



## Frank Miller and Early Riverside

The city of Riverside was founded in 1870. In the beginning it was very small and only a few families lived there. In 1874, a man named Christopher Columbus Miller and his family moved from Wisconsin to California. They settled in the new city of Riverside. One of the children was named Frank A. Miller.

The Miller family built a home in Riverside. They used adobe, bricks, and stone to build their house. After they built the house they decided to turn it into a boarding house so guests could stay there. In 1876 the first boarder stayed at the house. His name was Albert S. White. The Miller family called their house the Glenwood Cottage.

In 1880 Frank Miller bought the Glenwood Cottage from his father. He paid \$5,000. In 1882 Mr. Miller spent \$10,000 to make additions to the hotel. He built two more floors on top of the hotel for thirty bedrooms. He also built an office and a dining room for his guests. In 1903, Mr. Miller changed the name of the hotel to the Mission Inn.

In 1893 Mr. Miller helped a group of leaders in the city Riverside to form Riverside county. These leaders wanted to be separate from San Bernardino county. Even though Mr. Miller was not a politician, he helped the other city leaders with their goals. He was very involved in the city of Riverside.

Mr. Miller also helped the leaders of Riverside to build March Field. In 1918, the United States government decided to build a new air field in California. They needed a place to train soldiers build and fly airplanes for the Army and Navy. Mr. Miller knew that airplanes and flight were very important and he thought an air field should be built in Riverside. The leaders of Riverside used Mr. Miller's help to convince the United States government to build the air field near Riverside. March Field opened on March 1, 1918. During World War I and World War II March Field was an important place for soldiers to learn and practice with their airplanes. Today the field is called March Air Reserve Base. The government still uses the base today.

The city of Riverside was very important to Mr. Miller. Other cultures and countries were also important to him as well. Mr. Miller travelled all over the world to visit different countries and learn about their culture. Japan was a very important country to Mr. Miller and he collected many pieces of art and history from the country. In 1929 Mr. Miller won an award from the Emperor of Japan. The award was a medal called the "Japanese Order of the Rising Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Class." This award is given to people who have done a lot to help other countries learn about Japan. Mr. Miller was very proud of his award and he respected the Japanese people and people from many other countries.

Mr. Miller had a great appreciation for other cultures. He wanted to show this appreciation in his Mission Inn hotel for many people to see. In 1931, the Rotunda International was opened at the Mission Inn. Mr. Miller wanted the Rotunda to be a place where world leaders met to talk and learn about other cultures. He wanted there to be peace and understanding between other countries of the world. Mr. Miller's dream became a reality. A group of leaders called the World Affairs Council has held meetings at the Rotunda many times. Many American Presidents have also visited the Mission Inn for trips and meetings. The Mission Inn hotel is a very good example of Mr. Miller and his life.