



Glendale Arizona Historical Society

"preservation of the past"

NOVEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

Volume 38, Issue 7

UPCOMING EVENTS

at a glance

Please Save These Dates

ANNUAL GAHS PICNIC



Saturday, November 18, 2017
11:30 am to 2:30 pm
Manistee Ranch

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY



Monday, December 18, 2017
7:00 pm
Manistee Ranch

POTLUCK / ELECTIONS



Monday, Jan 22 at 6:00 pm
Manistee Ranch

**YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
MATTERS**

Renewal Time is Coming Soon

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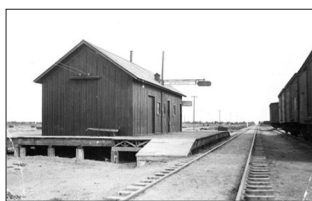
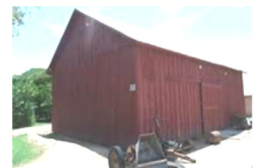
GLENDALE ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL PICNIC

Saturday, November 18, 2017 11:30 A.M. TO 2:30 P.M.

Manistee Ranch, 5127 W. Northern Avenue, Glendale, AZ

The Board of Directors is opening up the entire set of buildings for a first ever "discovery" tour. Find out what historical treasures are stored away in the 1900 Granary Barn; visit the 1912 Garage with extremely interesting artifacts; be amazed at the 1924 Office, used until 1947, that contains the only workable round safe in Arizona; be thrilled with the ability to see almost to Russia (maybe to 75th Avenue) from the unique third floor "Sky Parlor" in the 1897 Ranch House. Then relax and enjoy some great hot dogs, salads and other side dishes, with dessert and a beverage.

Meet some of Glendale's old timers and talk with your neighbors at this famous *'ole fashioned* picnic like you used to enjoy as a child. You are asked to bring a side dish, salad or dessert. The Board will provide the hot dogs, buns and beverages. The membership is encouraged to attend and bring a guest. Don't miss this rare opportunity when all of Manistee Ranch is open. You might even get a tour of the outhouse and even want to sit a spell. To get to the Manistee Mansion, enter off 51st Avenue, go through the vehicle gate, and park along the dirt road.



Mr. William J. Murphy, Glendale's founder, had the foresight to build Grand Avenue from Peoria to Phoenix in 1888, but saw the need for a railroad track, for which he made the right-of-way wide enough. The Santa Fe, Prescott and Phoenix Railway built a

Glendale's Original Train Depot

branch line from Ash Fork, AZ to Phoenix in 1895. This gave access for Glendale to the United States for its products. According to railroad building records, the company built a 24' x 43' four-room depot in 1895 for just \$1,455. During that time, the company installed a cistern, icehouse, stock-yards, a stockyard tank, a section house and a stock scale. In 1910, a 22' x 122' brick depot was built for

\$6,202, which was retired in 1967. A story appeared in 1968 that the depot was being dismantled and replaced by a new depot (1969) several blocks away to allow for widening of the roadway. Once-a-day passenger service was restored by court order in 1968; however, passenger service stopped in 1969. There is now a railroad freight depot serving the Glendale community.

President's Message



Ron Sort President Board of Directors

The Glendale Arizona Historical Society Board of Directors has been very busy serving the community and preserving our historical resources. At the October 3, 2017 GAHS Board meeting the Board approved a bid for \$42,400 to replace the wood shingle roof on the Manistee Ranch house. The Board approved two other bids to paint the Manistee Ranch house for \$8,850 and add a lattice skirting for \$1,775 to better secure the building and improve appearances. This

is a major financial endeavor for the Society only possible by the many donations for Manistee Ranch over the past few years. The Board also will need to cash in a CD and small savings account. It is hoped the roofing and painting will be completed within a couple of months.

The Board is deeply upset by fire damage to the Sahuaro Ranch Milk Shed and complete fire destruction of the Blacksmith Shop and Granary/Stable. The City of Glendale is studying options to address the future of the site. The cause of the fires is under investigation.

Members will consider nominations for the Board of Directors positions at the December 18, 2017 Christmas party, Manistee Ranch, 7 pm. Members are urged to consider running for the Board of Directors. Please contact 623-435-0072 and indicate your interest in being considered for the Board.

