



**City of San Bernardino  
Historical and Pioneer Society  
P.O. Box 875, San Bernardino, CA 92402**

**LIBRARY NEWS SEPTEMBER 2011**

By Richard D. Thompson, Librarian

This month's newsletter features a story by Historical Society member Mark Landis, a freelance writer for the San Bernardino *Sun*, author and local historian. Mark is an Edison Company employee who has been writing local history columns for the *Sun* since 2001. The newspaper cannot always run all of the graphics Mark supplies, so this and other upcoming articles provide the entire text and pictures, as intended, for the first time.

This story is timely in that Mark is presenting "Arrowhead Springs: California's Ideal Resort" to the Mohave Historical Society on Thursday, September 22, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. The program—which includes a PowerPoint presentation with many rare photos, unique views, maps and artifacts—will cover the history of Arrowhead Springs from its founding in 1864 by David N. Smith through all the hotels to the present day.

Mark will also be giving the same PowerPoint presentation to the San Bernardino Historical and Pioneer Society on Thursday, January 5, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.

**The Glamour of The Arrowhead Springs Hotel:  
The Dorothy Draper Connection**

By Mark Landis, Correspondent

Guests arriving at the gala grand opening of the fourth and current Arrowhead Springs Hotel on December 16th, 1939, stepped out of the crisp winter evening and into a luxurious showplace.

The hotel's interior that helped inspire the nickname "The Swankiest Spot in America" was elegantly crafted by renowned interior designer, Dorothy Draper. The new 150-room Georgian-Revival hotel rose from the ashes of the previous hotel which had burned down only 13 months earlier. A syndicate of Hollywood investors including Jay Paley (President), Darryl Zanuck, Claudette Colbert, and Al Jolson formed a corporation to purchase and operate the new luxury resort.

Dorothy Draper was commissioned to design the interior at Arrowhead Springs by Jay Paley, a Hollywood tycoon and major stockholder in the project. The hotel building was designed by distinguished Southern California architects George B. Kaufmann and Paul R. Williams. The pair had become known as "architects to the stars" and Williams had recently designed Paley's Bel Air mansion.

Draper's "Hollywood Regency" style interior blended seamlessly into the hotel's graceful, yet bold architecture. The six-floor hotel had 150 rooms and suites, three dining areas, and a 300-seat theater. No expense was spared in the interior design. Draper created the complete look for the interior, right down to the dinnerware, table linens, and staff uniforms. She had luxurious fabrics specially created for the rugs, walls, and oversized furniture. Unique woods and wall coverings were laid onto curved walls that were accentuated by lofty ceilings.

In the cocktail lounge, the walls were covered in bleached walnut and bold floral prints. Three wide brass accents spanned the width of the curved bar. Red-white-and-green Scotch-plaid carpet was laid in several large rooms and it became a trademark of "The Draper Touch."

Draper added drama to the dining room with overscale plaster light fixtures and immense black-lacquered Chinese cabinets. Sparkling chandeliers provided the final touch of elegance in the larger main rooms.

The guest rooms were appointed with a variety of bold wall coverings, upholstered headboards, and ornate lamps and fixtures. Many of the rooms featured a mixture of white or black lacquered furniture, fretwork headboards, and gold-framed Art Deco mirrors.

The San Bernardino *Sun* praised Draper's newest design masterpiece, stating, "Mrs. Draper has the showman's sense of display, a new and different approach to decoration." Her overwhelming success at Arrowhead Springs helped launch Draper as one of the premier interior designers of the era.



*Courtesy photo*

**World famous interior designer Dorothy Draper in 1948. Draper not only broke new ground with her bold designs, but she was the first woman to undertake major commercial interior design projects.**



**Arrowhead Hotel interior -- 1940**

Dorothy was born on November 22nd, 1889, into the wealthy Tuckerman family in the exclusive Tuxedo Park section of New York State. She married Dr. George Draper, a successful physician and personal doctor to U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, further reinforcing her status as a wealthy aristocrat.

Interior design became a passion of Dorothy's when she began remodeling her own home. Friends and family members enthusiastically complimented the Drapers on their stylish interior. Eager to carry on, the Drapers sold their home and quickly transformed their new residence into a showplace. Soon Dorothy was doing interior design for friends and relative's homes. Her continuing success eventually led her to take on larger commercial projects. Her first major project came in 1930 when she decorated the Carlyle Hotel in New York in the Art Deco style.

In 1939, Draper wrote a popular book entitled *Decorating is Fun!: How to Be Your Own Decorator*. She also wrote other books on interior design and a book entitled *Entertaining is Fun!: How to be a Popular Hostess*.

