

News from the Inn-Spector



Alcohol at the Inn

Docents have been told that alcoholic drinks were not served at the Inn during Frank Millers lifetime. Whatever the basis of this, the practice was otherwise.

Letter: Frank A. Miller to a Silas Krom, 28 March 1903. "I am strictly temperate myself but have found it necessary to serve wine and beer by the bottle in the dining room to guests of the hotel. Our trade in this line is not large; Riverside is a prohibition town."

The Letter Books, 1902 –1906, in the Frank Miller Hutchings Collection Riverside Metropolitan Museum contain numerous purchase orders for alcoholic beverages.

A Riverside County Ordinance, Number 4, 1 August 1893 allowed hotels with more than 20 rooms to serve alcoholic drinks at meals. The Glenwood qualified. See Appendix JJ Steven Lech, *Along the Old Roads* (Riverside California: the author, 2004), p.810.

In February 1918 the City Council took Riverside "bone dry" as of 31 December, 1917. See: Ordinance Number 46 N.S. National prohibition by constitutional amendment was ratified 1920. We assume that the Inn complied: there were no reported raids.

What we should say if the issue is raised:

Although Riverside was a prohibition town, City and County ordinances permitted hotels with twenty plus rooms to serve alcoholic drinks to guests at meals from 1883 until December 31 1917. Presumably the Inn was "bone dry" during national prohibition. Bottoms Up!