



Glendale Arizona Historical Society

"preservation of the past"

OCTOBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

Volume 35, Issue 6

UPCOMING EVENTS

at a glance

Please Save these Dates

MEET THE AUTHOR:
Meredith Haley Whiteley
'Miracle on the Salt River'
Monday, Oct 26 at 7pm
Manistee Ranch

OLD TIMERS' PICNIC
Saturday, Nov 21 at 11:30 am
Manistee Ranch

CHRISTMAS PARTY
ELECTIONS
Sunday, Dec 13 at 2:00 pm
Manistee Ranch

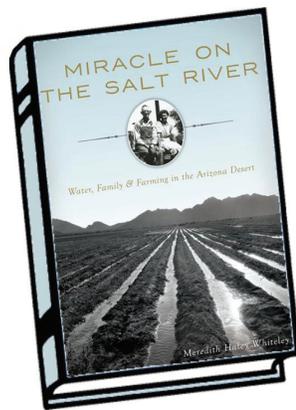
POTLUCK / INSTALLATION
Monday, Jan 25 at 6:00 pm
Manistee Ranch

PROGRAM MEETING
Monday, Feb 22 at 7pm
Manistee Ranch

Highlights Inside

Presidents Message	2
Treasured Organ Returns	2
Glendale Gets a Library	3
In Memoriam	3
Tour the Ranches	4

Meredith Haley Whiteley



The GAHS membership and friends have a unique opportunity to hear from the author of **Miracle on the Salt River** on Monday, October 26th at 7pm at Manistee Ranch (driving directions on page 4). Refreshments will be served and the meeting is open to the public.

Meredith is a third generation native of the Valley being raised on a farm in Glendale and Maryvale. She attended Grinnell College in Iowa and Arizona State University earning a PhD. She taught American and Arizona history before enjoying a career in university planning and institutional research.

Meredith retired and renewed her interest in Arizona water history and the voices of the people. Her book is a fascinating and well researched and documented history of the region and specifically of Glendale and its people and institutions. Meredith will talk about the book and her memory of growing up in the Glendale area. In addition she will propose possible actions and projects the GAHS can take to promote and preserve the agricultural history of Glendale.

Fighting Fire in Early Glendale



When a fire broke out in those early days, volunteer firemen were summoned at night by a watchman who shot his pistol off, followed by the Glendale Ice House steam whistle.

A volunteer fire department was organized in 1912 operating with three fire hydrants and carrying 150 feet of 21-inch hose. Glendale bought its first fire truck in 1917 (shown above).

Also, in 1917 the city bought a 600 pound bell and mounted it on the downtown water tank for when they needed to sound the fire alarm. Fires were reported to a telephone operator who then pulled a metal disc to activate the fire bell. The bell was finally replaced by an overhead siren, which was tested every weekday at 8 AM and noon.





Ron Short, President
Board of Directors

President's Message

WE'RE BACK!!! Yes, the GAHS Board and all of its activities for the membership are back for the fall, winter and spring.

There are **twenty** weddings booked for this fall at the Rose Garden/Guest House.

We need help for volunteers to facilitate those weddings. This is a fun and fulfilling task of opening up the guest house,

greeting the wedding party participants, answering questions and light clean up. It will put a smile on your face. Please call Josie Reardon, secretary, at 623-435-0072 to volunteer.

The Society also needs volunteers for Sunday afternoons to provide docent services for Guest House and Adobe house tours. The weddings are usually on a Saturday with a few during the week or on Sunday. The Board held their annual retreat on August 20, 2015 at Manistee Ranch. The Board decided to help sponsor **the annual Christmas Parade on December 12, 2015** by loaning 100 of the Society's wedding chairs and paying for the transport of the chairs to the parade and back. Candy Shepard, GAHS member, suggested the Society conduct a free public bus tour for Manistee Ranch and Sahuaro Ranch. The Board agreed and will be working to set up the tour in February or March, during the morning.

