



Glendale Arizona Historical Society

"preservation of the past"

APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER

Volume 42, Issue 4



**WELCOME NEW
MEMBERS!!!**

JASON ADCOCK

TINA PACHECO

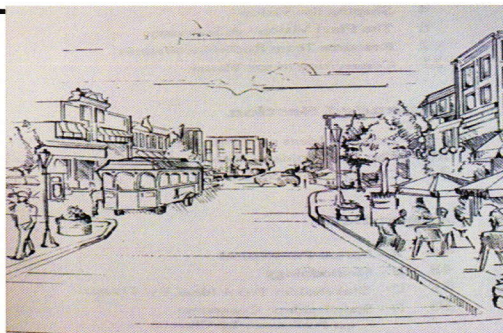
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JUDY NORTEN SARA

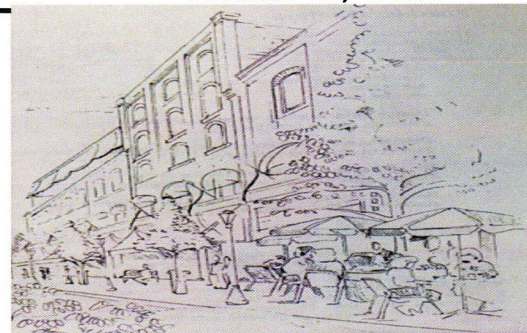
**ALL MEETINGS, TOURS,
WEDDINGS ARE STILL
CANCELLED !!!!!**

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Glendale's Miracle Mile Vision 1991



Miracle Mile Vision 1991

HISTORY OF GLENDALE'S MIRACLE MILE FORUM

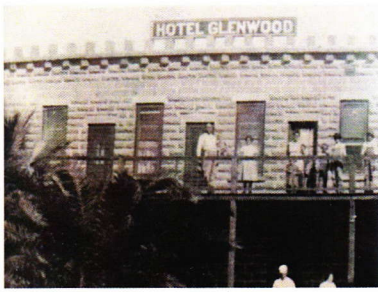
In 1988, landowners donated right-of-way and the City of Glendale spent \$4 million to fully improve Glendale Avenue from 43rd to 51st Avenues, offering a wonderful positive impression of Glendale. The remaining 51st Avenue to 62nd Avenue was still in need of improvement. In 1989, the City Council adopted a General Plan and a Downtown Urban Design and Revitalization Plan regarding future building design and streetscapes and calling for retail uses along Glendale Avenue. The *Miracle Mile Forum* in 1991 took the previous two plans further by determining the types of businesses that should occur.

The forum was a major effort to obtain ideas from citizens, city officials and professional guidance for the area from 51st Avenue to 62nd Avenue between Glenn Drive and Lamar Road. It was a joint redevelopment project of the Glendale Chamber of Commerce, Glendale Downtown Development Corporation and the City of Glendale. A hundred stakeholders met on November 2, 1990. The area was divided into five "walkable clusters" – areas in which compatible businesses could cluster. On November 3, 1990, the group took a bus tour of the area. The members were divided into seven sub-groups, each of which looked at the same five clusters and came up with ideas that were voted on in a consensus-building session.

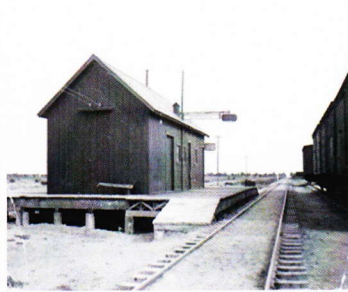
The final recommendations were: 1) Use open spaces to add to its uniqueness. 2) Maintain a festive spirit in this area with special events. 3) Prioritize cluster activities: Green Cluster – 57th to 59th Avenue – continue concentration as the core of the street; upgrade the Red Cluster – 59th to 62nd Avenue; master plan the Blue Cluster – 51st to 53rd Avenue with retail, residential, hotel and preservation of the Beet Sugar Factory. 4) Use trolleys to encourage mobility between the clusters without reliance on automobiles.

