



# Glendale Arizona Historical Society

## "preservation of the past"

MAY 2017 NEWSLETTER

Volume 38, Issue 5

### UPCOMING EVENTS

at a glance

#### Please Save these Dates



Your membership dues do so much good in helping us preserve Glendale's history! If you've already renewed, we thank you. If not, please do it today.

#### ANNE OWENS "1992 Marty Robbins Tribute"

Monday, May 22, 2017  
7:00 pm - Manistee Ranch  
(see page 4 for directions)



The Glendale Arizona Historical Society will resume its meetings, socials, tours and newsletters in October, 2017. Let's all get together then!

### Highlights Inside

President's Message	2
Happy Birthday, Glendale	2
New Wedding Dress Exhibit	3
Guest House Architect	3
Digging our Canals	3
Glendale's First Hospital	4

## 1992 Tribute to Marty Robbins

The Glendale Arizona Historical Society will remember Marty Robbins with a special "1992 Tribute to Marty Robbins" that was organized by Anne Owens. This special program by Anne Owens will have a condensed video of the event held twenty-five years ago.

The meeting will be held on **May 22, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at Manistee Ranch, 5127 W. Northern Avenue (enter off of 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue)**. Anne Owens, who worked for the Glendale Public Library, will talk about the tribute and the importance of honoring Marty Robbins.

Marty Robbins grew up in Glendale and developed lasting friendships and memories of the community. He became a major national singer, songwriter, movie star and NASCAR driver, who never forgot his roots in Glendale. Everyone is invited to this entertaining meeting and special refreshments will be served.



Marty Robbins



Anne Owens

### WESTERN SPIRIT: SCOTTSDALE'S MUSEUM OF THE WEST

In February 2017, Jessica Koory, Peggy Vise, Carol St. Clair and Catherine Morgan took a GAHS field trip to see the Frances and Louis Sands exhibit in the beautiful and unique **Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West**. The photo shows the group in a model of a 1924 Lincoln Touring Sedan, the type of car used by the Sands family for their 1924 trip to Taos, New Mexico. The exhibit includes never before seen photographs, with the camera and journal used by the family during the trip. It also includes seven framed works of art by seven different Taos Society of Artists purchased by the Sands family on the trip. This is the first time since 1950 that the paintings have been exhibited together. Dr. Tricia Loscher, Chief Curator, guided the group through the exhibit, which took many months to put together.



The "Girls of Glendale" on a leisurely drive through Western Spirit, Scottsdale's Museum of the West



# President's Message

The first half of the 2017 programs and activities of the Society is nearly completed and programs will pick up again in October.

The last activity before summer break is the May 22,

2017 **"1992 Tribute to Marty Robbins"** with Anne Owens. Anne was instrumental in putting the tribute together. During the summer months of June, July and August the GAHS office will be open two days a week from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The newsletter will resume for the October issue. The Board has expressed a strong interest in having members write up about a 300 word memory of growing up in Glendale for the newsletter. Perhaps you have an interesting or funny story to tell. Email your memory article to me at [rshort7139@yahoo.com](mailto:rshort7139@yahoo.com) or mail it to GAHS, P.O. Box 5606, Glendale, AZ 85312. I will need the article by September 1, 2017. Have a fun and interesting summer and join us in the fall to help preserve and promote Glendale's history.

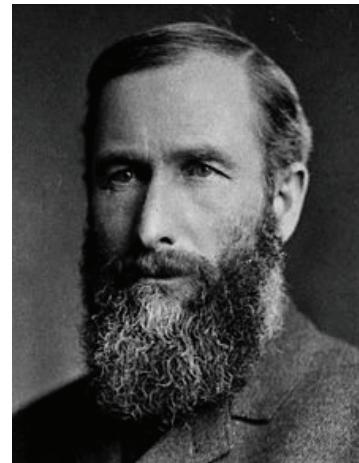


Ron Short, President  
Board of Directors

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY GLENDALE

This year marks the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Glendale's founding by W.J. Murphy. Mr. Murphy, after building the 44 mile long Arizona Canal from 1883-1885, formed the Arizona Improvement Company, which controlled water rights on land served by the canal and he acted as sales agent for the new tracts of land. In 1884 Murphy went to Chicago and persuaded Burgess A. Hadsell to organize a community of Dunkards or Brethren in Glendale. An advance group did come to Glendale in July with 110 degree temperatures. They kept right on going to California and founded Covina, CA. Murphy did convince Joseph G. Greenhut, in 1888, to establish a "new" Peoria 13 miles NW of Phoenix, AZ. Murphy had built Grand Avenue from Peoria to Phoenix that same year. He tried again with Hadsell and got him to commit to resettle 70 families from Chicago to Glendale in 1891. At that time, Glendale was devoid of development.

