



# The INNsider



**MISSION INN FOUNDATION & MUSEUM**

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3696 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92501

**No. 98**

**February/March 2007**

## Coming Events:

Docent of the Year Nominations Deadline  
Huntington Library Trip  
Volunteer Recognition/Docent Graduation

February 28, 2007  
March 24, 2007  
April 18, 2007

## Huntington Library

The Special Events Committee is pleased to announce an upcoming trip to the world famous Huntington Library in Pasadena. Reservations have been secured for Saturday, March 24, 2007. There will be a one-hour, docent-led tour beginning at 10:30 am. Following the tour you are encouraged to explore the gardens, art galleries, and the library exhibition hall, as well as to take time out for a nice lunch in their on-site café. Lunch will be on your own. We will depart the Mission Inn on the 6th street side at 9am. If all goes well, we should return to the Inn by 4pm.

The Huntington Library, Art Collection, and Botanical Gardens are an educational and research institution established by Henry E. Huntington, friend, colleague and mentor of Frank A. Miller. The Library contains a collection of over 1 million rare books and approximately 6.5 million manuscripts. The Art Collection consists of 18th & 19th century British and French Artists, including "The Blue Boy." The Botanical Gardens cover 120 acres, with over a dozen theme gardens; the Japanese Garden, the Rose Garden, and the Shakespeare Garden, just to name a few.

We plan to car-pool to this event, since carpooling to our previous event was deemed successful. Of course, we again will hope for volunteers to drive. Cost will be \$22.00/person, which includes admission to the Library and a contribution to your driver. This is an event you definitely do not want to miss.

Flyers and reservation forms are available at the rear of the Museum desk. All reservations must be in no later than March 5, 2007.

Gretchen Cheney, Chair  
Events Committee

## New Merchandise

Sharla Wright, Museum Store Manager, recently added several new items, including fine art wrought iron by Bushere & Son Iron Studio. Using the ancient tradition of blacksmithing, the father and son team create an assortment of functional objects for Spanish and Bungalow style homes. They work closely with several of the foremost ceramic artists in the United States. They have designed one-of a kind iron and tile pieces for our museum store. A new magnet featuring the Raincross is another addition, as well as one-of-a kind stationary and bookmarks created by Mission Inn Foundation Curator of Education Vicki Kelley.

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## Holiday Party – 2006

**Ho! Ho! Ho!** What a jolly time of the year for the 144 Docents, Museum Assistants, Docents in Training, Staff, and Guests at the annual Holiday Party on December 11, 2006.

**The Hall** (Music Room) was decked with beautiful decorations of the Season, including the festive center pieces designed by Brightie Dunn and made by her committee.

**Where's The Beef?** We had it, or a delicious vegetarian cuisine. Dinner, of course, was superb from the catering staff of the Mission Inn. Kudos to the banquet captain and his staff for the excellent service they provided.

**Over 40 Gifts** (door prizes) were opened with glee as each winner was announced. They were certainly a wonderful assortment of gifts donated by local merchants.

**THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT !!!!** Joe Tater's nightclub act was most entertaining, with impressions, jokes, piano playing, and getting the audience involved in holiday sing-alongs. Rumor has it, Joe was discovered playing in a small nightclub several years back by Danny Barger (husband of Barbara Burns) before either Joe or Danny were 21 years of age. How about an encore for December 2007?

**Congratulations** and **Thanks** go to Gretchen Cheney and the Special Events Committee for all the work and planning in making it such a great party.

Donna Grossman

## LOOK FOR UPCOMING EVENT

The Special Events Committee is looking forward to announce a very special trip to Village Rockledge in Laguna Beach. This is the home Frank Miller built in 1917 for his second wife, Marion Clark Miller.

When arrangements have been finalized with Mr. & Mrs. Roger Jones, the present owners, the information will be published in the INNSider and flyers and reservation forms will be in the Museum.