The Board approved a marketing proposal from Gail Meyers to provide colorful brochures, our membership directory, wedding flyer, tour flyer, and business and return envelopes. This should help to improve public awareness, and enhance the image of the Society.

The major discussion was about the future of Manistee Ranch. We're all getting older and are finding it's harder to take on the same responsibilities as in past years. Manistee Ranch is a critically important asset for Glendale and its citizens, as well as for Arizona. Its historical building(s) need constant upkeep and repair, and the cost seems to grow each year. Recently, the Society had the good fortune that Buzz Sands and Councilmember Ian Hugh provided donations enabling us to re-roof a portion of the house. The Society applied for a grant from the T.O. Nation to finish the re-roof and ceiling repair of Manistee Ranch house. This grant was not approved; other funding options will be explored. The Board discussed possible uses for the house, but they are limited due to its lack of public facilities. The long range future of Manistee Ranch needs more discussion.

A critical challenge for the Society is to attract younger members with a strong commitment to preserve and promote Glendale's history, and who can carry on the outstanding achievements its members.

A TREASURED HEIRLOOM RETURNS TO THE VALLEY LAURA'S PUMP ORGAN COMES BACK AFTER 130 YEARS

by Dana Tretheway

Perhaps, it was love at first sight. Perhaps, it was the end of a long search. Or, was it impulse? Or, simply curiosity? And, was this Chicago or Boston or New York? It really didn't matter. It was right there: a musical instrument that looked like an organ but was more compact, portable with handles, pedals, and a keyboard encased in a soft, slight reddish brown colored box with gold lettering inside, "Mason-Hamblin" At the time the company was considered "the finest piano and organ maker ever" and still in business.

The purchase was made, shipping address given, and the special gift was on its way to the desert-Salt River Valley: Phoenix, Arizona. The buyer was W.J. Murphy, and he was sending this little pump organ (or is it a Melodeon?) to his wife, Laura. I don't know if it happened this way, but I do know that Murphy did give his Laura this pump organ as a gift sometime in the early 1880's.

W. J. and Laura are my great-great-grandparents, and I am Dane Tretheway from Salt Lake City, Utah. I have owned this pump organ since 1984 when my grandmother, Elma Murphy, gave it to me. She had received it as a gift sometime in 1940 from her father-in-law, Ralph Murphy, who is my great-grandfather and father of Dysart, my grandfather.

W.J. was absent from his family frequently and for long periods of time. Responsible for building the canal and paying for it, he would go anywhere, mostly back east, looking for investors. His family— Laura, son Ralph and daughters Laila and Loise (son Ray was born later) lived with him, camped out on the desert. There were extended family members and the building crew there, but life was difficult and lonely without their father. Maybe, he thought some music would be a bright spot for them. No doubt, they were cheered when Laura played hymns in the evenings, on Sundays and on other special occasions.

In 1885, the canal was completed, and the family moved into their new house on Central Avenue in Phoenix and so did the pump organ. It moved several times, even had a tumble which broke the pedals' support from the legs. This was repaired with only slight aesthetic damage.



Glendale Gets a Library

In 1895, Victor Messinger came to Glendale to manage Ryder Lumber and Hardware Company. He was a graduate of Stanford University and brought with him 400 books, which he donated as Glendale's first library collection. In 1897 he built a library building at the north end of the Ryder building and people donated books. In 1898, a dissolving merchant group with \$500 left in its account voted to organize a public library and use the money to buy new books. They established the Glendale Public Library Association. Shares were sold for \$5 for the privilege of borrowing books.

But where to put the library?

Messinger built a small room near his

lumber yard where the new books were placed, and served as librarian for several years. Because of a draught and folks leaving, the books had to be stored for years above Messinger's store.