The Society, cannot function and would have to cease its existence without **VOLUNTEERS**. A few dedicated **volunteers** cannot make the Society sustainable. It takes many **volunteers** to share the various important services of the Society to its membership, and community including, docents at Manistee Ranch, Guest House, Adobe House, school tours, group tours, festivals, exhibits, library and research, newsletter articles, Board of Directors, refreshments at meetings, accessions, weddings, programs and committees. Keep this Society a vital part of Glendale and call 623-435-0072 to **VOLUNTEER**.



The Majestic Manistee Ranch House

Standing with beauty and elegance, amidst stately palm trees, rose bushes and citrus trees, near the SWC of 51st and Northern Avenues at 5127 W. Northern Avenue is the three-story mansion called the Manistee Ranch house, or referred to as "The Sands Mansion". For years, the mansion was hidden from view due to overgrown vegetation. In July of 1897, Herbert W. Hamilton, a Wisconsin lumberman, bought the 320 acres, and started building the ranch house in August. While the architect is unknown, the carpenter was William Weigold, a Glendale pioneer.

The 17 room mansion was placed on a huge basement with a section for an immense oil furnace. There was a unique third floor "sky parlor", where all of Glendale could be viewed. The Hamiltons employed a governess for the children and the sky parlor was used as a school room. In the summer it became their sleeping accommodation. The thick walls provided some insulation. Hamilton moved to California in 1903 and in 1907 Louis Sands bought the property bringing his bride to this majestic home. Both Louis and Frances loved the ranch and had three children, Louis M. Sands, Jr 1908; John Porter Sands, 1910 and Flora Sands 1916, all born in the master bedroom. The family's first car was a 1907 Tourist - the only car in the area. The parlor with its high ceilings once appeared in lush green velvet brocade. Mr. Sands hobby was collecting original paintings of the American West. The unique art collection grew and they placed the name of one of their children on the back of each painting as part of their inheritance. The kitchen was a separated building connected by a breezeway, but in 1947 John Sands enclosed the breezeway. Because of an outside stairway, one of the bedrooms has a closet that includes an inside stairway. There was a large game room in the basement. The major showpiece was a large Burmese household temple of teak and mahogany over 2,000 years old.

The Manistee Ranch buildings were bought by the Glendale Arizona Historical Society in 1996 and the City of Glendale bought the palm tree area. The Society conducts tours of the House and Office from October to May on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month from 12 pm to 4 pm. The Manistee Ranch Park is open to the public from dawn to dusk. Call the GAHS office at 623-435-0072 for more information.



Manistee Ranch house built 1897 by William Weigold

The BIG BANG THEORY

Glendale Style

On a pleasant evening, in the spring of 1904, a train had pulled into the Glendale Train Depot. Victor Messinger was upstairs in the Ryder Building reading a book. William Bartlett, surveyor (incidentally Bartlett Lake was named after him) sat in the Phoenix Train Depot. His mother had just gone outside to check on her chickens. A fellow named Norris living at Grand Avenue and Maryland was walking to his bedroom. A brakeman watched closely as a box car carrying 27 tons of dynamite pulled out of the station. Earlier a small fire broke out in that car, but they thought it was extinguished.

Suddenly the fire flared up again and the brakeman quickly uncoupled the car, but a sudden bump occurred and the cargo exploded in a deafening boom. The brakeman was blown across Grand Avenue and he became deaf. Three men in his caboose ran for their lives. Messinger was thrown back across the room. Bartlett felt the concussion in Phoenix. Next to the exploding car was a car filled with railroad spikes and rails that flew over a 180 acre area. Norris hit the floor and his wife's lamp shattered in her hand.

HELLO GLENDALE

I Can Hear You Now!

In 1976 the *Glendale News-Herald* published an article by Opal Holley, about Glendale's telephone operator, **Madge**. In 1927, this 16 year old orphan girl transferred from Mesa to tiny Glendale, as operator for our 240 "party line" subscribers.

To make a call one would lift the receiver and crank the phone. When Madge answered, she'd ask for the number being called. The caller would say, for instance, "152" (the phone number) and R3, so Madge would know how many times to ring the number.

Need the police? Call Madge. She would turn on the red light at the water tower. Police and firefighters called Madge to find out where to go. Doctors and morticians let Madge know where they could be reached. One very important rule: you must never, ever listen in on the party line.

