



Glendale Arizona Historical Society

"preservation of the past"

OCTOBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Volume 41, Issue 6

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS MADE THE DECISION TO CANCEL ALL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2020



For the past seven or eight years Gail Meyers has put together our newsletter and helped the Society in many ways. It is sad to say that Gail passed away in the middle of August. She will be greatly missed!!!

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President Harry Truman awarding PFC Silvestre S Herrera The Medal of Honor August 23, 1945

ONE OF GLENDALE'S MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Silvestre S. Herrera was born in Camargo, Chihuahua, Mexico on July 17, 1917, although, until he was 27 years old, he had believed he was born in El Paso, Texas. His parents died when he was one year old and his uncle, who he thought to be his father, brought him to the United States. He worked as a farm hand, married his wife Ramona, they had three children and moved to Phoenix. When the United States entered WWII he was drafted into the Texas National Guard, 36th Division. He asked, who he thought were his parents, to be with his family in Phoenix while he served. He was shocked when his uncle told Silvestre, they were not his parents. His uncle told him he did not have to go to war, because he was not a citizen. Silvestre later remarked "I didn't want anybody to die in my place..."

On March 15, 1945, Silvestre, now in the 142nd Infantry, deployed near the front in the Alsace region. His platoon came under heavy machine gun fire. The men sought cover, however PFC Herrera charged single-handedly the machine gun nest firing his M-1 rifle from his hip and then threw grenades ending the fight. He took eight enemy prisoners who surrendered to him. After turning his prisoners in, the platoon encountered a second enemy position protected by a mine field. Again, Silvestre, single-handedly charged the stronghold, through the mine field, in hopes of drawing fire away from his platoon. A mine exploded shattering his leg below the knee. He stood up on his good leg and stepped on another mine severing his leg below the knee. He still managed, on his knees to be able to fire a machine gun allowing the platoon to go around the mine field and capture the position.

On August 23, 1945 Silvestre rolled his wheelchair across the White House lawn to have President Harry Truman present him the Medal of Honor. President Truman leaned over and told him "He would rather be awarded the medal of Honor than be president of the United States" That made Herrera even more proud. A year after this award the Government of Mexico presented him with its Order of Military Merit (First Class). He was also awarded the Purple Heart. He was the first resident from Arizona to receive the medal of Honor in WWII. Governor Sydney P. Osborn declared August 14, 1945 to be "Herrera Day" There was a drive to grant him citizenship and resulted in him being granted United State Citizenship. The citizens of Arizona raised \$14,000 and provided him with a new home. He received many more honors and an elementary school in Phoenix is named after him. Silvestre died, November 26, 2007 at his house in Glendale, AZ. He was buried in Resthaven Cemetery in Glendale along side his wife, Ramona who died in 1992.

DONALD EUGENE METZLER PASSED AWAY

Donald "Don" Eugene Metzler passed away on June 19, 2020 in Glendale, AZ. Don was born in 1930 and moved to Glendale in 1952 to help his parents, Lawrence and Hildegard Metzler operate a turkey ranch in Glendale. He married Mary Norman on June 5, 1953, attended Phoenix College and graduated from ASU. Don taught junior high science in the Washington School District. He was active in the First United Methodist Church.





Presidents Message

The year 2020 has been a huge challenge for the Board of Directors and staff, due to the Corona-virus impacts. All Fall wedding facilitations were cancelled by the society and deposits refunded. Weddings are about 80% of the society total income. The society is in a serious financial condition with limited funds left in the operating budget to run the society at a reduced level until the end of 2020. There will be insufficient funds to start 2021. **The Board would greatly appreciate any donations from the membership or friends so the society service to the community can continue.** Please send your donations by check to Glendale Arizona Historical Society, P.O. Box 5606, Glendale, AZ, 85312.

The Board of Directors on August 15, 2020 approved Manistee Ranch maintenance projects of repairing a crumbling basement wall and strengthening the east side porch that is sagging. **Gail Meyers**, newsletter graphic composer for several years has recently passed away. **Marty Cole** is to be thanked to take on a new technical task and learn how to put the newsletter together. The Board approved sending a paper newsletter in October and December, but November will be an email to the members to save limited remaining funds. The Board decided to not have any program, picnic, or Christmas party in 2020. **Nelda Crowell** is doing a fantastic job documenting the library collection with over 400 files processed. Oral histories have been completed of **Charlie Sands** and **Buzz Sands**, **Elaine Scruggs** and next to be interviewed is **George Renner**. The society is busy preserving and promoting Glendale's history.