In spite of all the lavish promotion and initial exuberance, the new Arrowhead Springs Hotel quickly fell into financial trouble. By the spring of 1941, the hotel closed its doors. It reopened on November 19th, 1941, under the ownership and control of the Thomas Hull Company



*Courtesy photo*

**In this partial view of the main dining area, you can see the enormous black-lacquered Chinese cabinets and oversized plaster light fixtures. Every piece of tableware was specifically chosen or designed by Draper.**



**Draper Arrowhead Springs pitcher**

The Arrowhead Springs Hotel was pressed into military service with the onset of World War II. On May 23rd, 1944, the U.S. Navy took over operations, and the resort served as a convalescent hospital for wounded soldiers. Just imagine the wide-eyed wonder a wounded soldier from rural America would have experienced as he was served chow in the luxurious "Draperized" dining areas!

The hotel was returned to the Hull Company in 1946 and the interior underwent a major renovation. Bit by bit, the Draper touch was diluted, but the hotel still maintained pieces of its original elegance.

Famed hotelier Conrad Hilton took over operation of Arrowhead Springs in 1951. Hilton tried to revitalize the place with another renovation, but the hotel never regained its prewar status.

In 1956, Hilton sold Arrowhead Springs to Benjamin Swig, owner of several other resorts including the Mission Inn at Riverside. Swig made extensive improvements to the grounds and facilities, but the resort continued to lose money. In 1959, the hotel was permanently closed.

The hotel that was once the playground of Hollywood's elite was sold to the Campus Crusade for Christ in 1962. Some of the hotel's main rooms were converted to function better as an administrative and training facility. In 1991, the facility was closed again as the Campus Crusade for Christ moved to their new headquarters in Orlando, Florida.



**This guest room designed by Draper featured bold striped wall coverings, floral print fabrics and black-lacquered furniture. Carpets in the guest rooms were either mauve or "grass green."**



**Draper bowl**

Samples of Draper's designs, including pieces from Arrowhead Springs, have been exhibited at fine museums. Some of her extraordinary design work can still be found at the Arrowhead Springs Hotel and many other classic hotels and resorts across the country.

Dorothy Draper passed away on March 11th, 1969. Her bold and often groundbreaking decorating style was tempered by the simple advice she shared with the public: “If it looks right, it is right.”

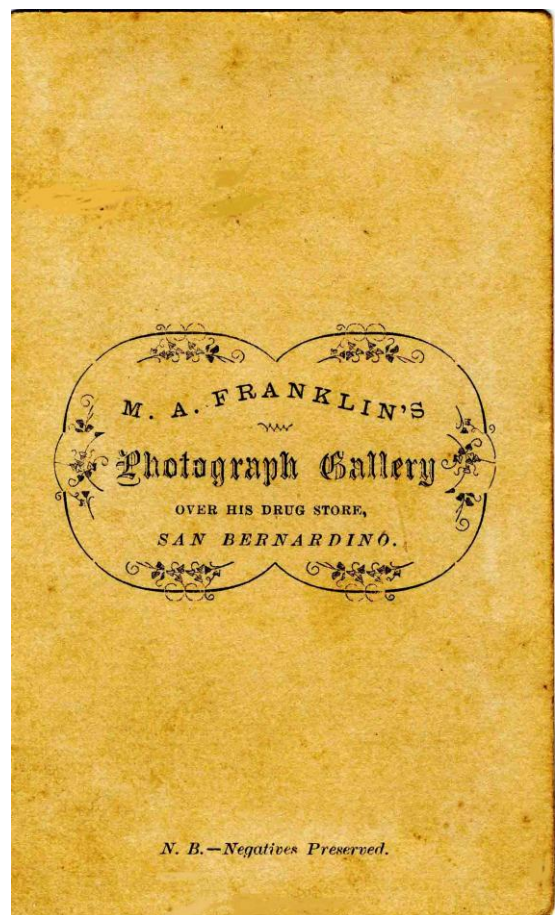
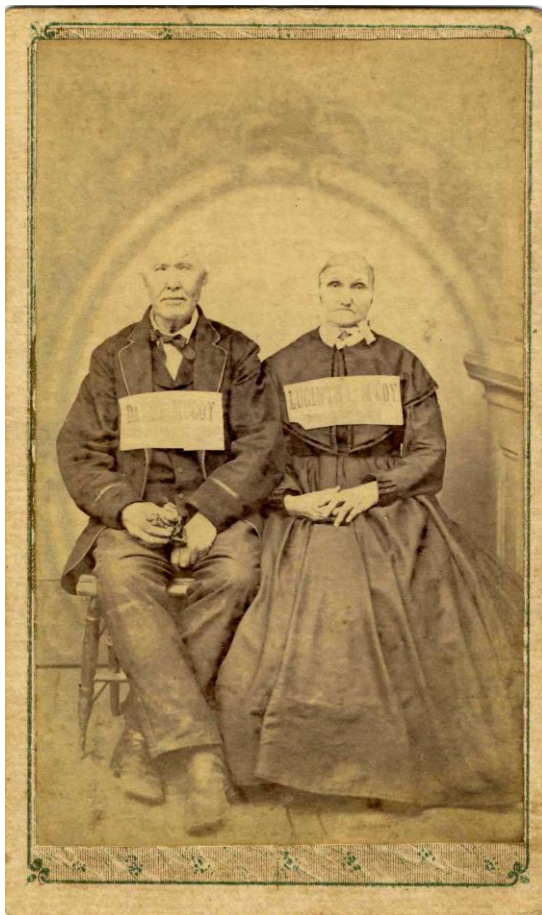


