



The INNsider



MISSION INN FOUNDATION & MUSEUM

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3696 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92501

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Coming Events:

Holiday Party
Festival of Lights

Monday, December 11, 2006 6 p.m.
Through January 1, 2007

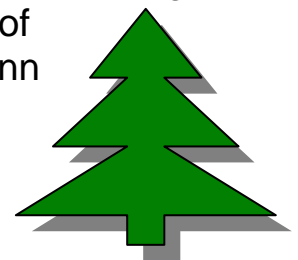
The holiday season is a vibrant time of the year for the Mission Inn, and it is proving to be a wonderful time to roll out the first round of enhancements to the Mission Inn Museum.

With our new array of gold, turquoise, and cranberry-red decking out the museum store section, visitors are given a warm greeting of color as they enter the museum. In the exhibit area, the Asian display has been moved to have a greater impact and visibility. (This also helps to avoid areas in the museum where we've had recurring water "challenges.") Other artifacts have also been repositioned, including the quilt honoring employees of the Mission Inn who served during World War I. The north and west walls of the museum exhibit area have also been re-painted.

Occasionally, I sit on a bench on the Pedestrian Mall and see how people are reacting to our new front window display, featuring a family holiday living room scene. Let me tell you, it's a show-stopper! The window display highlights the range of items we have available for purchase in the museum store, and it's done in such a warm way that it echoes Frank Miller's phrase included in the escutcheon, "*Entre, es su casa amigo.*"

The planning and completion of each of these changes comes from a real team effort on the part of the staff, with wonderful input from many of our volunteers. The same spirit of hospitality is, of course, a cornerstone of the docent program and the efforts of all our many volunteers. We wish you the best of holidays and we thank you for your contributions to the Mission Inn Foundation.

John Worden
Executive Director



Harold Bell Wright — Author's Row, Room 413

by Donna Grossman

Room 413 on Author's Row is dedicated to Harold Bell Wright, known as a "Popular California Writer."

Wright was not a native Californian, but was born in Rome, New York on May 4, 1872. His father was a former Civil War lieutenant and lifetime alcoholic dragging the family deep into a wretched poverty. However, his mother paid close attention to the children's moral principles and read to them from the Bible, Shakespeare, *The Pilgrim's Progress* and *Hiawatha*. From these teachings he learned to appreciate the beauties of nature and at a very early age begin to draw and paint.

When he was eleven years old, his mother died and his father abandoned the children. For the rest of his childhood, he lived with various relatives or strangers in Ohio. In his early teen years, he found odd jobs, slept under bridges or in haystacks. As an older teen, he worked as a house painter and even did some art work.

To further his education he attended Hiram College in Hiram, Ohio. He became a minister for the Christian Church in Pierce City, Missouri. He also pastored other churches in several towns in Missouri, Kansas and our own Redlands, California.

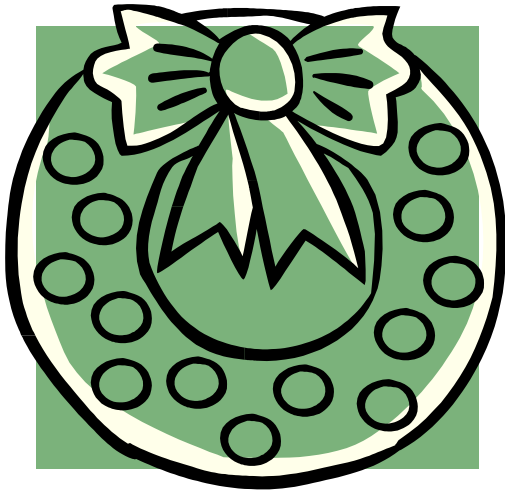
In 1902, while pastoring the Christian Church in Pittsburg, Kansas, he wrote a melodramatic story, *That Printer of Udell's*. He read this story to the congregation, one chapter each Sunday evening. It was enjoyed so much the parishioners encouraged him to publish it in book form.

Wright published his second book in 1907. *The Shepard of the Hills* established him as a best selling author. After the success of this book, he resigned as pastor of the Christian Church in Redlands and moved to a ranch near El Centro, devoting the rest of his life to writing popular stories. His most popular book, *The Winning of Barbara Worth*, written in 1912, is a historical novel set in the Imperial Valley.

In most of his novels, he attacked the hypocrisy and unpractical nature of popular churches, as he believed efforts to aid people in need were more important than sermons and doctrines. His third book, *The Calling of Dan Matthews*, (published in 1909), resulted in pastors across the country to be incensed. Even so, the book sold over a million copies. Wright never responded to all the criticism, except to say his only purpose was to minister to ordinary people. Wright's total books sales were never equaled by another author until some 30 years later, by Earl Stanley Gardner.