In 1993, Michael Hart wrote an article in the *Glendale Star*, "Glendale Avenue: the 'Gateway' to What?" Local businesspeople were anxious to see something like bricks and mortar development.. Some antique stores shifted from Catlin Court to downtown; antique walks developed and Saturday market started. Mayor Scruggs remembers that a major idea was the development of additional downtown living. This was a vision developed 30 years ago.

Early in the 2000s, a townhouse project north of Glendale Avenue between 56th and 57th Avenue and on 58th Avenue north of Glenn Drive started construction but came to a halt due to a recession. They are now vacant properties. In 2007, a two-year visioning project was done for Glendale Avenue by citizens, elected officials and professionals. In 2011 the Centerline Overlay with four districts from 43rd Avenue to 67th Avenue and Myrtle Avenue to Ocotillo Avenue was adopted by the city council. In 2014, the "Revitalize Glendale Midtown" forum and study were accomplished with the Urban Land Institute for the City of Glendale. There is a history of excellent visioning and planning efforts with citizens, businesses, elected officials and outside professionals. The city is funding the Glendale Chamber of Commerce to work with downtown businesses and property owners to find solutions to issues and strengthen the Glendale business climate.



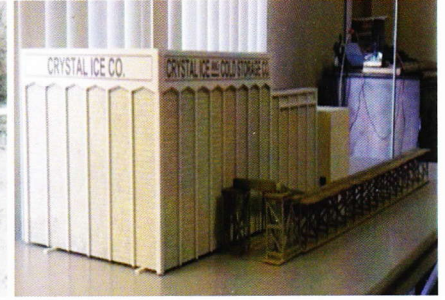
Hotel Glenwood 1909



Santa Fe Train depot 1895



Rainbow theater 1910



Glendale Ice Factory model

LENDALE'S EARLY GROWTH SPURT

Glendale's first railroad station was a wooden building that stood until about 1910 when Santa Fe Railroad replaced it with a modern brick station. Considerable improvements were made to the nearby livery stable. The Hotel Glenwood had a grand opening in 1909. It was the coolest (literally) place in town. An old livery stable was demolished and the two-story brick Ireland Building and the Sine Building were built. The Fiock Block had a bank, Englehardt, Hine and Mitchell buildings, the Rainbow Theater and City Hall. In 1910 there were three small stores, but by 1913 there were four blocks with concrete business buildings, a good water works system, a street railway, electric lights, three each of grocers, hardware stores, lumber yards and blacksmith shops. There were two meat markets, one bank, livery barn, harness shop, two dry goods and clothing stores, a bakery, newspaper, jewelry store, three restaurants, a hotel two barbers, a rooming house, one drug store, two confectionaries, and two theaters. In 1917 a canned milk facility was built by Armour Company. It operated for three years. Then the building was vacant until 1930 when Associated Dairy Products Company took over and added butter and cottage cheese processing products. In 1927, Richard Smith bought the Sahuaro Ranch and planted it with olive trees, citrus, cotton, lettuce, cantaloupe, hay and grain, plus a herd of Hereford cattle. The Beet Sugar Factory opened for production in 1906, but the sugar beets did not have enough sugar content to make the production viable. Glendale had a rapid growth spurt in the early days that has been repeated throughout its history.



Station 151 and historic fire alarm bell

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF GLENDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT

In October 1987, the Glendale Fire Department celebrated its 75th anniversary with a picnic at Sahuaro Ranch Park and parade on 59th Avenue. Cheryl Burrue, community relations manager for the city described a few historical highlights prior to 1987.

