

A MEMORIAL TO MT. RUBIDOUX
by
WILLIAM T. DRYSDALE

ISAAC LOGAN - BELL RINGER

Isaac Logan came to California from Nova Scotia when he was 22 with a death sentence on his head from his local doctor who stated Logan had a one-year life expectation in his native land. He initially settled in Elsinore, but when Riverside became the county seat of the new county, he sought employment in county government. He eventually became County Recorder. He was a stalwart citizen and for four decades he resided at 4555 Seventh Street which he had constructed in 1910. He died in 1948, aged 83.

Most of us who remember him think of him as "the bell ringer of Mt. Rubidoux." The northern end of the mountain has two conical little peaks. Each of these had a jerry-built truncated A frame constructed of railroad ties or similar bulky wood. The northern most frame held a large bell, likely a church bell. For 27 years Logan rose early in the morning climbed up to this northernmost peak and struck the bell at 7:00 o'clock. It could be heard over much of the western part of downtown Riverside as far as Market Street.

There is a picture of the bell on the south summit in 1909. The ones on the north summit were similar. See Patterson, *A Colony for California*, p. 254.

TRIVIA FACT

The town of Rubidoux is named for Luis Rubidoux, while St. Joseph, Missouri, honors his brother Joseph Rubidoux.

RIVERSIDE'S FIRST GOLF COURSE

For well over 52 years the eastern borders of "Huntington Park" on Mount Rubidoux were Redwood Drive, then known as Pepper Street, 14th Street to Glenwood Drive which curved around that end of the mountain. The original Mile Square of Riverside was Pepper Street (now Redwood Drive), 14th Street, 1st Street, and Mulberry Street (now mostly swallowed by the 91 Freeway),

Frequently I have gone up the mountain, walking up 13th Street to the Up Road near the old reservoir. Glenwood Drive was largely developed before World War II, but Isabella Place did not exist until 1952 and Miramonte Place sometime later, around 1960.

Sometime early in this century, Frank B. Devine, whose home is still identified as the Devine House (4475 12th Street) took a trip to the East Coast where he became acquainted with the game of golf for the first time. He was so enamored of the game that upon his return to Riverside he laid out an eight-hole course largely in the area occupied by the east end of Isabella Place. The third hole was in the vicinity of the Dunagan's House (4291 Isabella).

This is according to Constance Jarvis, daughter of John Jarvis, Riverside's first mayor who related it to Marylyn Dunagan. The Devine House is almost opposite the Jarvis House.

BEN LEWIS BRIDGE

The present bridge of the up road over the down road was built in 198? to replace a similar one that had become structurally unsafe. They were by no means identical, but I cannot recall how they differed. I do know the present bridge appeared frightfully new and modern on its completion. Probably the railings differed. Miller usually went in for rustic railings.

Ben Lewis was mayor under Council-City Manager type of municipal government. He was an ideal mayor since he could give a graceful speech at the drop of a hat and he had no further political ambition so he did not try to expand the power of the mayor.

MYSTERIES OF THE MOUNT

It is a mystery as to who the artist was who painted the once exquisite interpretations of a horse on a flat rock surface near the crest of the north end of Mt. Rubidoux. It was not a photographic representation. On some occasions it reminded me of some those horses depicted in European caves by paleolithic man. At other times it was reminiscent of Chinese paintings of the T'ang period. Its execution in grace and verve was most admirable. The sharp spine line on the back connected the head of the horse to its rump, but the belly was connected neither to the front nor rear legs. It was painted in charcoal black and shades of brown and was of superlative execution.

It was initially called to my attention by native Riversider Norman Evans who knew nothing of its origin. I told no one and enjoyed this treasure for years. It was located in a spacious cleft between two large boulders just down from the northern most peak of the mount where Logan rang the bell. Then on a later visit I found that some jerk who was too stupid to realize he had no talent had mutilated the painting by adding a stick man as a rider. Some years later someone had tried to restore the painting but had destroyed the lightness and spontaneity of the piece. This is my most treasured memory of what Mt. Rubidoux once was.

The other mystery to me is the benefactor who so meticulously carved the Biblical verse on the down road just beyond Ft. Chittenden. It reads, "*Let not your heart be troubled.*" and the date 1941. I believe the book and verse are given but have been obscured by slurry used to cover some graffiti.

In my youth I went up the trail starting at the abandoned reservoir and ending at the up road near the cross. I did not use the road until I retired in 1975. For many years I was unaware of this inscription. It blends in so compatibly with its surroundings that it does not shout out at the passerby, which is just as well. It has been covered with graffiti from time to time, but this has been removed without damaging the carving.

PLAQUES AND SHRINES

The Huntington Park Association, under Miller's direction, acquired 117 acres of Mt. Rubidoux from the S. C. Evans Water Company in 1905. It included the mountain top and much of the east side of the mountain. This cost the Association \$10,000. The road to the top was \$40,000.

Although this was of considerable civic value, Miller profited from it by making it an Inn activity initially by providing guests with tally-ho's. Later these were supplanted by steamer automobiles. The Miller stable-garage was located on the north side of Seventh Street, just west of the alley by the Loring Opera House, later known as the Golden State Theater.

Mission Inn literature insists on calling these memorials "shrines." To me, a shrine, often a place of religious pilgrimage, is a place of prayer. But in a way they were points of destination.

The one to Huntington originally offered shelter from the hot sun for the weary "pilgrim." When one became aware that there was once a rustic framework of eucalyptus branches which as covered with palm fronds, one's eye can visualize it because of the holes drilled in the rock to support the framework of branches. This shelter blended into the surroundings in a beautifully naturalistic way. It was still in place in the early 1930's, collapsing of natural causes, not by vandalism. Fat chance of that happening today. Vandalism is a post-war phenomenon like setting fire to the skirts of palm trees.

The fenced garden surrounding the Loring memorial and the beautiful plaque makes pleasant a visit to this spot. Candles were placed in the candelabras and lit on the eve before Easter. The packed earth indicates many feet when the soil is moist.

The inception of the practice of installing plaques in rocks appears to have been conceived with the commemoration of the Serra Cross, dedicated by Bishop Conatay. It was placed in April, 1907, only two months after the completion of the road. This was followed by the implantation of a plaque to T. Roosevelt "in the summer" of the same year. President W.H. Taft unveiled the magnificent Serra plaques in 1909. The St. Francis Fountain was consecrated in 1916, while the Loring Rock was dedicated in 1922. The plaque honoring Miller in the wall of the Peace Tower was installed in 1925. The second Huntington plaque – the Man of Affairs one – was installed shortly after his death in 1927. The tribute to Miller by the Boy Scouts was established in 1930 and followed a year later by the plaque noting the completion of the Buena Vista Bridge. The Lt. Col. Kido plaque was inserted in the wall of the Friendship Bridge of the Peace Tower.

These were all installed during the Miller years. In 1955 Frank Miller Hutchings appeared before the Riverside City Council to deed Mt. Rubidoux to the people of Riverside. This is memorialized in a plaque near the entry gate – The Frank Miller Memorial Park. (Others I am unable to date.)

In 1909 Allis Miller married DeWitt Hutchings, a graduate of Princeton University. I suspect that he may be the one to have composed the tablets to Huntington (the Man of Affairs one) and to Lt. Col. Kido, and the two at the St. Francis Fountain.

Many of these bronze plaques are of most admirable craftsmanship. With time and exposure to the elements, bronze takes on a handsome patina of a distinctive green. Unfortunately, to obliterate graffiti, some plaques have been covered with an excessively heavy

coat of dark brown paint. This paint has not only obliterated the graffiti but also the patina and filled in fine lines in the bas-reliefs. Such vandalism is most offensive in the instance of the Huntington Memorial where much fine detail has been obliterated.

The most elaborate and largest of the bronze plaques also has the most conspicuous location, being inserted in the wall of the Peace Tower. Arched above a bas-relief of Frank Miller with olive branches on either side is the message, "Peace with justice for all men." Below the bas-relief bust is "Anno Domini 1925." Then follows the message:

*This bridge was built by neighbors and friends of
Frank Augustus Miller
In recognition of his constant labor in the promotion
Of civic beauty, community righteousness, and world peace.*

This plaque has also been painted.

On the south side of the Friendship Bridge is a plaque commemorating an incident in the 1932 Olympics held in Los Angeles. A Japanese contestant turned his horse aside from its final jump because it had developed a limp indicating a severe injury. Had it jumped, the rider almost certainly would have won, but most likely the horse would have had to be destroyed.

