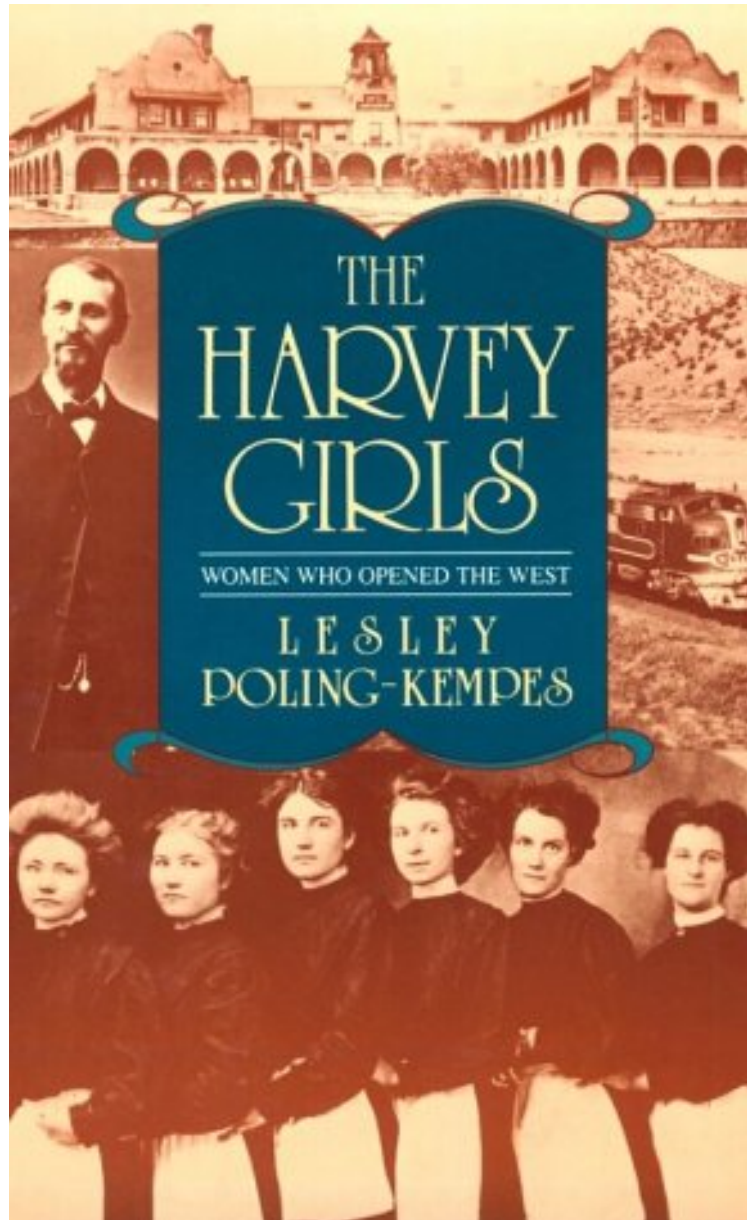


[Read ebook] The Harvey Girls: Women Who Opened the West

The Harvey Girls: Women Who Opened the West

Lesley Poling-Kempes

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Lesley Poling-Kempes : The Harvey Girls: Women Who Opened the West before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Harvey Girls: Women Who Opened the West:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A new passion for history!By S D JohnsonWe discovered the Harvey Girls last year in Belen, New Mexico. Belen Harvey House Museum, opened the door to a part of history that

caught my attention, excited a new interest and created a hunger for more information on the Harvey Girls, the Harvey System and the Santa Fe Railroad. What an adventure! We This book provided me with more history, creating glimpses into the lives of the Harvey employees. In September, we attempted to visit the National Fred Harvey Museum in Leavenworth, Kansas. However, this beautiful home, designated and advertised as a museum was not yet open to the public. While in Leavenworth, we visited a local book store and my husband bought me a copy of Stephen Fried's book *Appetite for America: Fred Harvey and the Business of Civilizing the Wild West--One Meal at a Time*. This is another good read, full of insight into the life of Fred Harvey and the Harvey business enterprise. I love history, discovering a part of history I'd never heard of before is always exciting. I look forward to learning more about the Harvey Girls.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A Different Class of "Working Girls" By Sunflower

Not all of the Harvey Girls were Judy Garland. But...with assurances of a high standard in a chaperoned and respectable work environment, and although away from home, girls were hired from farms, ranches, small towns, etc. This was very unusual for the time. The personal stories presented here pull you into a time when this country was expanding to the West. This project of establishing Grand Railroad Hotels and restaurants as undertaken by Fred Harvey set a standard for an expanding American hospitality industry. Today, a few "remnants" of this system remain. LaPosada at Winslow, Arizona provides a glimpse into this by-gone time.

18 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating footnote on history By J. Chambers

I had heard of Fred Harvey and the Harvey Girls and their role in civilizing the American West, but I never knew much about the subject. Recently, on a trip to the Grand Canyon, my wife and I wandered into Bright Angel Lodge, one of the last surviving Harvey hotel/restaurants (although the Harvey family sold what was left of the chain many years ago). Inside was a memory room full of old photos and memorabilia, including the Harvey Girls. With my interest piqued, I bought "The Harvey Girls" by Lesley Poling-Kempes. The book is well written, giving a fascinating look at how Fred Harvey developed and ran dozens of hotels and restaurants along the routes of the Santa Fe Railroad in the west and southwest.

Ms. Poling-Kempes did a nice job of researching the life and times of the Harvey houses and the Harvey Girls who worked in them. A number of factors resulted in the gradual demise of the Harvey houses, and most of them have been destroyed, but "The Harvey Girls" very effectively recreates the era, and the numerous old photos in the book contribute greatly to imagining how it was in those days.

Fred Harvey and the Harvey Girls may not have singlehandedly tamed the West, but they certainly made a significant contribution, and Ms. Poling-Kempes deserves an "A" for documenting this fascinating footnote on the history of the American West.

Highly recommended reading for history buffs!

Interviews, historical research, and photos recreate the Harvey Girl experience of women who came to the west to work as waitresses, but many stayed and settled, founding cattle and mining towns.

"A story that seems to have completely vanished from the national memory. For giving it new life, Poling-Kempes deserves gratitude and praise." Jonathon Yardley --Washington Post Book World

About the Author Lesley Poling-Kempes is the author of five award winning books about the land and people of the American Southwest. For more information about Lesley and her books please visit her website at lesleypoling-kempes.net.