The fire department was built on a foundation of volunteers many years prior to the 75th anniversary. Fire fighter volunteers were called to action by a night watchman who fired his revolver into the air and blew the steam whistle at the Glendale Ice Company. In 1917, the town bought its first fire truck; it ran at a top speed of 35 mph. The town also bought at the same time a 4-foot-high, 600-pound bell. It was placed on the water tank in back of the Sine Brothers' Hardware Store. Years later, a large fire siren was purchased by the town. The siren was tested every day at 8:00 a.m. and at noon. The equipment was moved to 6826 N. 57th Drive and was the only fire station for years. In 1935, the city council adopted an ordinance organizing and regulating the department, and George Cox was named volunteer chief. All volunteers were paid \$4 a month and 50 cents per alarm response. In 1956, a non-volunteer fire department was established. The first full-time fire chief was Don Heatwole. There were five paid firemen and 16 reserve firefighters. In 1972, firemen began dispatching to car accidents with injuries. The firemen received emergency medical training. Today there are eight fire stations compared to four stations in 1987.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Wow! We are still wearing masks, practicing social distancing, washing our hands and avoiding large groups. In addition, for those of us meeting the vaccination criteria, is the need to receive not just one, but two vaccinations. The process to register and obtain an appointment can be challenging and takes determination. The actual procedure at the event site is smooth, and volunteers are polite and helpful.

The society board is meeting in person (some on the phone) monthly on the first Tuesday mornings at Manistee Ranch. Tables are spaced to meet social distancing, and all participants wear masks. The major discussion and activities are repairs and maintenance of Manistee Ranch. Considerable repairs were accomplished in 2020 using donations from the membership. Volunteers continue to remove debris, make repairs and keep up the grounds with help from the City of Glendale Parks and Recreation staff. John and Paulette Geurs and Bill Greb, with a donation from Charlie and Jennifer Sands and help from Larry Rovey, are buying and planting several citrus trees. The society and the city are coordinating to remove and plant trees on Manistee Ranch park within city owned property. Manistee Ranch is getting outstanding care and attention in order to preserve this outstanding historical asset for the citizens of Glendale to enjoy and appreciate.

The Board appreciates the ability of its volunteers to prepare and distribute the monthly newsletters to keep the membership and others updated and provide historical views into Glendale's past. The society website, managed by Webmaster Bruce Newmark, has extensive information at www.glendalearizonahistoricalociety.org. Its Facebook page changes frequently with historical photos and information. The tours, wedding facilitation, programs and social events are postponed until the CDC and State Health guidelines permit such gatherings.

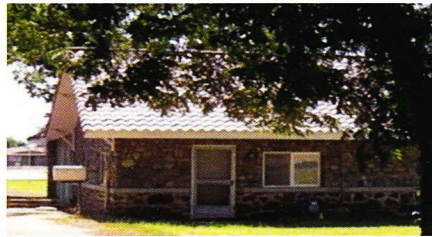


REMEMBERING GLENDALE'S PAST

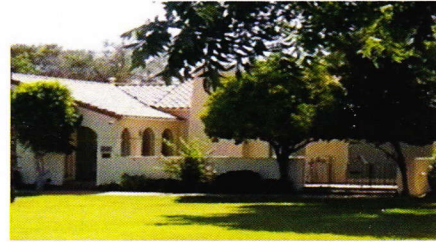
In 1985 Thelma Heatwole recorded an oral history with Maria Martinez Felix. Maria was 73 years old at the time of the interview and had lived in Glendale for 63 years, left in 1936 to move to California, but returned after 10 years. Maria came back "because I believed that there wasn't any other town in the United States that I would live in but Glendale. I love Glendale." Her husband, Trinidad worked for the City of Glendale Sanitation Department for 20 years, and upon his retirement, the city manager, Stanley Van de Putte, and all of the city council gave him a farewell party. One of the things that stands out in the early days of downtown Glendale was the annual Mexican Independence celebration in the Town Park. Maria, who worked to preserve Mexican culture and traditions, started a Fiesta in Glendale in 1933. She remembered the Toggery, Boston Store, Piggly Wiggly and the Stapley store. She was excited about the Rainbow Theater because her father went there every other night and Mr. Cox, the owner, let him in free. She attended the movies often. The cost was ten cents for children. Maria was married for 53 years and after her husband's death she became depressed and did not go outside the house. A church nun, Sister Maureen, and others talked Maria into participating in church and community activities. She was a Lector for 20 years, a member of the Legion of Mary, and went to rest homes to lead prayers/rosary in English and Spanish. She spent two years as a member of the Neighborhood Council and Advisory Council to the city.



