



The INNsider



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Showing how to dramatize what he did

By Dauris Slaughter
Class of 1999

Emily McEwen, the Mission Inn Foundation's new Curator of History, put in some long days – and nights – getting the museum's new exhibit ready to go: "Dramatize What You Do," taking one of Frank Miller's favorite mottoes for the theme of the show that opened Nov. 13.

The exhibit, which runs through Feb. 15, puts a selection of the hotel's unique marketing materials on display, showing how Miller was able to make what began as a small adobe boarding house into one of the premier hotels in the country.

Emily, who grew up in Longview, Wash., a town of about 35,000 at the junction of the Cowlitz and Columbia rivers in the southwest area of the state, came to California in 2001 to attend Whittier College. She graduated in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in history and French. She went home for a year and worked at the Cowlitz County Historical Museum as the programming and exhibits assistant. During that time she applied to seven graduate schools to continue her studies in history, and was accepted by Oregon, South Carolina, Georgia, Vermont, Maryland, Cornell and UCR; she chose Riverside.

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Save the date: Dec. 8 is the holiday party

Invitations are out for the Docent & Volunteer Holiday Gala, set for Monday, Dec. 8 in the Music Room of the Inn. Events Chair David St. Pierre said the theme is "Steppin' Out for the Holidays," and while the invitations show a top hat and cane with a black-and-white theme, David said business attire is fine – white tie optional. There will be music and entertainment and a menu featuring prime rib (with a vegetarian option). Cost is \$36, with reservations due in the museum by Dec. 1.

Showing how to dramatize what he did

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"It was my first choice, since they offer a top-rated public history program and have broad coursework in museum studies, historic preservation and archival management," she said – all of which dovetail nicely into her work at the Mission Inn.

"In order to complete your master's degree in the UCR Public History Program, you have to complete an internship," Emily said. "I contacted Steve [Spiller, museum and collections manager] about possibly doing a summer internship at the Mission Inn Museum – the Mission Inn seemed like such an interesting place and because many other public history students have done their internships at the museum."

She started her internship in June 2007, working about 25 hours a week at the museum until the beginning of September 2007.

"Toward the end of my internship, John [Worden, Foundation executive director] asked if I would be interested in coming to work as the museum's curator of history. I said that I was definitely interested!"

She started in February, working two days a week so she could finish her coursework for a master's degree, write a thesis and work as a UCR teaching assistant, since she was obligated to do that for a year under her fellowship.

Now she's working on her doctorate, which she figures will take another three years.

"The staff was so understanding and flexible while I finished my master's," Emily said, "allowing me time off when I needed more time to write my thesis." Now that she's no longer working as a teaching assistant, she puts in 3 1/2 days a week at the museum.

"This is a really great job for me, because I have the opportunity to do so many varied tasks. Many people right out of graduate school do not get curatorial jobs, so this is such a great opportunity."

And the staff returns the compliments.



"It's a pleasure to work with Emily," Spiller said. "Despite her relatively short time in the museum profession, she has an extraordinary understanding of museum 'culture' and the assortment of skills and knowledge required when working for a small and successful institution."

Her general good nature and upbeat personality has also made her a favorite with museum volunteers and docents.

"She always has time to say a few words – and to listen! It's just a pleasure to talk to her," said one of the regular museum volunteers.

In her spare time (and we wonder how she manages any), Emily loves to crochet – she's currently working on a cardigan -- and spends time with her UCR friends. Last summer, Emily and her mother traveled to Konstanz, Germany, on the western end of Lake Constance, to visit her sister, Katie, who was living there while doing research for her doctoral dissertation in German literature. Emily loves to travel, especially after having spent six months studying in Paris in 2003 as an undergraduate.

She's also a musician, playing the clarinet in the UCR orchestra during the 2006-07 school year. Since then her studies have co-opted her orchestral time and she hasn't been able to continue with that.

You collect *what*?

Calling All Collectors! drew about 50 people to a three-hour program at the hotel Nov. 2.

The open-house event, organized by History Curator Emily McEwen and held in the San Diego Room, asked collectors to bring examples from their collections for display and discussion. There were prizes for the items from farthest away, for the best story of how an item was obtained and for the collection deemed unique.

Items included Olympic memorabilia, owls, spoons and sewing scissors, steel mesh purses, pins and beer steins. The farthest-flung award went to Olympic collectors who traveled to China; in the unique category, winner was the collector of steel mesh purses; best story went to Corrine, a parking attendant in the Mission Inn garage, who collects pins – during an Angels playoff game, she had to fight off the mob when Angels staff threw pins to the crowd.