He wrote a total of 19 books, several stage plays and many magazines articles from 1902 through 1942. It is claimed that more than 21 movies were made from Wright's stories, including *The Winning of Barbara Worth*, with Gary Cooper in 1926 and *The Shepard Of The Hills*, starring John Wayne in 1941.

Wright lived mostly in Tucson, Arizona from 1916 to 1935, but moved to his "Quiet Hills Farm" near Escondido, living there until his death in 1944. Regardless of the city he called home, he would travel to places he wanted to write about and spend months at a time. His travels included Riverside and the Mission Inn. I could find no record of the exact time, except that he was a personal friend of Frank Miller and visited the Inn on numerous occasions.



Happy Holidays from the Staff
of the Mission Inn Foundation

HOLIDAY PARTY REMINDER

The invitations for the Docent Holiday Party have been mailed. The deadline for reservations is December 4th. We are anticipating a very pleasant and entertaining evening. If you have not received an invitation and would like to attend, please contact, no later than December 4th, either:

Gretchen Cheney 683-4995
Donna Grossman 684-1212

The Washington Navel Or Riverside Orange

*The following article was written in the Riverside Press & Horticulturist Paper
Saturday, May 27, 1882. I.M. Holt was the Editor.*

The impetus which the introduction of varieties, specially suited to the climate of California, has lately given to orange culture in the State is something marvelous. To judge from the success already achieved in Orange culture, and the almost limitless resources for its extension, the time cannot be far when the "Golden State" will flood the world with shiploads of her golden fruits, bringing pleasure and delight to many hearts and more wealth to herself than all her golden shores.

Oranges have even grown in California from the time of its first settlement, but none of the varieties seemed to possess sufficient superiority over import fruit to make their cultivation on a large scale very profitable. In 1873 the Agricultural Department at Washington imported several orange trees from Bahia, Brazil. One of these was sent to Mrs. L.C. Tibbets, of Riverside, Cal, who distributed some of the buds among a few friends. But little attention was paid to the original trees nor to its offsprings until 1879, when some of the fruits were exhibited. Their beautiful color, peculiar form and excellent quality attracted immediate attention and stimulated its propagation. It was named "Washington Navel," to distinguish it from the "Australian Navel," introduced about the same time. The latter is distinctly ribbed lengthwise, of light color and inferior quality, while the "Washington is smooth, of a golden bronze tint and a fine textured, satin-like skin; its flavor is delicious, somewhat like a combination of the best qualities of the Messina and Florida oranges, and the fruit has the additional advantage of having no seeds.

Ever since the "Washington Navel", or "Riverside", as it is now christened after the place of its adoption, made its first debut, it has eclipsed all competitors, and has taken first premiums where ever exhibited. The accompanying illustration (not shown) is an exact representation of one of the premium oranges, which, together with other prize fruits of the Citrus Fair at Riverside were exhibited at our office last month, when they attracted considerable attention, especially the magnificent specimens of Navel oranges from Mr. James Bettner and from Mr. T.W. Cover, which prominent fruit-dealers declared to be the finest oranges they had ever seen.

The above is a brief but very correct history of the Washington or Riverside Navel orange as taken from the American Garden Paper published in New York by B.K. Hills & Son.

What Do Giant Oranges and Eliza Tibbetts Have in Common?

A lot, or so it would seem!

By Kathy Allavie

Mission Inn Docent and
Chairwoman of the Giant Orange ArtVenture

Most of you have seen the handful of Giant Oranges that were scattered across downtown Riverside sidewalks over the summer. They were a part of the "Giant Orange ArtVenture", a community-art project and fundraiser sponsored by the Art Alliance of the Riverside Art Museum. Of the 32 artist-inspired giant sculptures, one stands out from the rest due to the interesting history it portrays, reaching all the way back to Eliza Tibbetts and the very first navel orange tree in Riverside.

The Giant Orange in front of the Metropolitan Museum (yes, it will stay there) was designed and painted by a San Diego artist named Patricia Ortlieb. Patricia's orange highlights a beautiful portrait of Eliza Tibbetts as well as an interesting map, which shows the voyage of Eliza's first orange tree in 1874. It is a fitting tribute to one of Riverside's earliest residents and, as it turns out, an ancestor of Patricia's. This is her story...

Eliza Lovell Tibbetts

By Patricia Ortlieb and Jane Lawrence

This past June my grandchildren and I had the pleasure of participating in the "Giant Orange ArtVenture", creating an orange that celebrated both the city and our family's history. Eliza Lovell Tibbetts, the woman responsible for bringing the navel orange to Riverside, was my great-great-grandmother. My own grandmother (Clara Tibbetts Summons) taught me about her Grandmother Eliza when I was a young girl. When my granddaughter, Eleanor Brown, learned about Eliza Tibbetts in her 4th grade California history course, I told her the family stories.