Kiser Motor Court built mid -1940s
Changed to Trails End Motel in Mid-1950s



GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN HISTORIC LODGING

Dewey Kiser built the Kiser Motor Court at 57th Drive and Grand Avenue in the mid-1940s as one of the first two resorts in the Valley. The facility had offered overnight and short term stays and it had suites, a café and units with kitchenettes. Seven units had connecting doors for families. John and Jessie Williams bought the motor court in 1951. According to their daughter Jeanette Williams, her Dad changed the motel name a few years later and designed a new sign calling the motel Trails End Motel. The sign was very beautiful with the image of a horse and an Indian. The Williamses quickly became part of Glendale community life. John was a Mason, joined the Lions Club, became president of the Sunrise Lions Club and District Governor of Lions 21A in Arizona and president of the Highway 70 Association for three years. He ran for Mayor of Glendale twice. He would make daily rounds of the downtown and became very visible with his white cane for Lions vision programs. Jessie joined the Glendale Woman's Club, was a Girl Scout leader, served as president of the PTSA for two years, and was active in the Eastern Star becoming Grand Matron for Arizona.

Jeanette had fond memories of the many interesting people who came and stayed at the Trails End Motel, such as the famous wrestler, Gorgeous George, who parked his pink Cadillac convertible by the motel sign. There was also a farm couple from Orange County, California, who had their chauffeur drive them, and famous Harry Woods, who wrote "I'm Looking over a Four-Leaf Clover" and "When the Moon Comes over the Mountain." Jeanette and the guests spent many hours on the motel patio sunbathing, talking, pursuing hobbies or playing cards. Holiday dinners were also served on the patio.

The Williamses sold the motel in 1978 and retired. In 2005, ADOT bought the property to re-align entrance roadways to the downtown. The Trails End Motel sign was saved and placed in the City of Glendale Public Works storage yard.



Sahuaro Ranch
Stable/
Granary
1935
Photo-



graphs by Bette Sharp
Glendale City Council rededicating reconstructed buildings

CITY OF GLENDALE RECONSTRUCTS HISTORIC BUILDINGS

A group of teenagers trespassed on the Sahuaro Ranch property one evening in September of 2017 and set fire to three historic buildings: Dairy Barn 1928; the blacksmith/machine shop circa 1890 and the stable/granary 1935. There was minor damage to the scale house 1950. The city restored and rebuilt as needed. The city was careful to be as historically correct, as possible, to the original construction through materials and construction methods, which included non-sanded lumber. The buildings are part of the historic buildings at Sahuaro Ranch used for tours, weddings and special events. The Glendale City Council, Glendale Historic Preservation Commission, Glendale Arizona Historical Society and others gathered in the early part of 2020 to rededicate these important buildings to Glendale's history.

DO YOU REMEMBER MIN'S MARKET?



Do you remember lining up at Min's Market waiting for the store to open at 9:00 a. m.? The Min Takiguchi family of wife and daughter Ilene (shown in the photo) had been farming for more than 50 years. The market and adjoining farm were located on Northern Avenue east of 59th Avenue and across from the Valley West Mall. Min offered a unique array of specialty items, such as Sharlyn, a hybrid melon that had a taste and consistency between a honeydew and cantaloupe. Another unique melon is casaba, which looked like a squash but tasted like a melon or the canary melon, which was a bright yellow super sweet melon. The market had a variety of vegetables like collards, mustard greens, squash and red and while Swiss chards. Development took over this last remaining vestige of agriculture in the area.



W. J. Murphy (1839-1923) : Arizona Canal Construction (1883-1886) : Beet Sugar Factory (1903-1906) (1906-1916) : Phoenix-Glendale

Street Car Line 1911

GRANDSON'S MEMORY OF W.J. MURPHY'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLENDALE

Merwin L. Murphy (1911-1998), son of Ralph Murphy and Winifred Dysart, and grandson of canal builder W.J. Murphy, made a speech in Murphy Park in 1984 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Glendale's incorporation. He highlighted the significant activities of his grandfather to ensure Glendale would become a thriving city in the desert. William John Murphy came to the Valley in 1883. He had completed a contract with the railroad and was using his teams for freighting supplies for other contractors. He accepted the contract to build the 40-mile Arizona Canal in May 1883. He found excavating easier than selling bonds for the project. His pay was in in stock and bonds of the company. He did complete the canal in 1886 and became the chief stockholder and president of the Arizona Canal Company.

W.J. picked five locations in the Arizona Canal irrigation service area for future town developments. The locations were Glendale, Ingleside (near Scottsdale), Orangewood (North Central Avenue), Peoria, and Marinette. Land in the potential irrigation area could be bought under the Desert Land Act. He got his relatives and friends to file claims to parcels. The owners had to "prove up" (bring water to the land) in three years to get title to the land. Murphy owned five sections in a row. He became president of the Arizona Improvement Company (1887) that brought together all canal companies, that were north of the Salt river.

