



**City of San Bernardino
Historical and Pioneer Society
P.O. Box 875, San Bernardino, CA 92402**

LIBRARY NEWS June 2012

By Richard D. Thompson, Librarian

THE "INDIAN UPRISING" AT ARROWHEAD SPRINGS

By Richard D. Thompson

Recently the Society sponsored a tour of Arrowhead Springs Hotel and its grounds, beginning with a gathering beneath the Indian statue at the entrance. Having been instrumental in the restoration of the statue, I was asked to speak briefly about it. Since I have a number of photographs of the reclamation project—Polaroid shots for the most part—it occurred to me that a review using a few of the pictures could prove of interest.



The Indian statue in 1975, lying in a field—the nose broken off, the left arm missing below the elbow, and the feathers in the headdress gone

During most of the years that Campus Crusade for Christ was headquartered at Arrowhead Springs, John Lowe was second in command to the ministry's founder, Bill Bright. John and I used to go motorcycling on weekends and one day he told me about the fate of the statue that had stood at the entrance to

Arrowhead Springs Hotel—that it was lying in a field, partly damaged, with its hollow interior a home for bees. He then asked if I could help restore it. This was in 1975. I was the incoming president for Arrowhead Parlor No. 110, Native Sons of the Golden West, and it seemed to me that this would be a worthwhile Bicentennial project. I drew up plans of what was to be done, calculated a cost estimate, and took it to the Native Sons for approval. The plan was adopted and work begun. There were mainly four of us who worked on the actual construction: Steve Case, who did the major portion of the work, Fred Ratzlaff, Chris Harris and myself.

Campus Crusade had an engineer in charge of grounds and maintenance operations, who, John told me, would help and work with me. Actually, the man drew up a lengthy book of standards and specifications, full of items which limited the liability of Campus Crusade. This did not faze me too much because I intended to do a professional job, and the specifications report allowed me to have the engineer approve the final construction and accept the statue for maintenance. This limited the liability of the Native Sons. As it turned out, everything proceeded as planned and we did not have to turn to any lawyers.

The statue originally was part of a much larger structure built during the 1920s. There was a large rock archway and the statue was off to one side. It was located at the state highway and made for a grand entrance to the Arrowhead Springs property. The center of the statue was hollow and probably was placed over a steel pipe or reinforced concrete structure which attached to the archway's considerable base. We placed a steel train rail in the statue and cemented it in securely. About five feet of rail extended below the statue, as can be seen in the photo below. A core was dug, and a concrete base for the dedication plaque was built.



The most perilous moment in the entire enterprise is a second away

This photograph is the most iconic of those taken and you can see why the project came to be known as the “Indian Uprising.” The City of San Bernardino provided a street crew—thanks, Mayor Bob—but

you can see there was one point that it was a bit dangerous. City workers refused to lift the statue balanced precariously on the bucket of the loader, and the work had to be done by a foreman. It slid into the concrete base with no problems, but it did dance around a bit when it first became upright. A chain wrapped around the statue held it in place, as shown in the photo below.



The statue is almost home

After the statue was raised, there were plenty of congratulatory accolades, but it was the city foreman (I do not have his name) who made the uprising possible.



The statue's rail has been cemented into the base, and the scaffolds are in place

The bulk of the statue, probably about 90 percent, had remained in very good shape and required no restoration. A local artist, Mr. Bob Cording, volunteered to do the restorative work that was needed.



Reconstructed left hand points to Campus Crusade headquarters, the nose is restored and the feathers in the headdress also are completed (not shown)

The Campus Crusade grounds and maintenance engineer had the statue painted a muted bronze, which was a tasteful selection, as can be seen in the photo below. Later it was painted a much brighter bronze, someone thinking, perhaps, that it would stand out more from its surroundings. Myself, I prefer the muted bronze.



The statue was first painted a muted bronze

The dedication ceremony was held on March 27, 1976. The ceremony afforded an opportunity to bring in people long associated with the hotel. Tony Martins, 93 years old, was a groundskeeper who started with the hotel in 1910. He told of his experiences, including having to jump into the swimming pool to avoid the flames of the 1938 fire.



Mr. and Mrs. Tony Martins and family

Two others with long ties to the property were Marguerite Stanley and her brother Silas. The Stanleys' father owned a nursery in north San Bernardino in the early 20th Century. The family rented the ranch house of former California Governor Robert W. Waterman, which was less than a mile above the nursery. The Waterman Ranch originally had a separate hotel, or boarding facility, with access to hot springs. This was acquired by the owners of Arrowhead Springs and combined into a single unit.



Marguerite and Silas Stanley with the author

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