Gretchen Cheney,  
Special Events Chair

## The Class of 2007

Wednesday, April 18, 2007 will mark the 20<sup>th</sup> class of Docents in Training to graduate. The Class of 2007 is approximately 30 strong.

This class has a wide range of ages, from the early twenties upward to it is not polite to ask. Of course all have a deep interest in the Mission Inn and its history. There are a few who have a more personal interest as some of their families have had direct connection with the Inn from years past. Everyone can look forward to hearing some interesting stories never before told on tours from this new class of docents.

The curriculum has been enhanced this year with lectures from such experts as Vince Moses, Retired Director of the Riverside Metropolitan Museum, with his stories of the starting of the orange industry and special tidbits on Frank Miller in the early days. Bob Bower's lecture on "The Ugly Years" was most interesting as he served on the Riverside City council during those years. Of course the continued research of Steve Lech, Jerry Gordon and the newly formed Research Committee have also been a tremendous part of the training. Barbara Burns has been a guiding force in organizing and coordinating this part of the program.

Not only will the 2007 graduates receive their diplomas and badges, but 10 docents will be recognized for 20 years service and will receive their service pins as such. They deserve a very special "Thanks" for hanging in there all these years.

This year marks yet another milestone, as 2006 is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the forming of the Mission Inn Foundation. I believe there isn't one of us that will not be forever grateful to those founding members. Those founders have forever preserved the legends and the history that made those legends of this unique historical landmark.

Donna Grossman

# Mission Inn Foundation and Museum



## Nomination Form

for

### DOCENT-OF-THE-YEAR

**TO:** The Docent Council

**FROM:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Print Name)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Telephone Number)

Docent

DIT

Staff

\_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

I am nominating the following Docent for recognition by the Mission Inn Foundation as Docent-of-the-Year:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name of Nominee)

The outstanding achievements and/or attributes that qualify this nominee for Docent-of-the-Year include the following:

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**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Nominations for Docent-of-the-Year must be submitted before March 1<sup>st</sup> and must include a paragraph describing the achievements and/or attributes qualifying the nominee for this important award. All nominations will be reviewed by the Docent Council. Up to ten of the most worthy candidates will be placed on a ballot. An election will be conducted by secret ballot at the March All-Docent Meeting and the winner announced at the annual Graduation and Volunteer Recognition event in April.*

## Ongoing Quest for Knowledge & Understanding

By Steve Spiller

The accompanying article (*C. C. Miller Purchased the Glenwood Block*) is presented as an example of the recently established History Research Committee's efforts. Does it change what we have understood for many years? Definitely! Does it lessen the importance of C. C. Miller's acquisition of the property? No! The two transactions and the amounts paid, provide us with a better understanding of land values in the context of Riverside in the late 1870s and an improved understanding of Miller family history.

The History Research committee was established as an ad hoc subcommittee under the auspices of the Education Committee of the Foundation's Board of Directors. Providing the impetus for the committee's formation was local historian and fellow docent **Steve Lech**. The purpose of the committee is to provide assistance to Mission Inn Foundation staff to research and document the accuracy of the historic material related to the Mission Inn. Very little of the information learned and given on tours is fully documented.

The challenge of history documentation extends beyond the tour program. Our exhibits, programs, and special projects, such as our extensive education-focused website project, all require the utmost care in verifying and documenting the information that we then share with the public.

Riverside is extremely fortunate. The writings of several researchers are available in various formats, including books and journals. Perhaps it began with Tom Patterson and Esther Klotz. Today, the "historian community" is much larger. The Mission Inn Foundation's History Research committee is part of this expanding community, a community with energy, commitment, knowledge, and experience. It is a privilege for me to serve as the committee chair and draw upon my own professional experience and academic training in public history. Those participating in this great effort are **Cheryl Condor, Ursula Dube, Jerry Gordon, Doug Hargis, Maurice Hodgen, Steve Lech, Robyn Rogers, Dauris Slaughter, and Deane Wylie.**

The work of the committee "raises the bar" for the Foundation and adds to our integrity as the museum interpreting the history of the National Historic Landmark site. The review and validation of the committee's work is an essential part of the overall process. Executive Director John Worden has directed me to seek input from the academic and local community in further refining the review process of the historic research conducted under the auspices of the Mission Inn Foundation.