The memorial plaque almost certainly is the idea of Miller who had been awarded the highest civilian award given by the Japanese government for his effort to foster friendly relations between the two countries. It reads:

*During the Equestrian Games of the X Olympiad,
Lt. Col. Shienzo Kido turned aside from the prize
To save his horse. He heard the low voice of mercy
Not the loud acclaim of glory
1934
Presented by Riverside Human Society
Witnessed by H.I.H. Prince Tsuninore Kaya*

To my knowledge this plaque was never vandalized during World War II. Personally I was so happy to return home after 18 months in the C.B.I. Theater that I never thought of Lt. Col. Kido and his damn horse or it might have been different.

Higher up the hill, above the terraced seating for the Easter Sunrise Service audience, is a plaque honoring Frank Miller by the Boy Scouts. It is on small side. It reads: *The Scout Oath. On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and obey the scout law to help other people at all times, to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight*" and concludes: *In honor of Frank A. Miller champion of boyhood and advocate of World Peace this tablet is affectionately dedicated. February 8, 1930.* The Great Depression started with the stock market crash of October, 1929, which may explain its modest size.

Off to one side of the steps leading up to the cross is the plaque dedicated to Father Serra. It is one of the oldest and of medium size. Over one-third of the upper section of the tablet is a bas-relief of superb composition and execution. The background is dominated by a mission, possibly Carmel, Serra's favorite mission. A striking representation of Serra is in the foreground. He is attended by a young acolyte. He is in a splendid grouping of five Indians.

Directly below the bas-relief are the words: *The beginning of civilization in California.* Below this the text continues:

*Fr Junipero Serra
Apostle
Legislator
Builder*

*To commemorate his good works this tablet is here placed
Unveiled by William Howard Taft, twenty-seventh President of the United States
October 12 AD 1909*

Reportedly President Taft, a corpulent man, unveiled the plaque by pulling a cord, thus revealing the memorial, while seated in an automobile. Not surprisingly this is perhaps the finest of the entablatures and the bas-relief is without equal on the mount.

There are two plaques honoring Henry E. Huntington and this is not inappropriate considering his contributions to the development of the mount.

The 1907 plaque is at the top of the mountain where all the early ones were congregated. The other one, dedicated around 1927, is the first one encountered on the up road just above Loring Drive in the residential area of Huntington Park.

The original memorial is a bit unimpressive. A simple rectangle, about one third is used to state, *“I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. Psalm 121:1”* The other two-thirds relates: *“Climb the mountains – an get their good tidings. Nature’s peace will flow into you as sunshine flowing into the trees, the winds will blow their own freshness into you and the stones their energy while cares will drop off like autumn leaves. – John Muir.”*

Muir came to Riverside the same year to view this tablet bearing his words, but Miller was in Europe looking for potential architectural ideas to incorporate in the Awanhe Hotel in Yosemite, whose construction Miller had espoused through President Roosevelt.

The tribute to Lt. Col. Kido in 1934 was the last of the tablets during the Miller years, but the last of the grand tablets to be erected on the mount is a second tribute to Henry Huntington. It is located adjacent to the defile the up road makes through solid rock. It reads, *“One of those who made possible this trail of shrines to Father Serra’s Cross – Henry E. Huntington – Man of Affairs – Large in his bounty yet wise. He feared God, fostered art, and furthered the knowledge of man.”*

Miller was much indebted to Huntington who had loaned him \$75,000 to complete the Glenwood Hotel, forerunner of the Mission Inn and the difference between the Mt. Rubidoux road and the subscription by Riversiders he would pay. This amounted to \$15,000. He was a member of the Huntington Park Association which was contemplating the building of the ill-fated Hotel Rubidoux. Miller attended the funeral of Huntington in San Marino which was private.

But there was no trail of shrines. This and the one to Loring were the only ones on the trail to Father Serra’s Cross. Why others were not created on the numerous boulders in suitable locations is unknown. Certainly there was no lack of worthies.

During the 1920’s, the Inn prospered and Miller became a millionaire and invested in several orange groves. He had a transportation company on the north side of Seventh Street between Main and Market just west of the alley adjacent to the Loring Opera House or Golden

State Theater. First he offered rides up Mt. Rubidoux in horse drawn tally-ho's and later in steamer automobiles. He managed the Loring Building.

During the Great Depression beginning in October, 1929, much of his fortune was consumed keeping the Inn afloat during the 30's. His sister "Aunt" Alice Richardson was in charge of the kitchen and ran a tight ship. She paid a penny a stem for flowers on the dining room tables. If the patty of butter came back unused, it went out again with the next order, which was, of course, against the law.

Of these bronze tablets, my personal favorite is the one honoring Charles M. Loring, for whom I have high regard for his civic contributions to Riverside. The plaque is beautifully proportioned on a rectangle about 40 inches high by 30 inches wide. The top edge has an arch, possibly a concession to Mission revival architecture then in its heyday. The upper section features a stylized tree, likely an oak. The inscription states:

*In honor of
Charles M. Loring
Treelover
And
Civic Enthusiast*

The lower section records the following poem:

*Let dead names be eternalized by dead stones
Let living names by living shafts be known:
Plant thou a tree whose griefless leaves shall sing
Thy deed and thee, each fresh unfolding spring*

A sprig of leaves adorns the bottom border. This memorial is set off from the surrounding area by a mock rustic fence of cement covered pipe which was treated to resemble tree branches with rough bark, a hallmark of Miller. A small garden area was planted within the spacious enclosure. Some tuna cactus (*Opuntia ficus-indica*), four palms (*Washingtonia filifera*), an oleander and a tamarix still remain.

Loring died in his Minneapolis home in 1922. The City of Riverside declared April 17, 1923, to be Loring Day and on that date the tablet honoring Loring was unveiled.

Two dedications, both of copper repose, have been totally destroyed. After World War II, the copper plate was punctured and torn out in strips and pieces. One is at the foot of the cross. I believe, but am not certain, that it contained mention of Jacob Riis, New York social worker and friend of Theodore Roosevelt, who is supposed to have first suggested an Easter pilgrimage to the cross. (I say "supposed" because Miller often attributed his ideas to others.)

On the down road near where the up road and down road are in closest proximity was a memorial dedicated to John Muir, father of Yosemite National Park. A small strip of the original tablet remains containing only the word "mountain." I recall the original text contained the phrase "lover of nature."

There is a relatively large recessed area that has been chipped out of a boulder to accommodate a now missing plaque; the boulder is adjacent to the upper terrace for the chorus of the Sunrise Service. I have no idea what it memorialized.

As mentioned above, the last tablet installed under the Miller years was the Lt. Col. Kido tribute in 1934. Many years after this and 21 years after Miller's death on June 15, 1935, a new

plaque was added. Located on a wall near the gate (a wall near where the ill-fated Rubidoux Hotel was to have been erected, it proclaims:

*Frank A. Miller
Mount
Rubidoux
Memorial Park
A Gift to the Citizens of Riverside
By Frank A. Miller, Inc. Nov. 28, 1955
First Easter Sunrise Service
April 11, 1907*

The preceding plaques are all on the upper elevations of the mount, but there are memorials on its base. There are a pair of plaques that are duplicated at either end of the Mt. Rubidoux Bridge over Buena Vista Drive. One is Number 72 of the Cultural Heritage Board of the City of Riverside. The content is as follows:

*Buena Vista Bridge
1931
Construction of this bridge was a major element in the beautification program associated
With the widening of the bridge over the Santa Ana River and of its Seventh Street approach.
Its dramatic design and excellent workmanship in locally quarried and hand cut stone
Along with its stately approaches from both east and west provided a distinctive and powerful
city entrance.*

Adjacent to this is a *Landmark Plaque donated by the Match Families in memory of their father John Match Builder of the Buena Vista Bridge and its approaches and of J.F.D. Davidson, A.C . Fulmor, project engineers.*

The St. Francis Fountain was placed so that it was on the mount at the visual end of the east side of the bridge over the Santa Ana River. The Inn people called it the St. Francis Shrine. Well, it is a bit more shrine-like in that there is a representation of St. Francis, a religious figure and the representation has suffered severe indignities so that it appears to be a “relic.”

