



REDLANDS CHRONICLES

November/December 2023

HIGHLAND AVENUE WALKING TOURS

November 11th & December 9th at 10:00 a.m.

THE REDLANDS AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY is announcing a tour of West Highland Avenue November 11th. The walking tours will be led by Tom Atchley, Vice-president, and cost \$10 for Historical Society members and \$15 for non-members. The tours begin at 10:00 a.m.

The first segment begins at the corner of West Highland Avenue and Cajon Street, then proceeds west to Center Street. A second walking tour is planned December 9th, to begin at West Highland Avenue and Center Street and will end at Highland/Cedar Point. This tour will also start at 10:00 a.m.

West Highland Avenue is a popular street, dubbed the "Butler Belt" in the early days of Redlands because of the large, Victorian homes built there. Actually, only a few of the homes employed butlers, but maids were found in nearly all the homes. Judson and Brown subdivided the Residence Tract in 1886 and advertised lots at one-third down, one-third more when the domestic water arrived and one-third when the Redlands trolley system was inaugurated.

Bankers, packing house managers, health inspectors, oil magnates, land developers, newspaper publishers, both of Redlands' founders, and an ambassador are just some of the career folks attracted to the street. The oldest home was built in 1887, just after the Redlands Domestic Water Company announced service to the tract. Building of Victorian, Craftsman, California Bungalow, Classic Box and other styles followed in a flurry of construction to 1900. Some of the leading architects of Redlands proudly displayed their designs in a variety of styles. Many of the homes are placed on three lots instead of one. Homes predated the sewer system, electricity and early automobiles but quickly adapted as the improvements became common.

Nearby Prospect Park, owned by the England family, Kimberly Crest, the Fisher Mansion and well-manicured grounds gave the neighborhood distinction that carries on to the present.

The Historical Society will also sell their books and other items.

-by Tom Atchley

DOWNTOWN REDLANDS WALKING TOURS

November 18th & December 16th at 10:00 a.m.

ON THE THIRD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH at 10:00 AM, a walking tour will leave Ed Hales Park, at the corner of 5th Street and State Street, in downtown Redlands. The cost is \$10 for RAHS members and \$15 for non-members; No reservation necessary; we accept Venmo and PayPal.

Although the Redlands Area Historical Society (RAHS) was organized in 1900, today's society was established in 1972 and incorporated in 1974. The Redlands Area Historical Society's purpose is to support and to advance the many facets of the area's historic resources. For many years RAHS has been leading public historic walking tours in various parts of Redlands.

We will be continuing this work, started by Tom Atchley, our most recent past president to entertain and answer all your Redlands questions. What building originally was located at Ed Hales Park? What is the oldest business name in Redlands? Which businesses moved from location to location around the downtown area? What is the difference between John Edwards and James Edwards? These and many of your burning questions will be answered on your personalized, leisurely walk beginning at Ed Hales Park.

Our volunteer docents will discuss well documented facts, gleaned from the Citrograph newspaper and the Redlands Daily Facts over the years. Displaying photographs of buildings no longer standing and renovations over the years of our current structures.

Please join us for one of our historical one-hour walking tours in downtown Redlands soon! We are looking forward to meeting you and answering your many questions.

- Judith Hunt

A Letter from Your President...

Dear Redlands Area Historical Society members,

Redlands has such a pleasant climate this time of year, it's no wonder that it was so popular with tourists from the East at the turn of the last century.

That enviable weather was on display for the annual Hillside Cemetery walking tour. Vice-president Tom Atchley, driving his new golf cart equipped with speaker, led the large group through the history of the cemetery and some of its pioneer inhabitants. Ron Running assisted by displaying photos and collecting money. The tour is one of the Society's largest and most profitable events.

Board member Gregg Schraeder led the Downtown Redlands walking tour in November and will again in December. The tours occur on the third Saturday of each month. Meet at Ed Hales Park at 10:00 a.m. No reservations are required.

You may have seen Gregg recently on CBS and KCAL news. He was featured in a segment about Redlands, discussing our historic downtown. Well done, Gregg!

The annual holiday party will be held Wednesday evening December 6th, at the beautifully restored Victorian home that houses Mission Pediatrics. Dr. Tim Watson's "Jenny Lind" office will be festively decorated for the holiday season. The event is for Society members only and reservations are required. Online registration will be available.

Our Holiday greeting cards and other items are available for purchase at Historical Society events and are carried by local distributors such as Gerrard's Market, Citrograph Printing and A.K. Smiley Public Library.

We are still searching for a volunteer to be our technology person. Please contact me or Ron Running at redlandsareahs@gmail.com.

Lastly, it is that time of year again – time for dues! If there is an envelope enclosed with your newsletter, please remit the proper amount. No envelope indicates you've already paid. Thank you in advance.