In 1936 Madge became the first woman in the Mountain Bell Company to be promoted to office manager. Glendale was one of the first cities to have a dial system.

Madge trained operators to tell the sounds of the different coins being dropped in pay phones. That's when calls from pay phones were a nickel.



Don Dewey Sanderson

The Sanderson Ford dealership at Grand and 51st Avenues in Glendale is an important successful business for Glendale employing hundreds of workers. Don Sanderson founded the dealership in 1955, buying the Less Madison Ford agency. Don's son-in-law, David Kimmerle, was a major influence in the agency's success and upon Don's death in 1985, David continued to expand the dealership as its CEO.

Don Sanderson was born in 1913 in Mesa, AZ., but the family moved to Peoria, AZ in the 1920's to farm. Don attended Peoria grade and high school but graduated in 1931 from Glendale High School. He studied at Arizona State Teachers College and Great Western Business College going to work for Martin's Cooperative in Phoenix. He met and married Laverne Taylor in 1938 and built a home in Phoenix. He opened his own gas station and used car lot at the corner of Central Avenue and Camelback Road. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps during the war as an airplane mechanic. After the war Don resumed the used car business. In 1950 he became a salesperson for five years at Gray Madison Ford and soared with sales records. He bought his Ford dealership in 1955 and bought an additional 17 acres in 1960 for expansion.

Don was very active in the community serving on the Glendale Union High School Board from 1961-1966, community betterment projects, Masonic Lodge, Rotarian and Optimist Clubs, director of the Pioneer Bank and leader in the Northwest Church of Christ. Don died in 1985. Laverne was an integral partner with Don in the business. She was active in giving back to the community as Chair of the March of Dimes. Laverne passed away in 2013 at age 90. Don and Laverne had two daughters, nine grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

This newsletter is a publication of the
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PO Box 5606
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GAHS Phone Numbers:

Guest House Office: 623.435.0072
Manistee Ranch Office: 623.931.8848
Newsletter Editor: 602.770.8202

GAHS E-mail:

General Info: gahs73@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor: gcmeyers@cox.net

Visit our Website:

www.glendalearizonahistoricalociety.org

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The Glendale Arizona Historical Society is designated as a Certified Historical Society by the Arizona Historical Society. All Rights Reserved.

Our next membership get together is our

ANNUAL GAHS PICNIC

**Saturday, Nov 18, 2017 at 11:30 am
Manistee Ranch, 5127 W. Northern Ave**

Please enter the driveway to Manistee Ranch from 51st Avenue, just south of Walgreens. Proceed through the parking lot, and continue through the open vehicle gate. Then keep right, and park along the dirt driveway.

Glendale Arizona Historical Society
PO Box 5606
Glendale, AZ 85312-5606

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2017 - 2018 Ranch Tour Schedule



Sahuaro Ranch Main House



Sahuaro Ranch Guest House



Sahuaro Ranch Adobe House



Manistee Ranch House

SAHUARO RANCH 1895 MAIN HOUSE

9802 N. 59th Avenue, Glendale, AZ

FREE TOURS of the Main House September — May: 10 am to 2 pm , Fridays & Saturdays; 1 pm to 4 pm, Sundays June and July: 10am to 2pm (closed during August and on holidays, Thanksgiving weekend, December 24, 25, 31 and January 1.)

Please call 623-930-4201 for group tours of 10 or more.

SAHUARO RANCH 1898 GUEST HOUSE and 1887 ADOBE HOUSE

9802 N. 59th Avenue, Glendale, AZ

FREE TOURS of the Guest House October – May: 1 pm to 3 pm on Sundays

FREE TOURS of the 1887 Adobe House during festivals and prior arrangements. You may call 623-435-0072 for more information, if you have any questions, or for group tours.

1897 MANISTEE RANCH 5127 W Northern Avenue (enter from the parking lot on 51st Avenue)

Tours conducted by the Glendale Arizona Historical Society docents October to May: noon to 4 pm (last tour starts at 3 pm). Fees: Adults \$5, Seniors \$4, Ages 6-16 \$1, GAHS MEMBERS FREE. 2017-2018 tour dates - the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month, October to May - will be on the following dates: November 4,18; December 2,16; January 6,20; February 3,17; March 3,17; April 7,21 and May 5. Please call 623-435-0072 for group tours.

