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## E-Newsletter | July 2011

### The Strength of Mother Nature

Not only lions and tigers and bears - oh my! But also, tornadoes, hurricanes, and earthquakes. Historical U.S. women have dealt with every kind of natural disaster that Mother Nature has to offer. In this month's enewsletter, we profile three women whose lives and futures were affected by Mother Nature.



Winifred Sweet Black Bonfils

**Winifred Sweet Black Bonfils**, known to readers of her time as "Annie Laurie" reported on disasters of many kinds for the newspaper empire run by publisher William Randolph Hearst. The "Dean of American Newspaper Women" began her work in 1890, fainting on the street so that she could do an "inside" reporting job of the emergency room at the hospital to which she was taken. When Galveston, Texas was flooded in 1900 after being hit by a hurricane, she put on male clothes, shouldered a pickax, and was the first reporter through the lines. She filed an exclusive story, organized an emergency hospital, and got her boss to send relief trains. She also reported from San Francisco following the earthquake of 1906.

Another woman's whose career was impacted by the San Francisco earthquake of 1906 was **Julia Morgan**. Her architectural practice in San Francisco, established in 1904, was especially busy after that earthquake. Like Annie Laurie, William Randolph Hearst would also play a significant role in Julia

Morgan's life. After accepting more than 450 commissions, she was selected by Hearst to serve as the architect for his ranch at San Simeon, California. His simple instructions to her in 1919 were: "Miss Morgan, we are tired of camping out in the open at the ranch in San Simeon and I would like to build a little something". By 1947, Morgan had created an estate of 165 rooms in numerous buildings; there were also 127 acres of gardens, terraces, pools and walkways. Today, the project on which she worked for twenty years is called the Hearst Castle and is a California state park.



Julia Morgan



Judy Garland

From hurricanes, to floods, to tornadoes. In 1938, at the age of 16, **Judy Garland** was cast as Dorothy in the movie the *Wizard of Oz*. The central weather feature of that movie is the tornado that takes Dorothy from Kansas to Munchkinland and the Emerald City. Garland received a special Academy Award for her work. Garland began singing, dancing, and acting with her sisters (the Gumm sisters) when she was six years old. She sang, danced, and acted in more than thirty films and another thirty television specials prior to her death

From newspaper reporter, to architect, to entertainer, women can do-and have done-amazing things. We are proud to share in their legacy.

**Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America**  
**[www.herstoryatimeline.com](http://www.herstoryatimeline.com)**

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