Grandmother Clara's life was as circumscribed as Eliza's was adventurous. She was born in Riverside and died in Lake Elsinore. We always met at her house because she never left it. Everything—food, company, clothes, etc.—was brought to her there. When I visited I would follow her out to her aviary where she would tell me about her Grandmother Eliza who had painted her life with a broader brush and a much larger palette.

Eliza Maria Lovell lived in a time of change. She was the product of two old Massachusetts families; her ancestry traced back to the Mayflower. When the Northwest Territory was opened for settlement, the Lovell's packed up their family and traveled from Boston by covered wagon and flatboat to the tiny village of Losantiville (later Porkopolis, then Cincinnati). Eliza was born in 1824. Her family helped build churches, schools, libraries, neighborhoods and Spring Grove Cemetery. By the middle of the century, Eliza's family was socially prominent in Cincinnati, and the Civil War had made Cincinnati nationally prominent.

Eliza married Luther Tibbetts and moved to New York so that Jimmy, her only surviving child, could attend school. Jimmy enlisted in the Union Army, serving three years, and when he mustered out, the family moved to Washington D.C.. It was there they heard of a new community in California and decided to become one of the first homesteaders in Rancho Jurupa.

Initially Eliza and Jimmy's wife, Harriet, stayed behind. Eliza not only cared for her granddaughter, Daisy, but also an adopted African-American child, Nicy, who was probably one of the thousands of children displaced by the Civil War. Eliza was part of an activist group of women doctors, lawyers and socialites who campaigned hard for "woman's suffrage" and social change. It was during this time she met with William Saunders at the Experimental Gardens and discussed new plants he was importing. He agreed to ship her in California some experimental oranges he was working on. This was the unique Bahia navel orange that would change the economy of Riverside and California.

When the women joined the men in Riverside, life was difficult. Like her mother before her, Eliza set out to build a city out of the dusty town. Fortunately Saunders was good to his word, and the Bahia oranges arrived. Grandmother Clara confirmed to me the lore that she and her brothers carried dishpans full of water out to the small orange trees. The Tibbetts Family sold buds from the original trees to horticulturists throughout the valley. Within a few years, Riverside's economy was thriving. The oranges led to new roads, new packing inventions, a new rail line, immigration and a new appetite for oranges throughout the country.

Eliza was a marvelous grandmother who was adored by her daughter-in-law, Harriet, and granddaughter Daisy. Sadly, Harriet lived only a short time after moving to Riverside and a few years later Daisy drowned during a flash flood in the Santa Ana River. Clara, my grandmother, was the first daughter of Jimmy's second marriage, and especially precious to Eliza, after the many tragedies she had suffered.

As I was painting my Giant Orange, Eliza's Journey became very personal to me, especially when I painted her portrait. Now that I am a grandmother myself, it has become very important to me to pass on the stories of this unique woman.

SAM AND ALFREDA MALOOF FOUNDATION FOR ARTS AND CRAFTS

Gretchen Cheney, Special Events Committee

Thirty-one docents and guests got into eight cars driven by our very own folks for a wonderful day in Rancho Cucamonga. Our final destination was to the Sam Maloof Museum. We all gathered outside the Mission Inn (promptly, I might add) to drive the freeways to the Soup Plantation for lunch. No one got lost, everyone had a wonderful meal and plenty of conversation over lunch. I hadn't been to a Soup Plantation for probably 15-20 years, and was surprised at such a wonderful and tasty spread of food (they even had senior discounts). After our leisurely lunch we once again boarded our vehicles and drove to the Sam Maloof Museum just two miles away. We were greeted by our friendly docents for a one hour guided tour of the gardens, and then a two hour guided tour of the home and museum of Sam Maloof. (All this for only \$15.) We even caught a glimpse of 'the Maloof' himself.

I think we all agreed that it was a wonderful, well-spent day.

Look for our next exciting trip early next year!



JOANN MARTIN

By Dauris Slaughter

Volunteers are the special ingredient that helps make the Mission Inn Museum run smoothly. Joann Martin has been a dedicated Museum volunteer for two years and loves it.

She is a Native Californian and believes California is a wonderful place to live. When she was a teenager, she was a self-proclaimed beach rat. She and her friends caught a bus to the beach in Santa Monica Beach, every morning during the summer, while in high school. Makes one wonder how we survived without sun screen, using baby oil or cocoa butter.

Joann's Grandmother made a huge impression on her. "She was just wonderful and had common sense. I really admired her." Joann has two girls, four grandchildren and has one great grandchild. When asked what her passion in life has been, she said without a moment's hesitation, "raising my children to be happy and responsible citizens." She has a wonderful family, whom she adores, and shared she has accomplished many of her life's goals. Congratulations!