May you enjoy this wonderful time of year with your family and friends,

Marie Reynolds

REDLANDS AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY *would like to thank our* **CORPORATE UNDERWRITERS:**

Char & Larry Burgess Leda & Steve Stockton Paul Barich
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Geoffrey Hopper & Associates Old Green House LLC (Elena & Rohan Kuruppu)
The Barton House Daniel Haueter & Steven Villa
Marjorie Lewis - Realtor, Redlands Vintage Homes ROCHFORD FOUNDATION
Sullivan Party Rentals Esri

2023

Heritage Award Winners

JOHN & ADA MCCRACKEN HOME

602 Alvarado Street

Built circa 1909

Daniel Haueter & Steven Villa, Owners

Welcome to 602 Alvarado Street! This home is a one-and-a-half-story Craftsman Bungalow style.

The home has a full recessed front porch and a bay window to one side. The porch is supported by four cut stone columns. The idea of stone work on this type of home is to give the feeling of earthiness – as if the home was growing up from the ground. Columns are either straight or elephantine. In this home, the exterior columns are straight but interior details on the dining room buffet have elephantine columns as well as the frame around the front door. The wide centered front door with a glass window contains clear beveled glass. There is a newer leaded glass panel attached to the front door clear glass to offer privacy but can be removed to return the door to its original style. The house has a circular front walk so you cannot walk on directly to the front door without walking on the grass. It might have been intentional if the original builder borrowed from the Asian principle of being *feng shui* so one would never enter a walkway leading straight to the street.

The first family to occupy the home is John A. McCracken (born in 1871) and Ada L. McCracken (born in 1868), both of Irish heritage, married in Philadelphia on April 18, 1893. They came to Redlands in around 1909 with their 9 year old daughter, Mary. John was a salesman and Ada a housewife.

Lot 1 of the Partija Amena Subdivision was purchased in 1909, on the corner of West Cypress and Alvarado St.

There is not much to publish about the McCracken

family. They probably were just living a normal life without attention in the newspapers. Mary Elizabeth McCracken, their daughter, married Colin O'MacNeill and they had a son, named John 'Jackie' Oliver MacNeill, born on January 25, 1927. Unfortunately, Mary McCracken MacNeill died on December 21, 1927 at 27 years old leaving baby 'Jacki' to be raised by his grandparents, John and Ada. Mary is buried at Redlands Hillside Cemetery in the Mausoleum.

On August 3, 1940 Ada McCracken died and is also buried at Redlands Hillside Cemetery and on Sept. 5, 1942 John died and was buried at Hillside. At the time of his grandfather's death, the grandson was 15 years old. Then at 18 years of age, on July 26, 1945, 'Jacki Oliver' joined the Army. The family continued to own the home until 1955.

The second owners are John A. Blumenberg and Delphine Fowler. Born 1916 and 1918 respectively. John was a corporal in the Army and attended USC. Delphine was a graduate of the University of Redlands in 1940. Married in August, 1942 at Delphine's parents' home on 220 Grandview Dr., Redlands. Her father Fred Fowler was a well-known businessman and it is reported in his March 16, 1965 obituary, he was the owner of the oldest men's clothing store in Redlands, located at 107 Orange Street.

Delphine Blumenberg died November 19, 1999. John Allen Blumenberg died the following year on Nov. 5, 2000. On November 5, 2000, the owner shows to be John G., Blumenberg. On 3/28/2003, the next owner is the other brother, Gary. There is an irrevocable trust established in his name which remained until 6/16/2011.

Third and current owners, Daniel B. Haueter and Steven M. Villa purchased this home on 6/16/2011. Dan and Steve have worked tirelessly on their home and are happy to share names of contractors and material suppliers if anyone is interested in receiving a list of the tradespeople.

Dan and Steve certainly deserve applause for their laborious consideration towards the restoration of their now beautiful home. The Redlands Area Historical Society is pleased to present Daniel Haueter and Steven Villa with the 2023 Heritage Award for 602 Alvarado St.

-by Marjorie Lewis and Daniel Haueter





THE REDLANDS AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
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 www.rahs.org

Address Correction Requested

Redlands Area Historical Society, Inc.

Founded 1972, Incorporated 1974

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

Upcoming Events

Nov. 11 & Dec. 9, 10:00 a.m. W. Highland Avenue Walking Tours

Meet at W. Highland & Cajon, Part I
 Meet at W. Highland & Center, Part II
 Members \$10/Non-members \$15

Nov. 18 & Dec. 16, 10:00 a.m. Downtown Redlands Walking Tours

Meet at Ed Hales Park
 Members \$10/Non-members \$15

Wednesday, December 6th HOLIDAY PARTY

Mission Pediatrics
 114 W. Vine Street
 MEMBERS ONLY; reservations required

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1st Thursday of the Month
 Historic & Scenic Reservation
 Commission Meeting
 City Hall Council Chambers
 35 Cajon Street