



The INNsider



MISSION INN FOUNDATION & MUSEUM

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Coming Events:

Reagan Library Tour

Saturday, June 3, 2006

Docent Council Meeting

Monday, June 12, 2006

Reagan Library Reminder

The trip to the Reagan Library is approaching. Cost is \$35.00 per person, and includes round-trip bus fare and admission to the Library for a docent-led tour. There is a cafeteria on the grounds, where we will lunch on our own. The bus will arrive at the Mission Inn (north side) on Sixth St. at 7:45am, and will depart promptly at 8am for the two-hour trip. Our reservation for the tour is scheduled for 10am. The tour takes about two hours. Be sure to wear comfy shoes. Flyers and reservations are available in the Museum, and guests are welcomed. This should be great fun, so don't miss out.

Gretchen Cheney, Chair
Special Events Committee

Notice to Courthouse Docents

The venue for the Downtown Riverside Foundation's July 4 festivities has been changed from the Riverside County Courthouse to Fairmount Park. As such, we will not be conducting Courthouse tours this year. This may change in coming years, but for this year, I've been assured it won't happen. I'll let you know if things change in the future.

Steve Lech

Responsible Docenting

Being a docent means giving tours – that is why we are here! While it can be frustrating to arrive, only to find that we haven't any customers, it is vital that we are available for the tours that are scheduled. Frequently, tour guests arrive, only to find to their disappointment, that the scheduled docent has left, assuming that the seemingly empty tour would be cancelled. Both the leader and follower are required to arrive 30 minutes before a scheduled tour, and wait for at least 15 minutes after the scheduled time, in case any latecomers wander in the door. Please - do not call the museum desk, or Randi, to see if you have guests on your scheduled tour. Being a docent is a serious commitment and that means being here when you promised.

Docent Graduation – Volunteer Recognition 2006

Once again we had a great turnout for our annual event with 168 in attendance. The Mission Inn catering staff provided us with a wonderful variety of Hors d'oeuvres, enjoyed by one and all.

We were honored to have John Worden, Executive Director, be our Master of Ceremonies this year. He, Joyce Lyons, Docent Council Chair, and Steve Lech presented diplomas and badges to 25 graduates.

Steve Spiller, Museum and Collection Manager, honored 14 Museum Assistants for their continuing outstanding service in the Museum. These Museum Assistants are truly an amazing lot - they check in tour guests, answer phones, wait on store customers, give pertinent information to the docents and cheerfully take care of walk-ins from the street; they do all this graciously.

Steve also presented certificates to three Archival Processing Volunteers for their many hours in helping with the recording of all the archival collections.

Barbara Burns presented Special Docent Awards, for outstanding service, to Cora Lee Brown, Phyllis Chutuk, Jean Digati, Jerry Gordon, Judy Hadcock, Mary Knox, and Merwyn Swartz. There were four recipients of two-year service pins, nine recipients of five-year service pins, and five recipients of ten-year service pins. Special congratulations to the 15-year service pins went to JoAnn Coble, Betty Howe, and Jean Lewis.

John Worden presented a first time Director's Award to Steve Lech for his "above and beyond the call" service in the training of the Docent Class of 2006.

Joyce Lyons, 2005-2006 Docent Council Chair, presented gifts to the outgoing members of the council; Cora Lee Brown, Peter Keck, Jane Morabito, and Dauris Slaughter.

Dan Hantman, the incoming Docent Council Chair, was introduced. He announced the 2006-2007 officers - David St. Pierre, Vice Chair, and Sharyl Lee, Secretary. Joining the council for a new 3-year term are Margaret Benner, Harriet "Boo" Bloom, Donna Grossman, Robyn Rogers, and William Scott.

The coveted "Docent Of The Year – 2006" award went to Dauris Slaughter.

John Worden closed the evening with a very gracious "Thank You" to all and announced the tour of the catacombs was available to all present.

Donna Grossman

The Poly Connection by Steve Spiller



I
In 1983, thirteen students from Cal Poly Pomona, under the direction of two faculty advisors, began a remarkable journey. At the end of the nearly year-long experience, they had compiled a 90 page book, completed numerous drawings, examined structural and mechanical systems, and studied circulation, security, fire, and other life safety issues. The result was a 1/8" model (1/8 inch to 1 foot) of the remarkable architectural and historic landmark just 30 miles from their college campus.