The fountain is a combination of huge boulders that were there naturally plus some artificial ones artfully contrived to make an impressive assemblage. For decades – at least from the completion of the previous bridge in 1923 until after the construction of the present bridge in 1931 – the city paid for the connection of the area to the municipal water system, but the construction of the fountain and the purchase of the motor to recirculate the water was paid for by Charles L. Loring. Doubtless Miller furnished the representation of St. Francis which appears above the area of two plaques, now long gone. As indicated by the size of the pipes still extant, there was a substantial flow of water emanating from the dry hillside. It was beautiful and aesthetically pleasing. Some people actually thought this to be a natural spring. A long-ago account in the Riverside Press related how people were collecting the water in plastic bottles to

take home.

According to DeWitt Hutchings, the Audubon tablet had the following message: *St. Francis, the Patron Saint of Birds. He giveth you your wings to fly and breathe a purer air on high, and careth for you everywhere, who for yourselves so little care – Longfellow. Audubon Society Riverside.*

The Humane Society tablet informs us that, *A merciful man is merciful to his beast. Prais'd be my Lord for brother wind and air, and floating clouds, and weather foul and fair, who sustenance thou bid'st all creatures share. – St. Francis. Human Society Riverside.*

Nearby is a very handsome drinking fountain erected by the Lions Club. It was supplied with municipal water.

ARMISTICE DAY 1918

I have yet to see pictures of Mt. Rubidoux on Armistice Day, 1919, but from all accounts it must have looked like a circus tent with flags and banners flying from most outcrops and elevated points. All over the upper reaches of the mount on the east side there are to be found large coarse wrought iron fixtures projecting from rocks with openings to support something -- just what is sometimes puzzling. It must have been a very festive scene.

CAVE

Looking down the west side of Mt. Rubidoux from the northern end one can plainly see a number of conspicuous ravines. Each has a large boulder near its mouth. The fourth ravine south from Carlson Park has an especially large boulder which likely rolled there from a higher elevation. It is about 1/3 of the way up the slope. It effectively creates a cave with a large front and a small rear opening. It does not cover a large area, but could shelter a half dozen people from the hot sun, the rain, or the wind. Since it is so near the river, Indians possibly made temporary use of it.

Authorities have found a number of people hiding there. One, a man who eluded his caretakers at a convalescent home in Rubidoux was found there three times. These authorities thought the cave undesirable and partially filled it with brush and soil.

FT. CHITTENDEN

Few there are who have heard the circular area on the down road overlooking the old Citrus Experiment Station facetiously referred to as "Ft. Chittenden." The proper name derives from Hiram M. Chittenden, the man in the Army Corps of Engineers who surveyed the roads on Mt. Rubidoux which were dedicated in 1907. The "Fort" alludes to the two brass antique canons Miller had placed at that location. One is dated 1779 and the other one 1814. Both were acquired from the Philippine exhibit at the 1915 World's Fair at San Francisco celebrating the completion of the Panama Canal. They were removed from the mount around the time of World War I for safekeeping. Between the two world wars the canon were adjacent to the sidewalk on Seventh Street in front of the Old Adobe at the Mission Inn. Today they are positioned near the walkway leading from the valet parking kiosk and the Inn's front door.

HUNTINGTON PARK

Mt. Rubidoux had been under the sole ownership of Frank A. Miller since the debacle of the Mt. Rubidoux Hotel project in 1889. Miller created Huntington Park to honor Henry E. Huntington, he of the Huntington Library, Art Gallery, Botanic Gardens in San Marino. This park constituted 100 acres. It was owned and improved by the Huntington Park Association, composed of the Miller Family and friends. The developed part of the mountain is on the south side from the Serra Cross north. This is where the plaques are located. The Inn Family insisted on calling these "shrines." Most have brackets to hold candles for burning on the evening before Easter.

After Miller's demise, the money for many of these customs was not forthcoming and they have been discarded. This is the area where most of the aloes, yuccas, and cacti are planted as well as most of the trees. The soil in this section is somewhat better - in areas at least.

Miller and Huntington worked together for mutual benefit. Huntington owned the Southern Pacific Railroad and needed destinations for his passengers. At the time Redlands was the Palm Springs of California. This railroad also brought people from the Chicago area to spend the winter or part of it at the Mission Inn. (Brown and Boyd, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties)

The Huntington Park Association apparently went into limbo with the passing of Frank Miller. In 1956 Frank Miller Hatching, Frank A. Miller's grandson, on behalf of Frank Miller, Inc. gave the mountain to the City of Riverside.

IN THE BEGINNING MT. RUBIDOUX WAS PACHAPPA

In the Mexican land grant awarded the Yorbas one boundary point was "a high detached hill" and "standing alone" on "the other side of the river" which "Indians call Pachappa." From almost any vantage point, but particularly from Box Springs grade as well as the Colton area, Mt. Rubidoux meets all these descriptions perfectly. What we now call Pachappa does not by any stretch of the imagination. The "mistake" in the mountain used as a boundary marker was deliberate, having been made necessary to satisfy the acreage involved in the land grant.

We know the meaning of few Indian words. The local Indians were known as Luisenos or on the area dominated by Mission San Luis Rey. Their language is in the Shoshone group and in this language *pa* or *pah* refers to water. The river is near Mt. Rubidoux. There is no water feature near present day Pachappa.

INDIANS

Although there was in historic times an Indian settlement on the northwest slope of Little Rubidoux (a small settlement housed in round huts of wattle plastered with mud), there were no oaks or other food items on Mount Rubidoux proper to entice Indians to live there. There likely were hosts of rabbits and at the southern end of the mount, De Anza's men remarked on the number of grape vines growing where the Tequesquite Arroyo opens into the river bottom. These vines still are common there today. Anyone gardening in the adjacent area gets his fair share of grape seedlings resulting from birds which have carried the seed.

It is likely Indians tramped the area in the river bottom adjacent to the base of the

mountain. They theoretically could have killed waterfowl for food; irrefutable evidence exists of Indian activity on the east side of the Mount. Though there are no near-by native oaks, acorns could easily have been transported in. DeAnza commented on the abundance of wild grapevines at the confluence of the Arroyo Tequesquite and the Santa Ana River. The east side of Mt. Rubidoux is sheltered from the Santa Ana winds and is warm on sunny days in winter.

NAMES: THE MISSION INN AND MT. RUBIDOUX

The area of Mt. Rubidoux to the east side of which was technically designated as Huntington Park that has been subdivided has many names associated with the Mission Inn.

The area now occupied by the residences on Isabella Place is, in the Tax Collector's office, known as the Marion C. Tract honoring Marian Clark Miller, the second wife of Frank A. Miller. Isabella Place commemorates one of Miller's granddaughters, Isabella Hutchings Mull. Allis Way honors Allis Miller Hutchings, Miller's only child.

The Mission Inn began life as the Glenwood Hotel and later The Glenwood Mission Inn, hence Glenwood Drive. Loring Drive memorializes Charles M. Loring and was named almost certainly by Frank Miller.

THE CROSSES OF MOUNT RUBIDOUX

One story no longer in circulation, because it is so preposterous, in that Father Serra was "passing through" the Riverside area and converted some Indians. He carried a large wooden cross and implanted it on the mountain top. Later settlers found this old cross in decayed condition and replaced it. Was Miller the source for this yarn? The Indians were too "dumb" to know anything about the "rain cross," but Miller did!

The original Mt. Rubidoux cross was made from tree logs stained brown, which fitted into the mountain decor beautifully. It was fine for many years, but then some visitors, with a pocketknife, gouged out pieces for souvenirs. This was discouraged by wrapping the lower part of the cross in hardware cloth. Later vandals tried to set fire to it.

For reasons not known to me, the Junior Chamber of Commerce decided to intervene. They had a hollow core cement cross constructed over a wire form. It was flown up the mountain top and into position by a helicopter on March 3, 1963. The wooden cross was oriented to face the audience at the Easter Sunrise Service. The Junior Chamber shifted the orientation so that it was more conspicuous from Mission Boulevard. Perhaps this was better advertising.

I keep praying an earthquake will knock the monstrosity down and be replaced by an "old rugged cross" of wood, which blended in and not standing out like a sore thumb. I have no doubt I have Miller's blessing in this matter. The original wooden cross is to be found in the atrium in front of the St. Francis Chapel of the Mission Inn.

BUENA VISTA DRIVE

Of the four principal entryways to Riverside, the eastern one from Colton was undoubtedly the most important commercially when Riverside was in its infancy. Bordered largely by citrus and one spectacularly beautiful grove house, La Cadena was exceptionally handsome. There were no commercial establishments lining the street. This was all destroyed

by the freeway including the quiet and serenity.

Probably the second in importance was Magnolia Avenue leading to Corona or South Riverside and the coast. A horse drawn wagon could make Balboa/Newport in a day, while Laguna required two.