Burgess A. Hadsell and William Murphy surveyed and platted Glendale's first residential subdivision called "Hadsell's Addition" The work on this project was completed on February 27, 1892. The subdivision was dividing T2N, R2E, Section 6 into 30, twenty acre lots with Grand Avenue bisecting the subdivision. The subdivision was bounded by 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Northern Avenue, 67<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Glendale Avenue. This is considered as the founding of Glendale. A few months later the Glendale townsite was platted and then amended to allow for a variety of commercial lots.



W.J. Murphy  
Founder of Glendale

# th-th-that's all, folks . . . ALMOST



The Historic Sahuaro Ranch Main House, graced by its spectacular Rose Garden, now in full bloom.

The Glendale Arizona Historical Society tours of the Guest House at Sahuaro Ranch and Manistee Ranch are closed for the summer. The good news is that the 350 rose bushes are in full beautiful bloom at Sahuaro Ranch, which is open every day and free to the public. The Sahuaro Ranch staff (623-930-4201) provides summer tours of the Main House on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm

during June and July and closed during August. The Glendale Arizona Historical Society office at the Guest House is open two days a week from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Call 623-435-0072 to find out the days open. Otherwise get in your air-conditioned vehicle and visit the ten historic districts and several historic buildings in Glendale.

*Experience your environment !*

# It's not so Easy to Dig a Canal



On March 27, 2017 nearly 30 attendees were treated to an outstanding professional presentation and very comprehensive review of the history of canals in the Valley and especially west valley by Ed Allen of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. Ed talked about the extreme difficulty early canal and dam builders had with the weather, government, competing agencies and people to get water to the west valley.

Specifically, William Beardsley's "never give up" attitude faltered after the 1895 floods wiped out his dam and competing groups tried to destroy his efforts. He died before his vision was realized by his son, Robert.



## Christmas Dinner in Aubrey Valley, AZ



A typical Railroad Camp of the 1880s In Arizona's desolate, hostile deserts

## New Exhibit at the Guest House

Several Board and members of the Society spent many hours packing up the Military display and setting up the beautiful and interesting display of wedding dresses over the decades. The display will open to the public on Sundays from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm until

May and resume during the fall and winter. The Board wishes to thank Martha Dennis, Leslie Newcomb, Marty Cole, Nelda Crowell and Jessica Koory for their volunteer time in changing the very educational Wedding Dress exhibit.



## The Architect who Designed the Guest House



William H. Bartlett, who built Sahuaro Ranch from 1886-1913 developed a strong friendship with the famous Chicago architect Joseph Lyman Silsbee. Mr. Silsbee was born in 1848 and died in 1913. He graduated from Harvard University and set up his office in 1875, moving to Chicago in 1880's. Seven of his buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Silsbee was a mentor to Frank Lloyd Wright, who worked in his office. He designed Mr. Bartlett's house in Evanston, IL in 1887. Mr. Bartlett built seven buildings at Sahuaro Ranch by local contractors and then decided in 1898 to hire

Among the beautiful projects designed by architect, Joseph Lyman Silsbee (below), are Glendale's own Sahuaro Ranch Guest House and a luxurious mansion in Vermejo Ranch Park, NM.



Silsbee to design the Guest House for his son "Willie", who sought a drier climate for his tuberculosis. The building was a vernacular building style of two stories constructed of brick and a massive shingled roof. A large gable, punctuated with double-arched window faces the rose gardens. Near the end of Silsbee's major design works in 1907 he designed a fantastic huge \$500,000 mansion and other buildings at Vermejo Ranch Park, NM for Mr. Bartlett called "Casa Grande" Mr. Bartlett died there in 1918. Mr. Bartlett's ranch and additional acreage was bought by Ted Turner and his wife Jane Fonda in 1996 from Pennzoil.

William Murphy, founder of Glendale, AZ, came to Arizona with his wife Laura and family to build railroads. The whole family, the baby only 2, rode on an unsprung wagon from camp to camp and stayed in tents and shacks. In December 1881 the camp was in Aubrey Valley of northwestern Arizona - a desolate area. The family home was a 16' x 18' tent with a dirt floor covered with gunnysacks. Laura cooked on a wood stove.