After completing the canal, he bought a section west of Phoenix and platted Grand Avenue Addition, which set up the alignment of Grand Avenue that extended beyond Glendale. W.J. focused on bringing in settlers to buy the land and become water customers. He succeeded in persuading a group of Church of the Brethren members to settle in the area. He also worked on plans for a townsite in the middle of Sections 5,6,7, and 8, Range 2 North, 2 East and named it Glendale. The Improvement Company filed a plat in 1892.

W.J. thought the Valley was a great place to grow sugar beets and formed the Eastern Sugar Company to build a sugar beet processing plant in Glendale. W.J. built the steel frame. Then he had to refinance the factory under the Southwest Sugar and Land Company to complete the factory. His company owned 8,500 acres of land to grow sugar beets. The factory operated until 1916.

W.J. was able to get the Santa Fe Railroad to construct the Ashfork/Phoenix line, which opened in 1895. He also was involved in getting the Phoenix-Glendale street-car line in 1911. As part of the townsite plat W.J. reserved a town park, which he later dedicated to the Town of Glendale. Last photo: Murphy Park

WHO WAS THE FIRST LOUIS SANDS?



Louis Sands, who was born in Sweden, came to America in 1852 with limited funds and in 1866 built his first sawmill. He became one of the region's most successful lumbermen with a vertically integrated lumbering system. In 1868, Mr. Sands provided most of the funds to buy two lots to build the first Scandinavian Church in Manistee, Michigan. He also helped with the construction of the First Congregational Church and in the 1880s Mr. Sands helped to fund Mercy Hospital to provide care for lumbermen. By 1919, Mr. Sands mill was the last large mill remaining and residents were leaving Manistee for jobs in the factories located to the south. The Sands company had three years of timber supply left. Mr. Sands offered the outright gift of a deed to 40 acres of good agricultural land to each of his 300 employees who remained in the employment of the sawmill operation until it ceased operation. This was Louis Sands showing his appreciation for faithful service.

The Manistee County Historical Museum was founded in 1953. The factories had closed. The timber was gone and a forest fire damaged landscape that was left in its place. Nevertheless, the Sands family have not forgotten their roots.

Members of the fourth, fifth and sixth generation of Louis Sands family have been supporters of the Manistee County Historical Museum for over 40 years. In 2005, the museum started a fund raiser for an addition to the museum. Louis Sands IV assisted in the project, and the family provided for more than half of the funds. In 2015, the museum roof was leaking badly and needed a new roof. Fund raising would take a year. One month after the donation request went out, the Museum received a check from Louis (Buzzard) Sands IV for the total roof cost of \$12,800. Louis Buzz Sands also provided funds to help replace the Manistee Ranch roof in Glendale, AZ a few years ago.

DOROTHY M. BAILLY

Dorothy passed on April 2, 2020. She was born in Watertown, S.D. and spent early years in Minneapolis, MN working for award winning Charlies Cafe Exceptionale. She moved to Phoenix in 1957 and managed the Stockyards restaurant at night and then was night hostess at Durant's. In 1964 Dorothy and husband Charles built and opened Bailly's Restaurant at 59th Avenue and Missouri Avenue until 1996. Dorothy was very active in community groups such as the Chamber of Commerce, Thunderbird balloon race, Government Affairs Committee, Bond Committee, Glendale Arizona Historical Society and Friends of Thunderbird. Her husband died in 1995.



This newsletter is a publication of the

Glendale Arizona Historical Society

PO Box 5606

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GAHS Phone Numbers:

Guest House Office: 623.435.0072

Manistee Ranch Office: 623.931.8648

GAHS E-mail:

General Info: gahs73@gmail.com

Visit our Website:

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TOURS ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

SAHUARO RANCH 1895 MAIN HOUSE, 9802 N. 59th Ave, Glendale,AZ

*Free Tours of the Main House Sept.–July: Fridays and Saturdays: 10 am to 2 pm

Sunday: 1 pm to 4 pm: (Closed August and holidays) Call 623-930-4201 for groups of 10 or more

SAHUARO RANCH 1898 Guest HOUSE AND 1887 ADOBE HOUSE

*Free Tours of the Guest House–October –May Sundays 1 pm–3:30 pm (except holidays and during weddings) Call 623-435-0072 for information or group tours

* Free Tours of Adobe House during festivals and prior arrangements.

1897 MANISTEE RANCH , 5127 W NORTHERN AVE (enter off of 51st Ave.)

*Tours are conducted by Glendale Arizona Historical Society docents from Oct.– May, Noon to 4pm (last tour starts at 3:30)Fees–Adults \$5, Seniors & Veterans \$4, children 6-16 \$1, MEMBERS ARE FREE. Tours are the 1st and 3rd Sat. of each month.



Sahuaro Ranch Adobe House



Sahuaro Ranch Guest House



Sahuaro Ranch Main House



Manistee Ranch House



IN LOVING MEMORY

MARVIS JEAN PECK BRICE

GAIL MEYERS