**Happenin's 'Round the House**

by Margi Bertram, Museum Administrator

***Tulipe Hogewoning Traber, age 90, died peacefully on Friday, July 22, 2016 at her home in Westport, Connecticut, surrounded by her family.***

Why do we think this might be interesting to you? It started a couple years ago we received a call out of the blue up at the Hart Museum. On the other end of the phone was a young man named Peter Traber. He explained that his mother was related to William S. Hart. Oh yeah. *Riiiight*. How many times have we heard that? But this time it was true, and quite direct. As we all know, family trees can become complicated quickly. Are you my second cousin once removed? Or are you my first cousin twice removed?

Let’s walk through this. William S. Hart had seven siblings, three of whom were lost in infancy and one at the age of 19. The remaining four are the oldest, Nettie, then Bill, Frances, and finally Mary Ellen.

Here we are going to follow the branch of the family tree that is Frances Hart, born about five years after Bill, in 1869.

* Frances married Albert Bierck. They had one daughter named Beatrice (b. 1892), who was then William S. Hart’s niece, the daughter of his sister.
* Beatrice then married Abraham (Bram) Hogewoning in 1922. Bram was known as the “Tulip King of France,” They had two daughters, Tulipe (b. 1926) and Mary Ellen, each would be grandnieces to Bill Hart.
* Tulipe, the oldest, married James Cochrane and they had two children. She later married William Traber, and they had two children, one of which was Peter Traber, the person who called the Museum. Tulipe and her sister were great grandnieces to Bill Hart.
* Mary Ellen “Skipper” Hogewoning married John B. Hill in 1949. Little is known about the rest of her life.

Then, one day this spring, I stepped outside the front door to start a tour of the Museum. Asking what brought them to the Hart, one gentleman said, “My mother lived here for a while.” Really, I thought? *Really?* But being the consummate professional, I simply asked what the circumstances were. “My mom was Hart’s great niece.” Caught completely off guard, my brain knew this was something familiar, and it probably only took a split second to process, then I called out, “Your mom is Tulipe! You’re Peter!” After touring the house, Peter and his daughter sat around the office and shared some family memories.

One interesting bit of history is that the marriage between Beatrice and Bram was rocky, and they eventually divorced. Peter told a story about his grandfather trying to take his two daughters to Europe, in what had the appearance of a kidnapping attempt! It made the newspapers, including the New York Times in May of 1932.

*“TULIP KING” ACCUSED OF ABDUCTING DAUGHTERS*

*Abram Hogewoning…was under arrest today on a warrant charging him with abducting his two small daughters from the home of their maternal grandmother, Mrs. Albert Bierck, of Westport, Connecticut.*

*Mrs. Bierck said her daughter filed suit for divorce in Paris and that the court gave the mother custody of the children, pending disposition of the suit.*

*The grandmother said she took the children to her home at Westport last January. Hogewoning appeared there last Sunday, she said, and took the children from the lawn.*

Peter said that the girls were found just as they were about to board an ocean liner bound for Europe. Can you imagine? Tulipe was only 6-years-old at that time! He also believes it was during this ongoing difficult time between their parents that the girls were sent out to California, to spend conflict-free time here at the Horseshoe Ranch.

We sent photos to Peter to share with his mom, and when Tulipe heard there were photos that we thought were of her and her sister, she asked, “Are we dressed alike? I always HATED that.” With that we had unquestionable confirmation that the two girls in so many of these photos were Tulipe and Mary Ellen.

We are saddened by Tulipe’s death, but we are fortunate to be able to maintain contact with Hart descendants through her son Peter, and plan to stay in touch.