

The Harvey Girl

Name: Lillian Ann Chase

Family: After the death of her parents, Lillian lived with her older sister, Mildred and brother-in-law, James Carver. She helped with the household chores and finished high school. She was inspired to go West because she remembered when Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show came into town on the railroad. Annie Oakley, the great sharpshooter, was an adventuresome role model. Lillian longed to go out West for adventures of her own.

She will eventually marry Charles Bowman, owner of the Arrow Ranch. They will have two children: Patricia Ann and Charles Chase Bowman

Time of her Harvey Girl experience: 1895-1900

Real Historical Figures:

Cody and the Wild West Show characters (introduces the railroad as the vehicle for entertainers)

Fred Harvey

He arrived from England in 1850 and started as a dishwasher before founding the very first chain of hotels in the United States. He began hiring women at a time when few occupations were open to them other than servant or school teacher.

Several lodges in the national parks have their roots in the Fred Harvey Trading Company tradition. A quote from the Grand Canyon Lodges website says: "Perhaps more than any single organization, the Fred Harvey system introduced Americans to the New America."

Talent: Lillian is a good organizer. She will excel at all the procedures that the Harvey houses had in place for serving customers.

Harvey Girls would have to be prepared to serve 16 people their four-course meals in 25 minutes. It was their job to insure that the customers did not feel rushed. Guests were seated immediately upon arrival and an order taker was right there to take the order. The guest ordered an entree and a beverage. The appetizer, dessert, and other side dishes were determined from the entree. The beverage was poured by another Harvey Girl, so the order taker had to leave a signal to indicate the beverage. An upright coffee cup meant "coffee." An upside down coffee cup on the saucer meant hot tea and the orientation of the cup's handle indicated whether the customer requested black, green, or orange pekoe. An upside down cup propped up on the side of the saucer signaled "iced tea." An upside down cup on the tablecloth indicated milk.

Lillian will help in 1899 when the Harvey establishments introduce Native American tourist jewelry.

Collection in the Trunk:

There should be a few pictures of Fred Harvey vintage jewelry. (A single vintage bracelet could be worth \$150 or more.) Native American silversmiths provided work to be sold in the Harvey establishments.

One of the first gifts of Mr. Charles Bowman to his intended, Miss Lillian Chase, should be a silver Harvey bracelet with an arrow in the design.

Other items in the trunk should include a menu, rules of the contract, postcards from the Wild West, and letters to her sister, Mildred.