

the-round and a set which is functional, also making possible a much more natural type of dramatization and increasing visibility in all parts of the theatre. The work was done in the theatre entirely by volunteers too numerous to name. Howard Avery and Merl Williams headed the job of designing and supervising the construction job.

In the 1974 Riverside Tournament of One Act Plays, the Footlighters' entry was judged the outstanding production in competition with eleven other community theatre entries. Two other prominent members, Mrs. Lutie Simonds and Joe Camp, have received the Drama Award of Distinction granted by Theta Alpha Phi National Theatre Honors Fraternity, University of Redlands.

Dr. Ellsworth Miller is credited with the idea of the Optimist Club selling season tickets for the Footlighters, one of the "secrets" of success in financial solvency. Footlighters haven't always had it easy though. In 1949 there was a completely new board formed and at their first meeting, they found they owed \$300 and all the merchants insisted on cash for everything they purchased.

Back in 1947, Footlighters produced "Ah Wilderness" for two performances. The group was thrilled with full houses. At intermission of the second performance frost warnings were announced and nearly everyone left to go smudge their groves.

The "Curious Savage" was the first production given in the Grove Theatre. Mr. Stuart Campbell directed this comedy by John Patrick and it had a six night, full house run. Mr. Campbell is drama director at Valley College, San Bernardino.

Unique has become a symbol of the Footlighters. Unique in the way of outstanding talent contributions; unique in that it is completely self-sustaining and always has been. Unique in that their doors have not closed in twenty-nine years. They are recognized as semi-professional theatre and their talents are always top-drawer.

Their philosophy for their theatre group is: Rewarding Entertainment, Creative Production of Living Theatre, A Cradle for Community Theatre, Growth for Actors and Directors, Preservation of Our Dramatic Heritage, a Mutually Satisfying and Varied Theatre Experience for Both Its Members and Its Audience.

At the Redlands Footlighters, the audience and the production always come first.

Number One Heritage Home of Redlands built in 1897, and known today as Kimberly Crest, the residence of Mrs. Elbert Shirk, has also been called The Castle on the Hill, and the French Chateau.

The interior settings were designed by Tiffanys of New York, and the lovely Italian gardens were planned by Mrs. Kimberly (Mrs. Shirk's mother) and Paul Howard.

Mrs. Shirk announced in 1968 that she intends to make a gift of the house to the people of Redlands, and that she hopes it will be preserved in its present state, as an example of the gracious living so characteristic of the turn of the century. (See page 136).

Should the Mill Creek Zanja of 1820 — San Bernardino Valley's oldest existing link with its historic past — be preserved as a beautiful meandering tree-lined stream in a greenbelt park or be converted into a straight and barren flood control channel?

A proposal for a Zanja Regional Park in the county area east of Redlands has been presented to the San Bernardino County Regional Parks Advisory Commission.

Proponents of the park plan include the Redlands City Park Commission which recently reaffirmed approval of a park along the Zanja from Sylvan Park, Redlands eastward, as indicated on the General Plan of the City of Redlands.

Encouraged by recent recognition of the Mill Creek Zanja as the oldest civil engineering project in Southern California (*Historic Civic Engineering Landmarks of Southern*

A Gift to Redlands' Citizens

by A.R. Schultz, Jr.

Future of the Mill Creek

Zanja by
Gertrude Hagum

*Greenbelt Project tour members
inspect the historic Mill Creek
Zanja east of Garnet Ave.,
Mentone, 1974.*



California by William A. Myers, 1974), the Redlands Area Historical Society is applying for inclusion of the Zanja in the National Register of Historic Places. Federal funding might supplement state, county and local funds for acquisition, preservation and enhancement. The Zanja is already recognized as California Historical Landmark No. 43.

The possibility that the Zanja might become a perennial stream as far as Sylvan Park by use of replenishment water from the California State Water Project is suggested in the Conceptual Plan for the Upper Santa Ana River Cooperative Water Project.

Recreational potential of the Zanja as a site for continuous hiking, bicycling and equestrian trails was noted on a Greenbelt Project bus tour when civic leaders viewed the Zanja from an area east of Garnet Avenue, Mentone, where it is last seen as a clear, rushing stream bordered by huge eucalyptus and sycamore trees, to the University of Redlands campus where 15 species of trees are among the 100 species of plants lining the banks along Sylvan Boulevard.

During the 155 years since Franciscan padres, Pedro Alvarez and Chief Solano directed Indians in construction of the twelve mile Zanja to bring irrigation water to the Indian village of Guachama and San Bernardino Mission Rancho (west of the Asistencia which was started ten years later), the Zanja has played a vital role in the history of the area.

Zanja water for crops, horses and cattle aided the Indians, the Jose del Carmen Lugo rancho, the Mormons, and other early settlers, including Anson Van Leuven, who planted the first orange grove east of Los Angeles.

In 1854, a water wheel on the Zanja at the Asistencia supplied power for Henry and Lewis Cram's furniture factory — the first in Southern California.

No longer needed as a source of domestic water or power, the Zanja's greatest value during the next 150 years might be as a rare oasis of natural beauty and tranquility in the midst of an urban environment. Wouldn't Pedro Alvarez and Chief Solano be surprised to learn that their Zanja could even become a link in the mighty California Water Project!