The next most scenic of the four would have to be Box Springs grade, which overlooks most of the valley.

The most dramatic is the one between Mt. Rubidoux and Little Rubidoux now known as Buena Vista Drive. Before the current entrance was drastically revised in 1931, the road was a two-lane affair in a trench-like excavation with granite stone reinforced cement retaining wall. The granite was much darker than the current color. Doubtless it came from the same source as the granite in the Peace Tower and Friendship Bridge. Possibly it came from the quarry on North Hill. Because it was located in the pass between the two hills and was further depressed by excavation and because it was bordered by large evergreen oaks, some pines and grapevines, it was dark and usually cool. The vegetation was wild and unrestrained. Then suddenly one emerged from the natural, uncultivated to the west end of 7th Street with its fine homes, trimmed hedges and clipped lawns. It was almost bizarre.

The bridge spanning this entry for Mt. Rubidoux Drive was made entirely out of the same dark granite. Since it spanned only a two-lane road, it was impossible to widen the road without first replacing the bridge and hence a major revamping was required.

Buena Vista Drive is that short stretch of highway between Mt. Rubidoux and Little Rubidoux extending from the east end of the bridge over the Santa Ana River connecting Mission Blvd and 7th Street. It ends just beyond Mt. Rubidoux Drive Bridge over the highway.

This present day version of the Drive was dedicated in 1931 with hundreds of people present including the then governor (Rolf, I believe) and the Poly High School R.O.T.C. This was a major project for a little berg whose chamber of commerce figure was a population of 30,000. This elaborate and expensive entryway was largely due to the efforts and vision of Frank A. Miller, because of his position as "Master of the Inn" and his civic mindedness. He sat on a number of boards, some with Harry Chandler, editor of the Los Angeles Times.

It is my recollection - for whatever that is worth - that this effort was a combination of the city, the county, and the state. Seventh St. and Mission Boulevard was the main route from Riverside to Los Angeles. This route was not as heavily traveled as was Route 66 through San Bernardino, but it was very busy.

The pseudo-rustic railings bordering the terrace with the walkway is pure Miller. The railings are iron pipe which are covered with cement. Before the cement dries, it is combed so that it appears to be the rough bark on tree branches. There are even some "branches" and most show tree rings where the "branch" has been "sawed off." These are to be found in all of Miller's construction efforts, part of his DNA. The area around the large boulder bearing the bronze plaque honoring Charles M. Loring is bound by such a railing. Examples may be found at the Mission Inn. The largest example of this architectural quirk is the remnant that remains in front of the old Lemon Exchange and the present Riverside Brewery on Seventh Street. This is part of an arbor that extended from the railroad down 7th Street to the Mission Inn. The uprights resemble logs the size of telephone poles. Some possessed stubbed branches with mock tree rings.

Miller envisioned the level areas between the terraces at Buena Vista as being planted with flowering cherries. He had an enthusiasm for things Japanese and he knew the commotion made in newspapers when those cherry trees surrounding the tidal basin in Washington, D.C., flowered. Regrettably, cherry trees do not perform in areas with mild winters. *Pyracantha* is planted on the north terrace. It is tough, but undistinguished to adorn this architecturally impressive entryway. The Friends of Mt. Rubidoux might consider a planting worthy of this Drive. Trees developing large bolls conceivably might damage the concrete retaining walls. Trees such as orchid trees (*Bauhinia purpurea*) do not get too large. There is a white flowered form of this species that is superb. The color white has the advantage of showing up well at night. Blues and reds are dead in darkness. This species flowers in mid summer for well over a month.

Buena Vista Drive effectively cuts off Little Rubidoux from Mt. Rubidoux proper, but the hillsides of both mountains are a unit visually. The north side of Little Rubidoux (sometimes called Loring Hill) has a southern exposure, which in winter is sheltered and balmy. This is the location of Loring Park. In the pre-World War II period and for some years after, this was a perfect jewel of a park. The soil is deep and trees developed into magnificent specimens, most of which have died for lack of water or from being destroyed in wind storms. The park is virtually unknown and is infrequently patronized.

The Friends of Mt. Rubidoux might adopt it and incorporate this step-child property into Mt. Rubidoux park. The sunny slope would be ideal for a mass planting of the silk floss tree (*Charisia speciosa*). The Los Angeles Arboretum in Arcadia has made four selections of this tree. Some flower in August, others not until November. I have seen them available in gallon cans. Pink is an uncommon color in the fall and would certainly brighten up the area with brilliant color at a time when East Coast visitors would be fleeing the snow.

The old road on Buena Vista Drive curved around Mt. Rubidoux making the east boundary of Carlson Park. The reason for this is so that the road could go straight across the Santa Ana River. One can see how the ornamental balustrade curves. This made possible a shorter less expensive bridge. The two Mission style towers near Carlson Park were matched by a pair on the other end of the bridge. These were removed because of graffiti. It was under the arches of this bridge that Roman Warren flew back in the '30's. The current bridge is longer than the previous one because it is somewhat at an angle.

It is possible that the cup of gold vine (*Solandra miximum*) was introduced to California by Riverside growers. Around 1929 some Riversider brought a cutting home with him from Mexico and planted it in the glass covered atrium of the YWCA, now Riverside Art Center. It flowered in 1931 and created a minor furor. With a surplus of cuttings it was found to be quite hardy for a tropical.

In the curve formed by the 7th Street entryway onto the bridge over Buena Vista Drive is a sheltered zone. A plant of cup of gold was planted here. The location was ideal. The curve furnished shelter from the wind. The walls of the bridge are sturdy enough to support this robust grower and the curve tends to capture and hold the heat of the afternoon sun.

What happened to this plant is unknown to me, but it is my conviction that it should be replaced. It is a superb and logical location for a spectacular and uncommon plant, which is too rampant for most individual gardens.

Buena Vista style could be called rustic moderne, having no distinctive architectural features, with two exceptions. The three tiered pyramid standards for the lights on the Mt. Rubidoux Bridge are reminiscent of 1930 moderne. The lights bordering the roadway are ornamental with a raincross design. This is unique to Riverside. The raincross was one of the historical "discoveries " of Frank A. Miller. The Indians never heard of it. Nevertheless the form is distinctive and attractive.

This stunning entryway is close to 70 years old and remains unique in Southern California, yet it is largely taken for granted.

It had become apparent since World War II that the Mission tower bridge over the Santa Ana River and the curve (as indicated by the interior boundary of Carson Park) were slowing traffic. In 1950 the current bridge was built by the city and county. It was much longer than its predecessor due to the fact the sharp curve was eliminated. To make the new connection of Buena Vista Drive to the bridge the ornamental balustrade and the street lights with the raincross were vandalized by the city. It is 49 years since this destruction took place. Is it ever to be remedied?

HIRAM M. CHITTENDEN

When Hiram M. Chittenden laid out the roads on Mt. Rubidoux, he was then a colonel but he ended up his career in the Army Corps of Engineers a brigadier general. He also laid out the road system at Yellowstone Park and on Mt. Washington, Maine. It was he who pointed out to Miller that the soil on the Mountain for the most part was too coarse and gravelly to support the forest of trees Miller wished to plant. Miller wanted to emulate the Smiley Brothers and their Canon Crest garden in Redlands popularly known as Smiley Heights. This was the most grandiose garden in California.

Mt. Rubidoux is largely solid granite. It rises 835 feet above downtown Riverside and to an elevation of 1337 feet above sea level. The up road which is about two and one quarter miles long - beginning at 7th Street - has a pleasant grade of 4%, pleasant for walking and easy for motor cars which were uncommon when the road was completed. The down road, about one and a quarter mile long, has a steep grade of 8%. The road was completed in 1907 and the wooden cross was installed a short time later - Feb. 14, 1907.

RUBIDOUX - THE SPELLING

It is a fact that Louis Robidoux spelled his name as given here, but Mt. Rubidoux is correctly spelled with a "u" not an "o." Jane Gunther, Riverside County, California, Place Names, gives in the appendix of her book 32 variations of the spelling of this name.

It was S. C. Evans of Riverside Land and Irrigation Company who bestowed the name and the spelling on the mount. In a contract made by Emil Rosenthal to buy the mountain variously known as "the mountain west of town" and Riverside Mountain was named in the contract as Mt. Rubidoux with that spelling. This was in November 1887. S.C. Evans was a well-educated, intelligent man and certainly knew how Robidoux signed his name. Why did he choose this one? Perhaps he thought it easier to pronounce or liked the sound better. Anyway the die was cast.