The model is the same one on exhibit in the Mission Inn Museum. It remains an essential element and tool for interpreting the historic site. But wait - doesn't the label inside the case indicate that it was made in 1970? Indeed it does and it is wrong! No one knows why the 1970 date was assigned to the model rather than 1983-84. For some of you, you already knew that it was the later date. Congratulations!

Incorporated into the model is a visual clue as to its age. As part of their study the Cal Poly students made two alternative proposals for vehicle access off 7th Street (Mission Inn Avenue). The first was a circular drive utilizing the existing entry and exit. The second proposal continued to use the same entrance and exit, but called for what the students termed a "deep entry drive." The latter proposal would allow passengers to exit their vehicles at the front door of the hotel. Although the Companario would remain, the pool would be removed. The vehicular path of this second proposal is indicated on the model.

In the very near future, the Plexiglas cover will be lifted off and a new label inserted with the 1983-84 "correct" date.

Last Chance to Look at your Label!

Does your address label have the word "EXPIRED" on it? Article Three, Section One (Requirements) of the Mission Inn Foundation Docent Association Inn-laws states that: *All docents should be members of the Mission Inn Foundation & Museum.* Docents and volunteers receive a special discounted price of \$15.00 per year. Your membership ensures that you continue to receive the INNsider, so that you can be informed about Foundation events and activities. New membership cards are being sent out to make it easier to get your museum store discount.

Friendly reminder letters are being prepared for those in serious arrears, but we suspect you already know who you are!

If you are not sure how far behind you are, just give Virginia a call at 951-781-8241, and she'd be happy to check the records. Amnesty has ended!

Politically Speaking

Frank Miller envisioned the Mission Inn as a restful, peaceful retreat. He wanted it to be the kind of place where people of all faiths and nationalities would feel welcome.

Since Mr. Miller is no longer here, it falls to us to be the gracious, generous hosts.

So in the spirit of Frank Miller, a man widely regarded as a consummate host, the Mission Inn Foundation asks that we all resist the temptation to incorporate political comments into our tours, lest we make anyone (no matter what their political beliefs may be....) feel unwelcome at the Mission Inn.

What's new in the Museum Store?

Store manager Sharla Wright is always looking for new items to carry in the museum store. Be sure to check these products out—either for your own interest or to be able to direct our customers attention to them.

Books:

Helen Hunt Jackson, *A Literary Life*
Sunset Limited, The Southern California Railroad
Whitewashed Adobe, Rise of LA & Mexican Past
Decline of The California's, Social History
Land in California, The Story
 Charles F. Lummis, *Editor of the Southwest*

T-Shirts:

2005 Mission Inn Run
Adults Sizes \$10.00
Youth Sizes \$ 5.00
Polo Shirt \$20.00

RECRUITMENT

The Recruitment Committee has been holding productive meetings and is gearing up for September, when yet another group of trainees begin the remarkable journey of becoming Mission Inn Foundation Docents. Chaired by Dan Hantman, the committee is tossing around some exciting new ideas on different ways of reaching out to prospective recruits. The emphasis is not only on Docents, but also on Museum Assistants and Inventory volunteers. This is an inspired group, so look for some exceptional new Mission Inn devotees in the coming months. In the meantime, if you have an idea or two that you would like to share regarding recruitment, please contact Dan at 787-9765.

As Time Goes By by Donna Grossman

And so it has for the large ornate pedestal clock standing on the Downtown Main Street Mall. Where it stands today, between Mission Inn Blvd. (7th St.) and University Ave. (8th St.), is very close to its original location when brought to Riverside in the 1920's.

Fisher's Jewelry Store obtained it from a Pasadena store and installed it on the sidewalk in front of their store, which was located on the eastside of Main Street between 8th and 9th Streets. Several years later, when Mr. Fisher relocated his store directly across the street on the west side of Main St., the clock moved with the store. About 1939-1940, the Fisher Jewelry Store again relocated and again the clock was moved. Its new home was between 7th St. and 8th St., on the west side of Main Street. As I remember back to that era, it was very near the corner of 7th and Main, as Fisher Jewelry Store was nestled in a small portion of the Grout Building, which was diagonally across from what is now the Mission Inn Museum.

The townspeople relied heavily on the clock, setting their own timepieces by it, therefore making sure they arrived to work, school or to an appointment on time.

During WWII, the clock served the servicemen of March Field and Camp Haan well, in reminding them when the last bus left for the base. More than likely, it saved many a G.I. from reporting late to roll call and not being assigned to KP duty.

