied with John Brown and abolitionist ideas. He knew both Jim Lane and John Brown. After many other state business ventures he moved to Riverside October 8, 1875 and to Lugonia in 1883.

-by Tom Atchley



REDLANDS AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
P.O. Box 8775
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www.rahs.org

Address Correction Requested

Upcoming Events

March 23, 7:00 p.m.

Secret Inland Empire: A Guide
Larry Burns, Speaker
The Contemporary Clubhouse
173 S. Eureka Street

March 25, 6:30 p.m.

Old House Group
521 Alvarado Street
SOCIETY MEMBERS ONLY
§

1st Thursday of the Month

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

Redlands Area Historical Society, Inc.

Founded 1972, Incorporated 1974

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