Rosenthal bought the mountain and surrounding area with the exception of the plat set

aside for the hotel - the ill-fated Hotel Rubidoux.

PEACE TOWER AND FRIENDSHIP BRIDGE

In 1925 Frank Miller, his wife, and his sister Mrs. Richardson, universally known as "Aunt Alice." spent most of the year in China and Japan and returned with numerous artifacts, some to ornament the Inn, others to be added to the fabulous collection of items in the basement that had fancy price tags on them. While they were thus engaged, their friends in Riverside collected money and built the Peace Tower and Friendship Bridge as a surprise for Miller. Well, sort of a surprise. At least it was completed before his return.

The tower and bridge were designed by popular Los Angeles architect Arthur Benton. He also designed "La Atalaya" at 5800 Hawarden Drive, the original bandshell in Fairmount Park, the Christian Science Church, the Mission Wing and other parts of the Mission Inn, the Willitts St. Hole house 11316 Cypress Ave., now a religious retreat and other homes in Riverside.

Although the Mission Inn was privately owned by Miller, he was civic minded and so many of his efforts to benefit the Inn benefited the community more than the Inn was viewed as something of a public enterprise. Mt. Rubidoux's development was intended to benefit the Inn, but Miller spent more than he ever got out of it. This is by way of explaining why we today are not sure whether Miller paid Chittenden or whether the government just "loaned" him to do the Mt. Rubidoux roads. Miller was a frequent visitor to Sacramento and Washington, D.C., and knew his way around.

However that may be, the roads on Mt. Rubidoux cost \$50,000 of which H.E. Huntington paid only \$15,000 and Miller \$16,000. The rest was subscribed by local Riversiders some of whom defaulted leaving Miller to make up the difference. It was completed in 1907.

Once the road was constructed, Miller had Inn guests taken up the mountain in Talleyho's until they were replaced motor cars.

At the eastern end of the Friendship Bridge Miller planted a Japanese garden of which there is no photograph. It was watered from a small metal reservoir on a point to the north of the tower. The pine tree is the only remnant remaining of this garden. There may have been another in *Viburnum tinus*, then called *V. laurifolium*, which was popular at the turn of the century. In the 30's there was another shrub also. The pepper tree is obviously a self-sown intruder.

At its dedication, there was no distinction between the Peace Tower and the Bridge. Possibly DeWitt Hutchings was the one who originated this distinction.

PLANT LIFE MT. RUBIDOUX STYLE

For convenience we may divide the botanical life on the mount into native shrubs, annual wild flowers, and introduced plants. The latter is the most conspicuous. The pepper tree (*Schinus molle*) is from Peru and was introduced during Mission times. The eucalyptus is from Australia. Some of the trees on the lower part of the uproad are *E. pauciflora*. It takes about 50 years for the trunks to become close to white and in Australia this species is called "ghost gum." It is luminous by moonlight.

The tamarix, possibly *parviflora* produces a multitude of tiny pink blossoms. Fortunately, it has not spread since this plant can become a first class pest. It was introduced to

California from Southeastern Europe to serve as a windbreak in desert areas.

The castor bean (*Ricinus communis*) has been established near the terminus of the down road for as long as I can remember. It should be eradicated before it spreads further. The seedlings pull easily in moist winter soils. The flower ball when small is brittle and can be snapped off easily, thus preventing seed production. It looks tropical when the winter rains provide water.

The wild tobacco or tobacco tree (*Nicotiana glauca*) is quite attractive with its large blue-green leaves. It is topped with clusters of yellow tubular blossoms, which delight hummingbirds. It is poisonous. Though I have never heard of anyone dying from ingesting it, hospitalization is usually required. It was introduced unintentionally probably by the mission culture, possibly coming in with grain.

The rear lots of houses on the west side of Glenwood Drive and of Miromonte Place incorporate some of the original planting by the Huntington Park Association. This is readily observable from lower stages of the up road to the peak. Here we find several species of Phoenix palm, *Phoenix canariensis* being one of the more conspicuous. Possibly (actually I do not know) another may be *P. rupicola*. It is obvious some have much larger crowns than others while some have much slimmer trunks.

At five locations the tree of heaven (*Aelanthus altissima*) has been planted. This tree is a rampant pest in fertile soil, but the inhospitable conditions prevailing on the mount have kept it from spreading much.

The conifer near the Ben Lewis Bridge was planted in an ideal location. Because of the configuration in the up and down roads, it has been protected both from the flames as well as the heat from fire. There is good seepage of rainwater from the area above. It was planted by George Flower in 19??.

A number of genera of trees are conspicuous by their absence. There is no indication of olive trees having been planted. Yet the olive tree is celebrated for its drought resistance and long life. It is frequently mentioned in the Bible and was a symbol of peace. In the Frank Miller profile on the Peace Tower dedicatory bronze plaque there is a spray of olive branchlets on either side.

Another Biblical tree is St. John's Bread or carob (*Ceratonia siliqua*) which also is drought resistant and produces edible pods which are very nutritious.

Neither is there any evidence of any Italian cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*) which are likewise notably resistant to drought and were early planted as street trees in Riverside.

Mustard (*Brassica Nigra*) from Eurasia was introduced to California deliberately. Originally seed was dropped along the trail leading from one mission to another. When it flowered each spring it was easy to follow the trail. Now each spring it turns the roadways and the mountain, particularly near the top on the west side, into bands of gold.

There are several plantings on the mountain side of the lower part of the up road of Lion's Tail (*Leonotis*). These have survived on rainfall alone, which is remarkable. They are not very attractive under such severe conditions, but they survive partly by suckering.

All the yuccas, agaves, aloes, and cacti were planted by the Mission Inn, *i.e.* Frank Miller. These have multiplied in the case of aloes by rhizomes. I have yet to see a seedling. Some of the agaves produce small plantlets that fall from the inflorescence and take root. The

tuna or opuntia (*O.ficus-indica* - meaning Indian fig) is what we call prickly pear. This has spread well up the mountain with the help of birds and foxes. The tender new leaf pads are called nopales by Mexicans and are frequently harvested in alarming numbers -- such numbers that they must be sold in some market.

Incidentally, the white insect pest that attaches to them is not cottony cushion scale or mealy bug, but cochineal. If one takes a gob of these and smears it on the palm of your hand with a finger you will get a bright red streak. These insects for generations were the source of a bright red dye until the German aniline dyes were created out of coal in the late 19th century. Some red dyes are carcinogenic, but not the cochineal. When I was a child the red hot candies shaped like M&M's were colored with cochineal. A severe infestation of this insect can kill a part or an entire plant of a opuntia. They were deliberately introduced to Australia to kill off opuntia that had rendered hundreds of square miles unsuitable for grazing.

The opuntia known as jumping cholla has cylindrical stems, grows about four to five feet tall, has long, conspicuous, light colored spines.. The cholla does not literally "jump" but if the spines get in one's clothing a section easily breaks off. Catching in animal fur helps in spreading plants to new ground.

Of native plants buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) is likely the most common and is found all over the mountain. The frequent fires particularly on the west side of the mountain have eliminated all perennial and chaparral-type plants replacing them with grass which is easily ignited,

Like the mustard in early spring turning the roads to band of gold, the brittle wood does so in late spring. These are the silver leaved bushes with large yellow, cosmos-like flowers that are most conspicuous. Their seed in late summer attracts myriad flocks of finches and warblers.

Called "old man" which is really another species, *Artemesia absinthium* has the proper common name of wormwood. Its finely divided greenish silver foliage has a refreshing aromatic scent. It is good enough for the xerophytic garden, but too much water makes it floppy.

One of the most striking and beautiful, as well as most widely spread of flowers native to the mount, is *Datura* or loco weed (*Datura* and also known as jimson weed after Jamestown, Virginia). It also likes the exposed areas near the outer edge of the road. These once were very common on the west side of the mount but fires have killed them. The plant lives to be four or five years old. The large trumpet flowers - dramatized in the paintings of Georgia O'Keefe - vary from pure white, white stained lavender to pure deep purple. Though the foliage is fetid, the flowers have a sweet perfume, being stronger on some plants than others. The seed of these extra fragrant ones I have collected and scattered hoping to increase their number. About sunrise the fragrance can be detected some distance from the flower. This plant in all its parts is poisonous. Grazing animals will not eat it unless they are fenced in and there is nothing else to eat. They then go loco or "crazy." The plant possesses alkaloids which produce hallucination and for this it is a wonderful plant because, I am told, that one is so nauseated when coming out of its effects that the first time is also the last.