"It was a really fun event," Emily said. "I definitely want to do it again next year."

New: Perimeter tours – with headsets

Beginning Nov. 28 and lasting through Dec. 27, the Foundation will offer Christmas Season Perimeter Tours, special 45-minute walking excursions that will start and end at the museum on Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 6 and 7 p.m.

Each tour will be limited to 15 guests, at a cost of \$5 apiece. Docents will be outfitted with “walkie-talkie” radio headsets and speak to tour guests wearing headsets – a system used in



outdoor settings at museums like the Getty Villa in Malibu. The advantage to the docent is that he or she doesn't have to speak at full volume in order to be heard; for the guests, they won't have to be especially close to the docent in order to hear

what's being said. Now, will the devices work? Stay tuned.

Holiday Party: Docent & Volunteer Holiday Gala, Dec 8, 5:45 p.m., Music Room; RSVPs due by Dec. 1 (see Page 1).

Silent movie: Friends of the Mission Inn will offer a classic silent movie comedy, with accompaniment by Bob Salisbury on the Mission Inn pipe organ, Sunday, Feb. 1, at 4 p.m. Carol Krieger, president of the Friends (and a Mission Inn docent) said the film title has not yet been chosen.

Getty Villa trip: Bus trip to the Getty Villa, Malibu, on Saturday, Feb. 21, 8:30 a.m.- 4 p.m., with price to be determined.

Ramona Pageant: Car-pool trip to Hemet for the annual Ramona Pageant, Sunday, April 19, for a 4-6:30 p.m. show. Price of \$45 will include lunch and prime seating,

Docent graduation: Graduation for the class of 2008 and volunteer recognition will be Tuesday, April 21, in the Music Room.

Another possible event is a tour of the old Norconian Resort in Norco, possibly in mid-January or late spring of next year.

The resort is the subject of an Arcadia book on sale in the museum shop: “The Norconian Resort,” by Kevin Bash and Brigitte Jouxtel.

Steve Lech contributes to Eastwood's “Changeling”

One of our most prolific authors, Steve Lech, has again shared his knowledge of Riverside County by serving as a consultant on the Clint Eastwood movie “Changeling,” released at the end of October.

The film, based on a true story from 1928, tells of a mother (played by Angelina Jolie) driven to confront a corrupt Los Angeles Police Department after her abducted son is supposedly found – only the boy returned to her is not the child she gave birth to.

A central event in the story is a horrifying crime that takes place on a chicken ranch in a community called Wineville, in the Rubidoux area. The crime became known as the “chicken coup murders.”

Lech, who has been researching county history for three decades, has written five books and has taught adult classes at RCC on Riverside County history. A popular lecturer on county history, he has helped train Mission Inn docents.

Eastwood's production company contacted him when they started work on “Changeling,” Lech said. Producers asked if he had any information



Steve Lech at docent training.

they could use. As it turned out, Lech had a copy of the trial transcript.

After their initial inquiry, Lech again started researching

the incident. He was hired as a consultant and said he “was very busy in the spring and summer of 2007” working on the movie. The production team (about six people) traveled to Riverside when they were scouting a site for filming, after Lech told them where the crime had occurred.

(The title, “Changeling,” comes from an old European belief that fairies could steal human babies and substitute one of their own, and that the child would never thrive.)

The Los Angeles Times wrote about the case in an Oct. 31, 2004, column on local history by Cecilia Rasmussen. She quotes Riverside's John Gabbert, the now 99-year-old retired judge who was featured in the August/September issue of *The INNsider*.

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Now in the museum: More books

The museum store offers much more than before, you'll discover soon if you haven't been in recently. New lighting, more floor space for displays – and many books not previously in stock, among other things for sale.

Store Manager Sharla Wright listed a few of the new-to-the-store titles – so check your holiday lists and see if some of these might fit your prospective recipients (and remember, you get a docent discount).

Among the titles not previously stocked (or recently replenished):

California Romantica: Spanish Colonial and Mission-Style Houses, by D.J. Waldie, Diane Keaton, Lisa Hardaway and Paul Hester (Rizzoli, 2007).

Store Manager Sharla Wright and the Museum's new look.

Rarely seen residences of the California Mission and Spanish Colonial styles by such noted architects as George Washington Smith, Wallace Neff, Richard Requa, Lilian Rice and Paul

R. Williams. Keaton, the actress, has been recognized for her work in architectural preservation.

California Vieja: Culture and Memory in a Modern American Place, by Phoebe S. Kropp (UC Press, 2008) is described by the publisher as “a compelling demonstration of how memory can be more than nostalgia. In Southern California, the Spanish past became a catalyst for the development of the region's built environment and public culture, and a civic narrative that still serves to marginalize Mexican and Indian residents.”