Joann and her family loved to go camping. It was a joy to have their girls away from TV and making their own entertainment. Her husband and kids would go fishing at the Kern River..... very early....without her. Her comment regarding the catch was: "He caught it, he cleaned it, he cooked it!" They all enjoyed fish for breakfast!.

When Joann lived in the valley, she worked in a hospital as administrative assistant for many years. She laughed and shared that the hospital did not install air conditioning in the restrooms, so that the staff would not linger!

Joann lived in Arrowhead for several years and volunteered at their Library with the Literacy Program and one of her special memories was when she was working with a young family man from Mexico. He was studying for his GED....passed it one year later and is now studying for his contractor license. She truly admires him.

She and her husband loved to travel. As an example, they enjoyed Alaska, Mexico City, the New England Fall Tour, and Williamsburg. Mount Rushmore in South Dakota was an emotional visit....both day and night. She recalled the beauty of turning all the lights off at night and while playing the National anthem, the faces of the four presidents were illuminated one by one, starting with President Washington...."there wasn't a dry eye in the crowd". We are so blessed to live in America. Her latest trip was to Branson. Have you ever noticed how much docents and museum volunteers love to travel?

Joann moved to Riverside to be near her daughters. Most of her friends are still in the Valley and she travels back and forth a lot. After living here a short while, her friends came from the valley to visit and they took a tour of the Mission Inn... while enjoying the tour she kept thinking this would be a fun place to work. And here she is!

She loves to relax with a book. You may have surmised that reading is her comfort. She not only volunteers at the Mission Inn but also enjoys working with the Friends of the Library in Marcy Library on Central...and is presently Recording Secretary. She is there when the books come in and somehow always comes home with three or four books. On a good day, she controls herself and brings home two.

Joann shared she is not a tour lady as she has trouble speaking in front of people. "Volunteering in the museum gives me the opportunity to work with the docents and tour guests, which I thoroughly enjoy. It is also a pleasure to work with Sharla." We docents thoroughly appreciate her volunteering in the Museum. It is a joy to see her smiling face behind the desk when we enter the Museum.

Taking Care of Business

One of the most important ingredients to the success of the Docent Program is its structure, and the ability of the Docent Association to manage its activities. The Policies and Procedures of the Docent Association are an integral part of this management structure, and they are reviewed every 3 years or as needed.

The glorious task of review fell to Cora Lee Brown, who was at the time a member of the Docent Council. She chaired an ad hoc review committee, and they began their work in 2005. By May 2006, the proposed revisions to the Policies and Procedures had been approved by the Docent Council.

Now, we need to finish the task by sharing the proposed changes with all members of the Docent Association in good standing. The changes are inserted in your INNSider. A comment period has been set, from the period between the distribution of the INNSider in early December and the January 8 Docent Council meeting. Any member of the Docent Association may forward written comment to the attention of John Worden, Executive Director, by January 5, 2007. If any member of the Docent Association wishes to appear before the Docent Council to make their comments in person, then they need to provide notice of their intent to John Worden by December 22, 2006.

We thank you in advance for your participation in this process, and we are grateful for the leadership of Cora Lee Brown and the members of the ad hoc review committee.

Historian's Plea

The Historian Committee would greatly appreciate any articles, flyers or photos on events concerning the Mission Inn Foundation this fiscal year (July 1 2006 thru June 30, 2007).

Should you have anything you think pertinent for the Memory book, please drop it at the Museum desk to my attention.

Thank you.

Donna Grossman,
Historian Chair

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Your membership support is essential to our purpose of preserving the unique collections of the Mission Inn and helping others to learn about this extraordinary site. We invite you to join us in supporting this historic landmark. Please remember that members are entitled to a free museum publication and a 10% savings on Museum Store purchases. We ask that all volunteers with the Mission Inn Foundation & Museum maintain a current membership. Membership is for a year from renewal date - \$15.00. Please send your check payable to the Mission Inn Foundation, 3696 Main Street, Riverside 92501. **Questions about your membership status? Call Virginia, (951) 781-8241 Also please review your mailing label for accuracy. Include any necessary changes. THANK YOU!**

Name:	Date:
Address:	
City/Zip:	
Phone:	E-mail:

Mission Inn Foundation - Mission Statement

The Mission Inn Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the public trust in the Mission Inn, a privately-owned National Historic Landmark hotel in Riverside, California. The Foundation interprets and promotes the cultural and social significance of the Inn and its collection within the context of local, regional and national history.

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The INNsider Volunteer Newsletter

*Mission Inn Foundation & Museum
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