Once the review process of the research is determined, we also need to plan how the information will be distributed. The distribution plan must be signed off by the executive director, but I will work to gather ideas to propose. Publishing the new materials in the INNsider is one of several ideas under consideration.

We acknowledge that historical research is an ongoing effort. Discovery of new material, even if it changes our understanding, is a good thing. We also acknowledge and look forward to the lively discussions certain to develop, resulting from the committee's diligent efforts.

## C. C. Miller Purchased the Glenwood Block

From the beginnings of the docent program, we have heard told the tale of how C.C. Miller came to Riverside, worked for the town, and received the family's block of land upon which the Mission Inn now sits in lieu of some \$325 in back wages owed to him. Although the story is quaint, research revealed a more reasonable and documented account.

First of all, the deed books in the San Bernardino County archives tell a different story. On January 23, 1877, the Southern California Colony Association under S. C. Evans sold to both C. C. Miller and G. O. Newman "Block 6, Range 6, of the Town of Riverside" (i.e. the Mission Inn block) for \$250 - the fair market price for entire blocks in downtown Riverside at that time (San Bernardino Deed Book R, p. 485). On August 29, 1879, C. C. Miller bought from G. O. Newman and Mary Emma Newman "Block 6, Range 6, of the Town of Riverside." Miller paid his daughter and son-in-law \$3280 for it (San Bernardino Deed Book 21, p. 79).

Secondly, there are two contemporary accounts that both indicate that C. C. Miller paid for the lot. In the Riverside *Enterprise* of July 7, 1907, under the heading of "Tales of Pioneer Days," Edward Miller, brother of Frank Miller, discusses his earliest memories of Riverside. In it, he states that "The property where the Glenwood now stands was then only wild grass, and I remember there were two cow paths running diagonally across the block. My father and G. O. Newman bought the property the next year for \$250." In addition, from the notes of James Roe, pioneer Riversider who compiled a series of notes and brief discussions of early Riverside, comes "This spring (1874) came C. C. Miller, surveying for the Tin Company, in the fall his family arrived, consisting of Frank A., Ed E., Miss Emma - now Mrs. G. O. Newman, and Miss Alice - now Mrs. F. W. Richardson. The Miller family lived for some time in the Deere Cottage on Seventh Street, then, in 1875, *having bought their present location* (emphasis added); the original Glenwood hotel was built."

Although C.C. Miller receiving the property, in lieu of work, is a nice story, it a story not substantiated by the research.

## Robyne Williams

By Dauris Slaughter

If you would happen to be at the Mission Inn when Robyne is giving her tour, you might have the fun of seeing her in the persona of Mary Clark Miller leading her tour guests. When our past chair of the Docent Council, Michele Lufkin, encouraged docents to dress as an early notable of the Inn for a special celebration, Robyne dressed as Mrs. Miller and has continued in that vein and her guests love it. The tour is given in the first person as Mrs. Miller. Among other tidbits, she tells her guests about her son Frank's promise to her if he could quit school. (No drinking, smoking, bad language and continue to study with the school teacher, Isabella, who was boarding with them.) *"You have to entertain when you educate."*

She loves giving tours during the holidays and having big groups. She has done a lot of public speaking, plus teaching supervisory training and has been in management over 25 years. Robyne is very comfortable speaking in front of a large group of people. *"My natural progression was to give tours, plus I love to follow."*

Robyne was born in Kentucky and moved to Calgary, Canada living there for twelve years until she attended Washington State University majoring in psychology, graduating with a Liberal Arts Major. Upon graduation, she obtained a position working for the Social Security Administration in Seattle. Robyne and her husband's jobs necessitated a series of transfers such as Bakersfield, San Francisco, Baltimore, and San Diego before moving to Riverside County in 1987. Robyne and Gene, her husband, have been married for 33 years.