City of Quartz: Excavating the Future in Los Angeles, by Mike Davis (Verso, 2006). A reissue of Mike Davis' hard-edged and much-discussed 1990 social history of Los Angeles and the region.

Hotel: An American History, by Andrew K. Sandoval-Strausz (Yale University Press, 2008).

A comprehensive history of the American hotel, looking at the hotel as a phenomenon in a larger cultural context of the place and times.

Inlandia: A Literary Journey Through California's Inland Empire, Gayle Wattawa, editor, with an introduction by Susan Straight (Heyday Books, 2006). One reviewer calls it “an ambitious collection that finally gives the area its due as a culturally and historically vital



component of Southern California.”

Inventing the Dream: California Through the Progressive Era, by Kevin Starr (Oxford University Press, 1986). One in the much-honored series of books by Starr, USC history professor and former state librarian, on California history. The book's cover shows Riverside's old Mission Avenue bridge, with orange groves stretching afar.

Kirtland Cutter: Architect in the Land of Promise, by Henry Matthews (University of Washington Press, 2007). Cutter, whose career stretched from the Gilded Age to the Great Depression, designed eclectic buildings from Washington state to Southern California.

Land of Orange Groves and Jails: Upton Sinclair's California, Lauren Coodley, editor (Heyday Books, 2004). An anthology from the works of the famous muckraker, author of *The*

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More books

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Jungle, which exposed the slaughter house industry in 1906, and who almost became governor of California in 1934.

Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies, by Reyner Banham (UC Press, 2009). A reissue of a classic 1971 book: “A light-hearted and affectionate tribute to Los Angeles,” wrote UCR history professor Francis M. Carney in the New York Review of Books for June 1, 1972. “Banham sees not the burnt, lunar landscape of the fiction writers, but a benign littoral where sea, mountains, valleys, and plain form a natural environment that charms as well as challenges its inhabitants. To the historian of architecture, it is the cityscape itself that is most fascinating”

Mary Coulter: Builder Upon the Red Earth, by Virginia L. Grattan (Grand Canyon Association, 1992). A look at the pioneering architect who left her mark on structures for the Santa Fe Railway and the Fred Harvey Co.

Orange Empire: California and the Fruits of Eden, by Douglas Cazaux Sackman (UC Press, 2007). The story of the orange industry – how growers, scientists, and workers transformed the natural and social landscape of California, the publisher says, turning it into a factory for the production of millions of oranges and how, during the Great Depression, writers like Upton Sinclair, Carey McWilliams, Dorothea Lange and John Steinbeck made the Orange Empire into a symbol of what was wrong with America's relationship to nature.”

Ramona Memories: Tourism and the Shaping of Southern California, by Dydia DeLyser (University of Minnesota Press, 2005). The author traces the emergence of the “Ramona” myth in the late 19th- and early 20-century tourist industry and the establishment of tourist attractions by fans of Helen Hunt Jackson's seminal novel.

A Separate Star: Selected Writings of Helen Hunt Jackson, Michelle Burnham, editor (Heyday Books, 2008). The author of *Ramona* had many other interests; this volume gives “a portrait of Jackson as a writer whose attitudes and beliefs on an array of subjects influenced her times.

Whitewashed Adobe: The Rise of Los Angeles and the Remaking of Its Mexican Past by William Deverell (UC Press, 2005). “How a city that was once part of Mexico itself came of age

through appropriating – and even obliterating – the region's connections to Mexican places and people,” as the publisher describes it.

Two Arcadia books in the “Images of America” series have been added to the museum's rack of the local histories:

The Harris Company, by Aimmee L. Rodriguez, Richard A. Hanks and Robin S. Hanks (Arcadia Publishing, 2008) looks at the history of the local department stores, from the beginning in San Bernardino and the opening of stores in Redlands and Riverside, with nearly 200 vintage photographs.

Riverside's Camp Anza and Arlanza, by Frank Teurlay (Arcadia Publishing, 2008). Hal Durian, reviewing the book in the Press-Enterprise, notes that Teurlay grew up in the area of the World War II Army camp that is today known as Arlanza. “Teurlay has done an amazing amount of research into Camp Anza from conception to closing and on to its transition to a civilian community after World War II,” Durian says.