### DAVE RUTHERFURD PHOTOGRAPH DONATION

Our friend Dave has been donating photographs to the Heritage House Library for quite a number of years now, as readers of the Society’s newsletters are well aware. He donates originals, or fine quality copies, usually 8½” x 11” in size, plus he brought in his collection to be scanned for our library. This month he donated four photographs, two originals and two quality copies

—Photo No. 1 (original). All four pictures are nice, but one is exceedingly rare, a photo by San Bernardino’s first photographer, Maurice A. Franklin. There were itinerant photographers before Franklin, but he was the first to establish a photograph gallery and remain in residence for a number of years, beginning in 1864 and continuing for an indeterminate time, perhaps into the early 1870s.

I told Dave about the rarity of photos from the Franklin Gallery, but of course he already knew and insisted he wanted to donate the picture anyway. Scholars Peter E. Palmquist and Thomas R. Kailbour, authors of *Pioneer Photographers of the Far West: A Biographical Dictionary, 1840-1856*, spent 50 years between them, reading hundreds of books and newspapers, traveling to scores of institutions, and in all of that time only ran across three Franklin photographs. Now, thanks to Dave Rutherford, the Historical and Pioneer Society has one in its library.



Front and back of *carte de visite* by M. A. Franklin’s Photograph Gallery “over his drug store.” The subjects in the picture are David and Lucynthia McCoy, residents of Crafton, California.

Franklin posed his subjects with signs on their chests identifying them as David and Lucynthia McCoy. Today, this appears a bit awkward since it makes them look like felons getting their mug shots taken. But the unattractive signs can be forgiven because the McCoy's are remembered, whereas many a photo from this era cannot be identified, since all who knew them have perished.

David McCoy was born in 1790, his wife some seven years later. They were farmers and moved around quite a bit during their lengthy marriage. They moved to Crafton in 1866 and stayed there for the next five years before moving on (thus David would have been about 80 at the time the photo was taken, or nearing it). Mrs. McCoy died a few years later in Missouri, and David returned to live in Redlands with his daughter, Mrs. W. T. Morris.

Our photograph collection is greatly enhanced with this addition and I am sure that members of the Society will join me in giving Dave a great big "thank you" for his generosity.

—**Photo No. 2 (original)**. The photo shown below is from a postcard and was taken in 1915 by W. A. Jackson, a hitherto unknown San Bernardino photographer. Jackson's studio was at 373 H Street.

Mr. Jackson does not appear on the list of photographers prepared by the late Mary L. Lewis and nothing is known of him. His stamp is on the back of the card together with the year the photo was taken and the house address, 729 G Street, San Bernardino.

The structure still exists, although it has been modified a bit. It is located across the street from the Zombro house, about which a story appears in the June 2011 newsletter.



**729 G Street, San Bernardino.**  
Postcard with picture taken by San Bernardino photographer W. A. Jackson.

—**Photos No. 3 and 4 (copies)**. The two photographs on the next page are excellent copies. The second picture is of the High Gear Café on Highway 18. There is not much information on this wayside stop, so it is an important photo. The place probably was razed when the highway was changed to four lanes.



3336 N. Arrowhead Ave. House built in 1924 by contractor G. Dewey Darling.



High Gear Café, gas island and garage, State Highway 18. Photo undated, but looks like late 1930s coupe on highway.

## TWO UNIDENTIFIED HOUSES

These two photographs are from the California Room of the Feldheim Library. If you know where the houses are, or were, please contact me.



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