Another of her loves is exercise, which gives her a creative outlet. She has led group exercise classes over 20 years. Robyne shared she has met thousands of people teaching and always sees people she knows. She has been the group exercise director at her health club for over five years, overseeing and coordinating their group exercise program.

Robyne is not a lady who rests on her laurels! She decided to walk into the Museum one spring and talked to Allene regarding the docent program. Before she left, Allene had invited her to work in the Museum until the docent training started in September 2002. As we all know, her involvement didn't end in the Museum, as she graduated in the Centennial Class of 2003. She really enjoys working in the Museum, seeing fellow docents, meeting the public and giving tours. *"It has added a new and enjoyable aspect to my life. I have met great people and have had fascinating experiences."*

It was through being a docent and becoming acquainted with Caroline Grant, Sue Cullen and Shannon Kocourek, (many thanks noted), that she has become involved with the Dickens Festival. She enthusiastically said, *"It opened another world. It is like Frank's River of Life, you get involved in things you didn't imagine before. One thing leads to another. It's nice to push yourself to do things you aren't comfortable with"*. Her immediate goal is to be instrumental in putting on an entertaining and educational fashion show. Her thanks go to Dicken's Board Members and members, as well as volunteers who are working diligently to make the festival and fashion show the best ever. She enjoys the Dickens Festival remarking, *"That's going to be fun!"* (No slacker here!)

She has also impersonated Betty Davis at the Mayor's Ball...as they had a Hollywood theme. The following year she was Granny, of the Beverly Hillbillies, with Doug Hargis as her grandson Jethro. Merwyn Schwartz was her son. She also is active in her church. She helps organize and cook for the hot meal program which feeds approximately 100 homeless every Sunday evening. Dozens of other members participate in this endeavor.

Robyn is a passionate traveler saying, *"I have been in more countries than I would like to list"*. She has visited over 65 countries and hopes to visit 100 countries in her lifetime and then be a member of the 100 Country Club. After concluding this interview, she and her husband were off to London for five nights to celebrate her husband's birthday.

Robyn is proof positive of the saying *"If something needs to be done, ask a busy person."* She is truly a delightful, inspiring and hard working addition to our Docent Family.

Robyne smilingly shared, *"I have a great life and love what I do"*.

## FRIENDS, ROMANS & COUNTRYMEN

### *Translation:*

### **Docents, DITS, Museum Ass'ts & Staff**

Lend me your ears, (*Translation: Listen to me please!*) the time has come to apply for the next Docent Council (2007-2008). If you are interested *in serving on the Docent Council* (*Translation: You have an opinion and want it to be heard*) please complete an application. Forms may be obtained from the Museum desk. Send it to the attention of John Worden by February 28, 2007. Docents in Training, who will graduate in April 2007, may also apply (*Translation: Yes, we like to add "new blood" to the mix*). There will be five openings for new council members.

AND the time has come to speak of many things, (*Translation: Pay attention or you might miss something!*) of cabbages and kings and Docent of the Year. Rules have changed this year in the voting, see your 2006 Policies & Procedures, (*Translation: actually open it up and read it – don't just keep it in the drawer*).

Nominations will be accepted from **docents** and **staff members** in the form of a paragraph describing outstanding achievements or attributes qualifying nominees for consideration. All nominations should be sent to the attention of John Worden by February 28, 2007.

**To be or not to be, that is the question:** Actually it is two questions 2 questions you need to ask yourself.

1. Do I have qualifications to contribute to the docent program by becoming a member of the Docent Council? If your answer is "yes", complete that application.
2. Do I know of a docent who is outstanding and deserves to be named Docent of the Year? Again, if your answer is "yes," write that paragraph.

Both of the above are very important in maintaining the high quality of the docent program we now have. (*Translation: If we want to stay great, we need your participation and help*).

Donna Grossman  
INNSider 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  
3696 Main Street  
Riverside, CA 92501*

The MISSION INN MUSEUM is open daily

9:30 am to 4:00 pm

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