There have been no accounts of the plants on Mt. Rubidoux being so used, but in Moreno Valley the Riverside Press reported two occurrences. In one instance there were two teenage boys each requiring two adult men to restrain them.

The plant has had its hallucinogenic qualities exploited for over a thousand years by

Central and South American Indians in rites of passage from boyhood to manhood. The Indians believe this hallucinogenic state allowed the individual to communicate with his ancestors.

The "sticky monkey flower" (*Mimulus aurantiacus*) has orange buff flowers. These shrubby plants grow in narrow fissures in solid rock near the plaque honoring H.E. Huntington at the north end of the mount.

They are also to be found near Ben Lewis Bridge.

The only elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*) on the mount is near the exit gate. How it got there is anyone's guess -- a bird or a man may have been responsible. *Grevillea robusta* -- five or six - once grew on the other side of the road so the elderberry could easily have been planted when these were. It has suffered terribly when winter rains have been sparse. It is old because for years it had a lot of dead wood until cleaned up several years ago.

It never ceases to amaze the observer how the rock lichens, ferns and mosses are revived after months of dormancy by the first good rain.

Among the beautiful annual wildflowers are baby blue eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*) the so-called wild Canterbury bells, which is not a campanula as is the regular Canterbury bells. These plants cannot withstand competition with grasses and are often found at the mouth of bare areas created by the shadow of an overhanging ledge of rock. Rarely does one find chia (*Salvia columbariae*). A lot of annuals disappeared when the big cone pines (*Pinus coulteri*) died out and were removed from the north end of the mountain.

One of the trees conspicuous even from the foot of the mountain is the pine tree at the base of Friendship Bridge. It is the sole survivor of the Japanese garden Miller had planted there. Its location has saved it from fires since there is little wild growth nearby. However, in the 1980's there was an especially devastating fire that burned from north to south and not only burned the west side completely, but much of the east side also. The fire itself did not damage the tree, but the heat was so intense that the tree lost all its needles. I felt certain the tree was beyond recovery. I have never heard of such a recovery, but with the passage of several months, new needles appeared. Amazing! Some years we have a little as three inches of rain and all the large trees on the mountain top survived this. Incredible!

The wild cucumber (*marah macrocarpa*) is conspicuous during the rainy season and some weeks after. It is common on the base of Mt. Rubidoux on the east side and toward the middle of the west side. The plant forms a large succulent tuber weighing up to 60 pounds and even up to 100 pounds. The fleshy texture may be pounded by a stone or stick into pulp and create potable water. This is worthwhile information for the hardy pioneers who climb the mountain and may get lost.

Live forever (*Dudleya lanceolata*) is a succulent common to the upper reaches of the north end of the mount. In summer it is dormant and totally leafless, but a round tuberous root about the size of a grape persists during the dry summer. The rains stimulate the plant into the production of succulent leaves that are in a star-like formation. They are gray-green and inconspicuous. A flower scape of six to eight inches turns a conspicuous red when the flowers -- an orangey red appear and are in need of fertilization. They are noticeable enough to be spotted by young eyes and frequently end up as discards on the roadway.

My treatment of the vegetation on Mt. Rubidoux is very superficial. Andrew Sanders, a UCR botanist, has produced an exhaustive work on the subject. This is in the library of the

Friends of Mt. Rubidoux. A 1920's list is to be found in The Story of Mt. Rubidoux by DeWitt V. Hutchings, Frank Miller's son-in-law. The list was made by Fred M. Reed, Riverside's first tree warden.

CITY RESERVOIRS

For 50 years and then some there were two reservoirs on Mt. Rubidoux as part of the municipal water system. One was located just above 14th St., the other above 9th.

The one near 14th St. was situated in that area where the curve from the up road is in close proximity to a similar curve in the down road. A semi-circle of large stones more or less outlines what was once the base of the reservoir. It was very small for a city system and had been abandoned for years before I arrived in Riverside in 1929. If it ever had a roof there was none by that date.

Harold Backstrand, a member of a prominent Riverside family and who served three terms as councilman for Ward 1, related the following experience:

As a youth he lived in the house on 12th St. just east of the Devine house. One summer day he and a chum decided to swim in the abandoned reservoir. Water must have leaked into it from old pipes since there was more water than rainfall could account for. The west side of the reservoir abutted a bank of the mount so that if one piled several large rocks into a pile one could hoist oneself up to the rim and into the reservoir. When the boys had had enough and had decided to leave, they could not scale the enclosing walls. Harold hoisted his friend up so he could escape. He was supposed to go get help so Harold could get out. Instead, he got scared, went home and said nothing. This left Harold waiting and wondering. His father came home from work and no Harold. The father began a search, having a good idea of where he might be. As an old man Harold was still indignant with his boyhood friend.

With flowering of graffiti, the old reservoir's walls became a billboard and had to have this art form painted out on a regular basis. On one such occasion Pres. Jimmy Carter's sister, who was an evangelist, was to deliver the address at the Easter Sunrise Service. There was a flurry of activity to tidy up the mount for her appearance. Some of the exposed pipes, which had been rusted for decades, were painted with aluminum paint. About two years later the reservoir was destroyed, the old pipes still shiny bright with the aluminum paint.

The 9th St. reservoir was located on the hill where the Rubidoux Hotel was to have been built in 1889. While the 14th St. one was of cement walls in a circular form above ground, this one on 9th was excavated into the hill which supported the walls of a much wider though equally shallow structure. It was covered by a low, slightly conical roof. After World War II, Riverside began to grow spectacularly with one housing development after another. This resulted in the building of several new large size reservoirs in Highland and Gavilan Hills. The date for the decommissioning of the 9th St. reservoir is not known to me, but about 25 years ago the Water Department declared it excess property and offered it for sale by secret bid. The notice stated that the property was large enough to be divided into five lots. The property was promptly sold and a house built within the walls of the old reservoir (4664 Ninth Street). **The owners subsequently gave notice that they intended to offer some of the property for sale. [THIS IS MARKED "WRONG"; HOW SHOULD IT BE CORRECTED?]** Opposition developed from neighbors and some not neighbors and the proposal was never presented to the city boards.

CORNERSTONE OF MT. RUBIDOUX HOTEL

The carriage stepping stone in the parking between the sidewalk and the curb in front of the Jarvis house at 12th and Redwood Drive was to have been the cornerstone of the proposed 400 room Mt. Rubidoux Hotel near 9th St. and Loring Drive. Subsequently this area was excavated for a city reservoir and currently is occupied by a private residence.

Constance Jarvis identified this stone for me.

The boom of 1880 ended with a bust in 1889. Construction on the hotel had begun and some of the framing had been erected. The double terraced rock retaining wall fronting Mt. Rubidoux Drive near the present gate at Ninth St. was no doubt a part of this enterprise.

There is a picture of the proposed project in Tom Patterson, *A Colony for California*, p. 162

FUR AND FEATHERS ON THE MOUNTAIN

Until the recent spate of fires on Mt. Rubidoux, attributed to the homeless who resided in the river bottom area, there was a growth of shrubby plants on the west side of the mountain. Previously there were no fires at all. Fires, year after year, have prevented the reestablishment of these shrubs, all of which produced some kind of seed. These furnished food for a variety of birds. Time was when one was apt to encounter a bevy of quail most any time of any day. The shrubs also offered a cover into which the quail could disappear.

Possibly this was a home to lizards as it has been some years since I have seen a roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*). There used to be two or three pairs of flickers were regularly to be seen on the southwest end of the mountain.

Red-tailed hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) have long been seen in the winter/spring. One is still to be seen. In the past several years these hawks have expanded their soaring range, extending it into the residential area near the mountain.

For as long as I have been going up the mountain there has been a resident pair of ravens. One of the sublime spectacles of the mountain is to see these magnificent fliers sailing through the thermals during the period of the Santa Ana wind. On occasion they appear to sit for many seconds on the crest of some invisible thermal. To observe these birds swooping up and down as if on some avian roller-coaster is to become aware that birds, too, have a joy of living and of flying for sheer pleasure. This is a spectacle worth the climb up the mountain to witness.

The brilliant whiteness of the egret can be spotted wading in the river most days during the entire winter. From one to three are generally visible, but at the height of the fall migration as many as 17 may be seen at one time.