Fisher Jewelry closed in 1964 and the City of Riverside purchased the clock which has become a historical artifact. In designing the Downtown Main St. Mall, the clock was moved once again to its present location.

The research tells us the clock was produced by the celebrated Seth Thomas Clock Company. It has been identified as one of the five street models produced between 1886 and 1910. Keeping this magnificent piece of equipment in working order is no small task. The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for its exterior maintenance and they do a beautiful job of cosmetic care. However, the interior works and the cranking up of the 125 pound weight each week, is lovingly cared for by the Kalincsak Swiss Clock Company of Arlington.

To many of the "old-timers" of Riverside, it still remains in our memories as a part of our youthful past.

Sharla Wright

By Dauris Slaughter

I found Sharla busy at work in her new office in the Rotunda. What a beautiful view she has from her desk! Can you imagine how relaxing it is to watch it rain in the center of the rotunda? Sharla and Steve Spiller were recently relocated there when the Spa expansion took place. The Foundation offices are split, with each being on opposite sides of the ground floor of the rotunda.

Sharla has great Riverside memories. As a native of California and Riverside, she has enjoyed special family functions and class reunions held at the Mission Inn. Sharla's great aunt loved to visit and stay in Carrie Jacobs Bond's suite. She recalled one special time when she was 12 years old and was allowed to stay with her aunt at the Inn. Sharla was the oldest of her generation and thought it was probably the reason she was allowed this special privilege.

She attended Palm Grammar School, Central Jr. High, and old Riverside Poly, where she and Duane Roberts were in the same graduating class. Who would have thought that in the future he would indirectly give her a job she loves? As an aside, former Curator of History, Allene Dufour, was several classes behind. "It's a small world after all!"

Sharla and her two children lived in Running Spring for 16 years, from 1970-1986. Her children (Deborah Ludford and Mark Wright) graduated from Rim-Of-The-World High School. While living there, Sharla and two other family members worked at Santa's Village in Sky Forest. Putty Henck owned Santa's Village and was from the imaginative family that founded the Village and brought so much joy to visitors young and old.

Her mother and aunt donated a Stickley style china cabinet to the Mission Inn, after her grandfather died in early 1981. Sharla, her mother and brother were thrilled to see it still at the Inn, even after the years it was closed for rehab. You may now see this unique cabinet on display in the Museum.

Sharla loves to be productive. She has had a long-term involvement with the Friends of the Mission Inn and is a Charter Member since its founding in 1969. She is currently their Treasurer.

Sharla believes she has been blessed with good people in her life. This ties in with a lot of positive events in her present position, as she had dealt with numerous employees of the Mission Inn for 13 years as well as in other employments. One of the joys of working in the museum is that she sees many Riverside people with whom she worked and met through previous positions.

Sharla has had a long involvement with the Foundation. She was in the 1992-1993 docent training class. This was the first class to lead tours with the reopening of the Mission, when Duane Roberts became the new owner. She thoroughly enjoyed leading tours as a docent and meeting people from all over the world. She continued to be a docent through 1999. A memorable tour was when Carl Karcher's (The owner of Carl Junior's restaurants) children and grandchildren plus 15 relatives were on her tour. "They were a lively

and enjoyable group and great fun.”

Another tour she enjoyed was a group of airmen that had trained at Camp Haan (which was located across from March Field) during WWII, and their spouses. They were an interesting group with wonderful stories and were regulars at the Lea Lea Room. One of the couples shared that they were married at the Inn shortly before the groom was shipped overseas.

She is responsible for the Museum four days a week. After Allene retired, she took over the Museum store, which entails purchasing, inventory control, and displays. Sharla has added her own special signature to the Museum, which expanded after the Friends' Gift Shop was closed. There is a lot of behind the scenes planning and work that results in the Museum looking so inviting when visitors enter. This is certainly one area where Sharla shines.

What a delight it has been learning about Riverside and the Mission Inn from Sharla's eyes. The history she knows is fascinating. Her past employments at Burgess Moving and Storage (13 years) and Security Pacific National Bank (7 years) have helped significantly with her Foundation position. She loves her job, and asks, "What's not to like?" "The Mission Inn has been a big part of my growing up years in Riverside and I look forward to a continued association with the Inn, Foundation and Friends.”

It was great fun and a pleasure to interview Sharla, a special lady who obviously enjoys life. I was delighted to discover she is a person who finds her glass half full. The Foundation is truly fortunate to have Sharla as an employee.

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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