She wrote to a relative *"Last Sunday was Christmas. We celebrated in a manner not accord with our personal feelings, and what pleasure was extracted came from the fact that it was more blessed to give than receive". "We*

*gave the men, 33 in number, a grand Christmas dinner: roasted meats, potatoes, onions, tomatoes, two large milk pans filled with pudding....pies, cheese and gooseberry sauce. As they left the table each was offered a cigar, which all accepted except one....This sumptuous repast had the desired effect designed, that of making the men so comfortable that not any of them went to the saloon a mile away where we were afraid some would celebrate... helped me overcome the fatigue resulting from preparing 14 pies, 20 loaves of bread and two big pans of pudding...."*

Their marriage lasted 49 years with W.J.'s death in 1923. Laura died at the age of 97.

This newsletter is a publication of the  
**Glendale Arizona Historical Society**

PO Box 5606  
Glendale, AZ 85312-5606  
The GAHS Office is located in the  
Sahuaro Ranch Guest House

It is published eight (8) times per year,  
monthly — October through May

**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](mailto:gahs73@gmail.com)  
Newsletter Editor: [gail@gcmeyers.com](mailto:gail@gcmeyers.com)

Visit our Website:  
[www.glendaleazhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.glendaleazhistoricalsociety.org)

#### Your Governing Board of Directors

Ron Short.....President  
Carol St. Clair.....Vice President  
Jessica Koory.....Secretary  
Martha Cole.....Treasurer  
Martha Dennis.....Director  
Tracy Marsh.....Director  
Catherine Morgan.....Director  
Carol Hook.....Director  
Rosemary Lynch.....Director

*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 a presentation by Anne Owens, on the 1992 Tribute to Marty Robbins. May 22, 2017 at 7:00 pm, at Manistee Ranch, 5127 W. Northern Avenue.

Please enter the driveway to Manistee Ranch from 51<sup>st</sup> 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.

#### Welcome

to our newest members:  
**Peter and Ann Rathwell**  
**Sharon and Jerry Eldridge**  
**Paul Siebert**

#### Farewell

as we celebrate the lives of those we have lost. They will be missed.

**Mary Ann Lavine**  
**J. L. White**

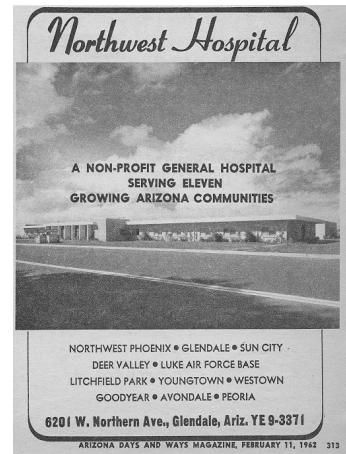
Glendale Arizona Historical Society  
PO Box 5606  
Glendale, AZ 85312-5606

Nonprofit Org  
US Postage Paid  
DMLS

#### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## Glendale's First Hospital

In 1912, the Glendale News published an editorial lamenting the need for a hospital in Glendale. Three campaigns tried to establish a hospital without success. It wasn't until September 1, 1959 that Mayor Byron Peck, along with Councilmember Alvin Swartz, pharmacist Alfred Duncan, and mortician Charles Whitney formed the Northwest Hospital, Inc. as a non-profit. Mayor Peck was its President. Their goal was to build and operate a hospital to serve 38,000 people. After endless struggles coming up with the money, bonds were finally approved, for which Glendale's women were the major force in getting them passed. Finally funded, the hospital opened in September of 1960 as a 65 bed general, acute care hospital - a nonprofit community ownership. Things went well for awhile, until the Maryvale Hospital opened in 1961. Business fell drastically. Doctors started to switch hospitals, money, drugs and equipment disappeared and the Administrator was let go. Byron Peck was named temporary Administrator and he felt obligated to make the hospital pay for itself. He diligently tackled each problem, hiring a pharmacist, setting up central recordkeeping, fixing or replacing broken and missing equipment, and operating refrigeration by hand. A new Administrator, Donald F. Quercher, was hired. Quercher stimulated interest



in the hospital and soon had it operating in the black. He did a very good job with limited funds and was able to retire or reduce much of the debt.

Eventually the non-profit gave the hospital to Good Samaritan Hospital. The Salvation Army now occupies the site of the original Northwest Hospital.