Once the Roosevelt dam brought water and growth back to Glendale, the Woman's Club raised money to buy sixteen shares in the library, and in 1900, the books were moved to the old brick grammar school. The Woman's Club kept it open on Saturday afternoons, until the school house was torn down in 1915. The books were then moved to the Town Hall and were not used for three years due to a lack of funds. In 1918 the Woman's Club voted to re-open the library and pay a librarian.



Books were mended and catalogued, and the library opened on Saturday afternoons from 2 pm to 6 pm.

Through public donations, the book collection increased to 1,200. The library in Town Hall was under the supervision of Miss Erdean Teague. The Woman's Club moved the library to a tiny white frame building to the middle of Murphy Park, next to "the world's biggest flagpole". In 1922 the library became a department of the City of Glendale with a budget of \$500.



Margie, Art & Julia

We value and cherish your memories

Memorial donations have been received for three long time Glendale residents who passed away this summer. Their names will be placed on the Memorial Plaque on the main porch at Manistee Ranch.

Margie Mondo Connell was raised on her family's farm at 67th Avenue and Orangewood with her four sisters. Margie graduated from Glendale High School and was a Rainbow girl. As an adult, she became very active in the Glendale Arizona Historical Society and the First United Methodist Church. As a member of GAHS, Margie was a docent at special events at the Guest House at Sahuaro Ranch Park. She always attended monthly meetings

and volunteered her time and efforts to many projects.

Art Meyers was a pillar in Glendale's business community. He moved to Glendale in 1959 with his wife and daughter. Art was co-owner of Meyers American, Mazda and Subaru dealerships and active in the United States Auto Club. In 2012, he was inducted into the Big Car Racing Hall of Fame. Art is the brother of Dorothy Bailly, a GAHS member.

Julia Phillips was an integral part of GAHS since its inception in 1973. Julia was a founding member who joined other Glendale pioneers in collaboration with the city when Sahuaro Ranch became a city park. She was among

those who furnished the Main, Guest, and Adobe houses on the property. They gave tours of the Main House before Parks and Recreation took over those responsibilities. Julia earned the Ruth Byrne Historical Preservation Award for her dedication to the society and the city. Julia gave tours, handled accessions, helped with displays, contributed articles to the newsletter, served as board member, and was active behind the scenes in many other endeavors.

“Margie, Art and Julia leave many memories through their contributions to Glendale's rich and varied

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Our next membership get together is
Meet Author Meredith Whiteley
Monday, Oct 26, 2015 at 7:00 pm
Manistee Ranch, 5127 W. Northern
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.

We are pleased to welcome () new members to the GAHS:

(reserved for new members)

Love and prayers go out to the family and friends of the beloved members we lost:

Margie Mondo Connell

Art Meyers

Julia Phillips

They will be deeply missed.

Glendale Arizona Historical Society
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Tour the Ranches

2015-2016 Season Tour Schedules

The Guest House at Sahuaro Ranch is presenting its scheduled public tours between 1:00 PM and 3:30 PM each Sunday Afternoon by the Glendale Arizona Historical Society from October to May. Call 623-435-0072 to arrange group tours. (Last tour is at 3:00 PM) Schedule is subject to change.

The Glendale Parks and Recreation Department conducts tours of the Main House on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 AM to 2 PM and Sundays from 1 PM to 4 PM. For more information or to arrange a group tour call 623-930-4201.

The Glendale Arizona Historical Society conducts tours of the Manistee Ranch House and Office from October to May, on the first and third Saturdays of each month, from noon to 4 PM. The last tour starts at 3 PM. The tours dates are October 3, 17; November 7, 21; December 5, 19; January 2, 16; February 6, 20; March 5, 19; April 2, 16; May 7. The tour fees are adult \$5, seniors \$4. Ages 6-16 \$1. Glendale Arizona Historical Society members are free. The schedule is subject to change. Please call 623-435-0072 for group tours and schedule information. Manistee Ranch is located at 5127 W. Northern Avenue. Please enter off of the 51st Avenue parking lot.