Matthew Gage: A man, a plan, a canal – and debts up to here

By Sharla Wright

Museum Store Manager

In 1881, when Riverside was a fledgling community, Matthew Gage arrived here with his family from Kingston, Ontario, Canada. He moved into the Glenwood Cottage, paying \$7 a week for two rooms, and began a lifetime of friendship with Frank Miller.

Gage was originally a jeweler, and he continued that business at first by renting a corner inside

REVIEW: Pursuing Eden – Matthew Gage: His Challenges, Conquests and Calamities, by Joan H. Hall (Highgrove Press, 2008)

Roe's Drugs, on Main Street. He bought his first local home at 14th and Mulberry streets, with 10 acres of citrus. He and his family were welcome additions to Riverside, and they became active in the Magnolia Presbyterian Church.

Author Joan Hall, herself the granddaughter of a pioneer orange grower, Stephen H. Herrick, chronicles Gage's ups and downs in this lively book, the latest of her several works on local history – including “A Citrus Legacy” (1992)

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Runners of all ages

A father pushes his toddler as he and other runners near the finish line of the Mission Inn Run on Nov. 9.

Photo by Doug Hargis

Matthew Gage

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and “Through the Doors of the Mission Inn” (in two volumes, 1996 and 2000).

She documents Gage’s checkered career, starting with his claim for a parcel of land called Section 30, which today is part of the University of California’s Citrus Experiment Station on the UCR campus.

Gage saw the need for a canal to bring water to the area’s citrus groves, and thus began many years of buying and selling land on credit, pursuing his dream but failing to pay back his lenders their principal or interest. His legal complications were ongoing, with litigation lasting many years.

The canal that bears his name, however, was a success – full flow started Feb. 20, 1887, and 121 years later it still delivers water to Riverside growers.

Matthew Gage lived from 1844 to 1916, and the book give us insight into what early Riverside was about, touching on the lives of city pioneers from Arlington Heights to Victoria Avenue to the area that today is UCR. The book itself covers the years 1881 to 1929, when Gage’s wife, Jane, died at age 80.

Joan Hall, the granddaughter of one of those pioneers, has given us another well-written book on our local heritage.

Lech and ‘Changeling’

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Gabbert told the Times that when he was a student at Riverside City College he attended the trial of Gordon Steward Northcott, who was arrested in 1928 for killing three young boys.

“The judge on the case would not allow women to be on the jury, believing the crimes were too heinous for the fairer sex to be



Eastwood directs “Changeling”

exposed to,” he said. “I waited around the courthouse a long time to get a seat.”

Northcott “was a very self-possessed guy, not overawed by the trial at all,” Gabbert said. “During breaks, he kidded around with the prosecutors. He was a conniving, smart guy, in a limited way.” After a 27-day trial and two hours’ deliberation, jurors convicted Northcott of three slayings. He was sentenced to hang and went to the gallows in San Quentin on Oct. 2, 1930.

The residents of Wineville afterward changed the community’s name to Mira Loma.

If you plan to see the film, be advised: It’s rated R, “for some violent and disturbing content, and language.”

– **By Dauris Slaughter**



Next batch: The Ho-O-Kan Room is the setting for Docents in Training, in this portrait by Doug Hargis.

Christmas shopping, 1923

From a Press-Enterprise ad in December, 1923, as presented in Perimeter Tour Fun Facts:

- Franzen’s Hardware Store was selling roller skates at half price, for \$2.50 and \$3.50.
- The Men’s Shop at 722 Main St. advertised neckware for 95 cents, bathrobes for \$5.50 and men’s gloves for \$2.50.
- Women’s fur pieces were \$6.95 - \$100 and fur-trimmed women’s coats cost \$25 - \$100.
- Fruitcake was 60 cents a pound and local walnuts were 20 cents a pound. Orangewood was \$4 a tier (dried and hard-cut in 1922) but you had to pick it up at the Riverside Polo Grounds.



Where Is It?

Can you place this imposing piece of posterior sculpture? Photographer Doug Hargis found it in a surprisingly accessible place at the Mission Inn, but one likely to escape notice for those passing it at certain times of day when their minds are concentrating on alimentary matters. For the answer, see the end of the Mission Inn Foundation listing below.

MISSION INN FOUNDATION – MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission Inn Foundation preserves, interprets and promotes the cultural heritage of the Mission Inn, Riverside, and the surrounding Southern California communities through its museum services, educational programs and outreach activities. The Foundation was formed in 1976 to preserve the public trust in the Mission Inn, a privately owned National Historic Landmark.

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