7508 N. 59th Shawver house 1952



7550 N. 59th Ave. Trueblood house



7614 n. 59th Sobey house 1930



7714 N. 59th Colvin house 1925



59th Ave. Historic District

59TH AVENUE RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

The 59th Avenue Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on September 6, 2006. It started in 1895 when Isaac Eyer bought Block 16 of the 1892 platted Hadsell Addition. Isaac planted a row of California Fan Palms which exists today and is a character-defining feature of the historic district. The district has eleven houses, eight of which are conforming, meaning they met the requirements of being 50 years old, keeping the exterior integrity and having historic significance; three homes are non-conforming. The stone piers and the row of palm trees are contributing. Four of the eight conforming homes photos are in this article.

The house styles include Bungalow (2), Ranch (2), English Cottage Revival (1), Colonial Revival (1), National Folk (1) and Spanish Colonial Revival (1). The Bungalows were the earliest (1923 and 1925); then Spanish Colonial Revival and Colonial Revival (1930 and 1935); stone piers (1941) and the Ranch style (1952, 1955).

The Ranch style Shawver home at the northwest corner of Orangewood Avenue and 59th Avenue was built in 1952 and became the most expensive house ever built in Glendale at that time costing \$32,000. The architect for the home was Max Dorne, a famous and active architect working in both California and Arizona. He also designed the home of Phoenix businessman and statesman, Barry Goldwater.

The Link Colvin house at 7706 N. 59th Avenue was constructed in 1971. In 2006, when the district was created, it was only 35 years old. Today it meets the criteria of being 50 years old. The family lived in the small stone house at 7714 N. 59th Avenue and later moved into the new stone house.

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The Glendale Arizona
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SHIRLEY TOLBY

JANUARY 31, 2021

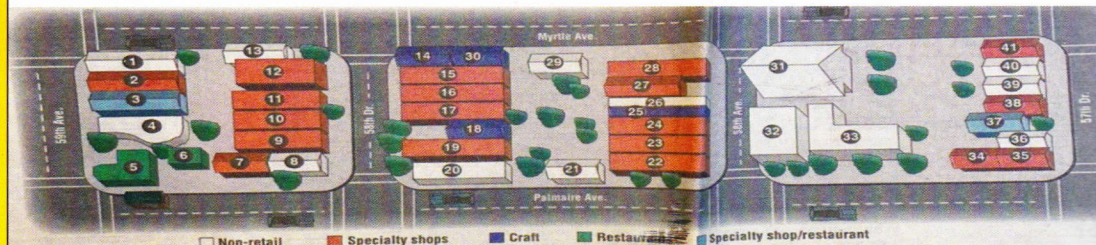
Glendale Arizona Historical Society

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CATLIN COURT HISTORIC DISTRICT

In the 1990s a committee of local residents, businesspeople and government officials met to create a way to preserve Glendale's unique and precious historic homes. They recommended, and the City Council approved, the adoption of a special district devoted primarily to turning the historic buildings into specialty retail and dining businesses with limited office and residential use. The district was successful, and a 1998 diagram shows the location of shops, restaurants and specialty uses. A 35-member District Association was formed to encourage business and ensure the strict standards of the district were adhered to.

The Catlin Court District, bounded by Palmyra and Myrtle Avenues and 57th and 59th Avenues, was the first organized development in Glendale (1915). It was named after Otto Hansen's wife Marie Catlin Hanson. A notable housing style of the district is the Craftsman Bungalow. The district has the V. E. Messinger house (1895) at 7141 N 59th Avenue (The Spicery); the Floyd H. Sine House, 7163 N. 58th Drive (it has a second floor sleeping porch); the David Roberts House, 5808 W. State Avenue (minister's house and later teachers' boarding house); and the First Methodist Church parsonage, 7142 N. 58th Avenue (Cottage Garden). Recently the Glendale Board of Adjustment voted that the interpretation of the district not allowing residential use by itself cannot be enforced.