Blue herons (*Ardea herodias*) are difficult to see because of their color. They rarely fish in the river, but are to be found in considerable numbers all winter at Lake Evans. Occasionally one will spot a blue heron flying up the river bottom toward the lake.

Small flocks of six or eight cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) fly above the riverbed also on their way to Lake Evans where they may stay much of the winter.

Not infrequently during the fall, one may encounter small flocks of Canadian geese resting in the shallow water of the river. They are quite noisy which calls attention to them. One would expect a similar occurrence in the spring, but I have yet to witness it.

Also in the spring by looking south to the vicinity of Prado Dam, one may view the awesome spectacle of vast numbers of ducks in their well-known "V" formation. They are headed eastward toward Lake Matthews or Lake Perris.

About 30 years ago one could still hear coyotes (*Canis latrans*) howling on the mountain top during the night, or even see one in the very early morning.

Gray foxes (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) still (1998) have dens on the mountain where they produce young, which are often a delight when seen during the early spring. They are brought down by their parents to the residential area at the mountain's base where they forage for food in garbage cans or food put out for pets. They are also partial to the dates of the Canary Island Palm. They are remarkably adept at "climbing" avocado trees for fruit, which they greedily consume. For some years they were quite bold and often remained in the urban area until mid-morning.

I first climbed Mt. Rubidoux in 1929 and did so daily for several decades so that I have made the journey thousands of times. For six decades I was convinced there were no snakes on the mountain. About 15 years ago several of us encountered a fine California pink boa. It was trying to navigate up a steep rock wall on the west side of the mountain. While we men were discussing what to do, a woman came by, picked up the snake and put it on the other side of the road where there was plant cover. Several years later I killed a young rattlesnake on the west area on the up road. This was the only rattlesnake I ever heard of being on the mountain. I have often wondered why gopher snakes were not introduced to the several infestations of ground squirrels.

Owls nest in a cleft in an enormous boulder just down from the cross. A huge V-shaped segment of the boulder has cracked and fallen out. At the apex of this cleft one can see an area of white, which is formed by owl droppings.

There are so many cats exploring the lower reaches of the mountain and such excessive numbers of dogs - on leash and off - that the lizard population has suffered drastically. Possibly this explains why there is no resident roadrunner. Even the rabbit population has been decimated.

Skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*), alligator lizards (*Gerrhonotus multicarinatus*) were always more common on the lower reaches of the mountain. Occasionally one saw the blue-chinned lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*).

Tarantula hawks (*Pepsis* sp.) are to be seen usually in the springtime. Tarantula spiders (*Aphonopelma* sp.) are not native to this area, but were numerous in the Hemet locale. In the 1930's one frequently saw them running across the two-lane highway.

The mountain is frequented by such temporary residents as migrating birds in spring and fall. Flocks of bluebirds are a special delight. Unfortunately they do not remain long.

In late summer vast numbers of Audubon warblers (*Dendroica auduboni*) and other finch type birds gorge on the prodigious amount of seed produced by the brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*).

The heavy foot traffic on the mountain, especially in the early morning and early evening which also is the principal feeding time of many wild creatures disrupts the birds. The population increases markedly on week ends. Dogs and wildlife do not co-exist. The mountain is not very interesting anymore biologically. Bikers with mountain bikes go where few hikers

are not apt to go. They break down banks and make trails where none existed. This accentuates erosion, which is horrendous at times.

Even after World War II, the mount was still remarkable for being something of a wilderness preserve. In spite of the roads there was relatively light traffic. Then it became a popular destination at which to eat one's lunch in one's car. At the same time there was an inundation of people walking for their health in the early morning and late afternoon, feeding times for some wild life. Dogs chased rabbits to oblivion. Fires, particularly on the west side, reduced cover as well as seeds for food. Previously the west side was clothed in woody shrubs interspersed with some annuals. The mount has become a wasteland both botanically and zoologically.

WAR CASUALTIES

Both World War I and II affected the mountain adversely. During the former the cannon were removed from Ft. Chittenden for safekeeping. During World War II the large bells were removed from the several points on the mountain top for the same reason.

At several observation places on the mountain there are a series of stone and cement columns about five feet or so high. These may be found on either side of the arena formed by the terrace-like seating for the chorus and those for the audience. These columns are also to be found on the outer periphery of Ft. Chittenden where some have been pushed off by trucks. Up until World War II these were the supports for chains, which dipped swag-like between the stone columns. The individual links were perfectly enormous, being about ten inches long and several inches thick. I do not know, but I suspect these ended up in scrap metal collections for the war effort. The chain was very distinctive and added greatly to the ambience of the mountain. They served as a railing to protect people, but were more appropriate than straight iron railings. It would be most desirable to have these chains replaced but where could they be found? I can not imagine what they were originally created for. I have never seen chain of comparable size.

THE SUNRISE SERVICE

For many years the claim was made that the Mt. Rubidoux Easter Service was the first sunrise service anywhere. Then it appears there was an earlier one in Holland. The claim was thus reduced to the first in the U.S. A church in South Carolina stated it had had a sunrise service for over 100 years. It was indoors, however; and so now the claim is for having the first outdoor sunrise service in the U.S. Many other cities in Southern California copied the idea, the one in Hollywood Bowl being the most famous.

The initial service held on Mt. Rubidoux was April 11, 1909, and was quite simple, but the 1910 service became the model for subsequent ones. It included a trumpet solo "The Holy City" along with the hymns "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" and "Unfold Ye Portals Everlasting."

Henry van Dyke's "God of the Open Air," first read by the poet in 1911, was then read in all subsequent services as are all other items in this paragraph.

Marcella Craft, a local girl known as Marcia Craft, became a famous opera star in Munich, Germany. She first sang on the mountain in 1915 and several times after her retirement in the 1940's due to World War II.

In 1921 the crowd was estimated "at 25,000 with 729 cars" parked on the road. Members

from various church choirs made for a sizable chorus and prominent ministers took turns presiding. By the 1970's attendance had decreased drastically. It was difficult to get any minister to officiate or to get or entice volunteers for the choir. No one wanted to sponsor the services. So a "hippie" group with their "gee tars" took over. This really shook up the community so that now there is more of a traditional service sponsored by one of the conventional churches.

TEQUESQUITE ARROYO

Bordering the base of Mt. Rubidoux to the south is Riverside's largest arroyo, the Tequesquite, which debauches into the Santa Ana River basin. It was down this arroyo Juan Bautista de Anza made his way from Moreno Valley via Sycamore Canyon in 1874 and again the following year. Who bestowed the name is unknown. It derives from two Aztec words, one meaning rock, the other efflorescence (alkali). There are several references in the literature of the 1800's referring to the resemblance of this substance to patches of snow.

The pronunciation has been anglicized. The final "e" is ignored and it becomes *tek es keet*.

VISITORS - THE FAMOUS AND THE OTHERS

Mt. Rubidoux has been a lodestone for all sorts of people -- odd-balls, do-gooders and the self-destructive as well as celebrities.

Not infrequently those of us who dwell at the foot of the mountain have been forewarned that we are "all going to hell"; but we do not take them seriously because they appear to have no credentials, nor do they have any charisma. Using some large boulder as a pulpit, they yell doomsday threats down on us defenseless residents.

Some of the activities appear to go in spurts. A group of what appeared to be sun worshippers who assiduously made obeisance to the sun at its rising lasted the better part of one summer. They in turn were succeeded the following summer by what appeared to be a group chanting mantras.

Residents at the base of the mountain have on several occasions been a captive audience for hours to some self-deluded master of bongo drums. It is so wonderful -- when he stops.

In the morning particularly in the 1970's and 80's one was likely to encounter homeless men, some carrying some of their bedding as they came down from the upper levels. Some were severely withdrawn, some slightly surly. They might respond to a "Good morning" and they might not. This cast something of a pall on an otherwise beautiful morning.

For several years in the 1960's a retired man climbed the mountain once a week carrying a bag of dog food to feed the foxes. He knew where the dens were and would go there. Eventually the foxes got to recognize him and came out of their den while he was still there.

How many times have I read in the Press of Boy or Girl Scouts, Brownies, a garden club and others who scattered seeds of California poppies. There are places poppies might grow but these are occupied by ground squirrels. In most places the soil is too well drained with coarse decomposed granite. Occasionally one will spot a California poppy in flower, but this generally ends up on the road, dropped by a temporary admirer who pulled up the whole plant.

If one goes up the mountain often, particularly if one is alone, one becomes aware of the

number of people who walk the mountain because of some personal problem. One is often surprised to be told how much better they felt after talking to someone on the way.

