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Permit No. 1614
San Bernardino, Calif.



ODYSSEY

Published quarterly by the City of San Bernardino Historical & Pioneer Society

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 1

JANUARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH, 1982

WHOLE NUMBER 19



Edward G. Judson and...

EARLY COUNTY NEWSPAPERS

The Redlands Press

By Fred Holladay

REDLANDS was only one of many southern California tract-towns founded during the remarkable land boom of the 1880's, which reached its peak when rate wars between competing railroads lowered the fare from Chicago to the West to only \$1 a head. As a result thousands of mid-westerners pulled up stakes and came to California; seeking the promised land.



Frank Elwood Brown. Together they founded Redlands.

Redlands historian Edith Parker Hinckley, commenting on the area's early development in her book, "On the Banks of the Zanja," wrote:

"It is an amazing thing the way Redlands came to past. The suburbs grew before the town itself was established; there was a demi-circle of settlements around our location just as though the circumference of a wheel was built before the hub. These settlements were first, the Mission District, around the asistencia; second, Crafton to the east; and third, Lugonia to the north. The key to the location of these settlements was water. For 50-years people hugged the zanja, that being the life line."

The Redlands story began in 1881 when Edward G. Judson, a New York stock broker and Frank Elwood Brown, Yale graduate and civil engineer, purchased 4,000 acres, located on the south side of present-day Redlands, from the Southern Pacific Railroad. On November 21, 1882, they recorded their first map of the colony -- which Judson named "Redlands" after its red clay soil -- and announced the sale of land in ten-acre tracts. In 1883 Brown also supervised the building of a single-arch masonry dam in Big Bear Valley,

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