Then there are some who wish to end it all because they are overwhelmed by problems. In the day when cars could drive the mountain, a distraught mother with an infant child sped as fast as she could on approaching a curve at the north end of the mountain. The car tumbled much of the way down the mountain killing both occupants.

Certainly the most spectacular suicide was that of a man who took a plane from Fla-Bob Airport and crashed it into the lower pile of rocks just down from Ben Lewis Bridge.

Then there were the celebrated: Sarah Bernhardt, the most famous actress at the turn of the century; Carie Jacobs Bond, composer of "The End of a Perfect Day," which became popular nationally for decades. While Miller and the Hutchings ran the Inn, "The End of a Perfect Day" played on the electric chimes every day at 6 P.M. Harry Chandler, publisher of the Los Angeles Times, was a good friend of Miller. Marcella Craft, a local girl (Marcia Craft) who became a popular opera star in Germany; Zona Gale, a once popular novelist in the 1920's; Harry E. Huntington, owner of the Southern Pacific Railroad; David Starr Jordan, famous biologist and president of Stanford University; Charles F. Lummis, prominent in the Mission Revival Movement; John Steven McGroarty who wrote the Mission Play presented for decades at Mission San Gabriel; John Muir, naturalist who succeeded in having Yosemite made a national park; Harrison Gray Otis, a publisher of the Los Angeles Times preceding Harry Chandler; Jacob Riis, writer - "There but for the grace of God, go I" - referring to the poor; Henry Van Dyke, popular poet who wrote "God of the Open Air" which he read at an Easter Sunrise Service; Booker T. Washington, a famous black [African-American] educator from Tuskegee; and then there was President William Howard Taft who pulled the ropes unveiling the bronze plaque to Junipero Serra.

Miller was a mover and shaker and knew his way around Sacramento, California, as well as Washington, D.C. Some of the visitors to Mt. Rubidoux are not well-known today, such as the President of the Santa Fe Railroad.

Harold Bell Wright wrote a number of best sellers in the 1920's. One, *Barbara North*, gave its name to the hotel of that name in Indio. He lived near Forest Home in the lower San Bernardino Mountains.

Otis Skinner was a beloved Broadway actor, famous for his role in *Kismet*. He appeared at the Loring Opera House.

William Andrews Clark made a fortune in silver mines in Montana. He became a California senator, founded the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra, and subsidized it for decades. He amassed a magnificent collection of books on Elizabethan times, including the folio edition of all Shakespeare's plays. His handsome library on West Adams is administered by UCLA.

Gene Stratton Porter, a once popular author, is now largely forgotten.

What a multitude of characters this mountain has hosted!

WATERFALLS

It is amusing how Californians scurry for cover during a rain, even a "rain" with

quotation marks. Such a time is ideal for a walk up Mt. Rubidoux especially if one would enjoy having the mountain to one's self. The air is fabulous and the view free of glare and smog. The waterfalls are on the small side and strictly transitory, disappearing only minutes after the rain stops. Nevertheless, they are interesting and add the delightful sound of falling water briefly. One three-foot fall is near the up road in the ravine leading down from the Peace Tower. There are several six-foot falls just to the north of Ben Lewis Bridge.

THE WILD GOATS OF MT. RUBIDOUX

In the 1970's the question of the day on the mountain top was, "Have you seen the goat?" Usually he was to be seen on a large boulder about one third of the way up the mountain just down from the Peace Tower though he could not be seen from that vantage point.

I was told originally there were two -- a bully and a nanny - that had escaped or been abandoned. It was then reported the nanny had died.

The goat, at nighttime, came down to the residences on Miramonte where residents were remarkably tolerant about his browsing on their shrubs and plants. This regimen continued for some time, perhaps four years. It was reported in the Riverside Press that a woman had seen a pack of dogs attack the goat near 14th St. and tear it to pieces so there was not a goat to look for anymore. It took a lot of local color out of climbing up the mountain.

MISSION INN TUNNEL

When I was a teenager, I heard a number of times about a tunnel that led from the Mission Inn to Mt. Rubidoux. When I asked incredulously for what purpose, I was told, "For a means of escape." Escape? More reasonably I was informed it was for smuggling liquor into the Inn during Prohibition. Liquor was sold illicitly both at the Inn and the Victoria Country Club. This year I happened to relate this yarn to my barber, who is thirty years my junior. He responded that he had heard it also as a teenager as well as several times in his barber shop. This would indicate that the story was in some circulation from the 1930's into the 1960's and beyond.

Although the claim was preposterous, it was not a fabrication out of the whole cloth, but an exaggeration of some tunnels that do exist in the vicinity of the Inn.

Many gullies, arroyos, ravines and other topographical irregularities were graded to create a level surface for the development of downtown Riverside. One of these major ravines angled across Seventh Street over towards 14th and Brockton. It is still a major subterranean drainage system. If one goes south down the catacombs in the Inn (paralleling Orange Street) to the very end, one will encounter an openwork iron gate opening onto a tunnel and one can usually hear running water.

Another factual basis for the far-fetched story is that the Mission Inn Annex at 6th Street and Main provided heat for the Mission Inn. Since there was an overabundance Miller contracted to supply heat for several nearby buildings. Heating ducts or conduits were dug to the old City Hall, the Carnegie Library and the original post office (now the Municipal Museum), all on the corners of 7th and Orange; to the Congregational Church (7th and Lemon) and to the old YMCA (8th and Lemon) as well as to Small's Seed and Fuel Co. (8th and Orange) -- but not to Mt. Rubidoux.

THE FLAG POLE

Before the Riverside Sheriff's Communications Center was established on Trautwine, radio signals were sent from Mt. Rubidoux for several decades. Apparently it was expected that the mountain would eventually biodegrade. What now serves as a flagpole was part of the radio communication system. Again, for several decades, it stood there, a sore thumb until in 19??; it was modified to serve as a flag pole.

ANTENNAE

One can still see a steel pole on the east side, visible from the up road, standing alone and apparently unrelated to its surroundings. At one time there must have been a dozen or so of the poles in assorted heights and widths littering the hillside. These poles supported wires for radio and television sets on Glenwood Drive. With cable, these were just abandoned. No one felt any responsibility for cleaning up. The wires over the up road eventually I wound up into several small rolls to be used in my garden. Some poles were removed, some may have fallen and be lying on the ground. Two still remain upright.

THE CITYSCAPE FROM MOUNT RUBIDOUX

The view of the City of Riverside from the top of Mount Rubidoux remained unchanged until after World War II. The landmark structures that were most conspicuous were the tower of the Congregational Church, the County Courthouse, the towers and domes of the Mission Inn, the dome of the Municipal Auditorium, and the tallest building in town - the three story Citizens Bank Building at 8th and Main.

These landmarks can still be spotted but not from just anywhere, which was once the case. Now some are observable only by walking to favorable sites.

One of the first obstructions was the construction of the Wells Fargo Bank at 11th and Main, which partially blocked the view of the Courthouse. The several multi-storied county government structures, while conspicuous, did not obscure any of the business area of downtown as did the eleven story Security Pacific Bank building between 7th and 8th on Main.

OWNERS OF MOUNT RUBIDOUX

Spain

Mexico

Yorba Land Grant

United States of America

Jurupa Land Grant to Louis Rubidoux

Louis Prevost, California Silk Center Association

John W. North, et al., Southern California Colony
Association

S. O. Evans Land and Irrigation Company

Emil Rosenthal

The investors in the Mt. Rubidoux Hotel Venture

Frank A. Miller

Charles Loring

Henry E. Huntington

Frank A. Miller, sole owner 1889

City of Riverside, 1965

by bequest of Frank A. Miller, Inc.

headed by Frank Miller Hutchings and Helen Hutchings,
only descendants of Miller still living.

**AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
OF
WILLIAM T. DRYSDALE**

I came to Riverside in 1929, aged 13, and entered Central Junior High School. After graduating from UCLA and doing graduate study, I began a 30 year teaching career at Chemawa Junior High School.

For over 70 years I have lived in sight of Mt. Rubidoux. For 20 years I lived in the vicinity of White Park, and for the past 46 years at my current address at 4300 Isabella, at the base of the mount.

I have climbed Mt. Rubidoux over 6,000 times – around 5:00 am in mid-summer and in the afternoon in the winter and at any time on rainy days.

**A MEMORIAL
TO
MOUNT RUBIDOUX**

By

WILLIAM T. DRYSDALE

Riverside, California

September, 1999