



Glendale Arizona Historical Society

"preservation of the past"

DECEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

Volume 36, Issue 8

UPCOMING EVENTS

at a glance

Please Save these Dates

CHRISTMAS PARTY ELECTIONS

Sunday, Dec 13 at 2:00 pm
Manistee Ranch

POTLUCK / INSTALLATION

Monday, Jan 25 at 6:00 pm
Manistee Ranch

MEMORIES OF GLENDALE

Karl Dennison & Mary Morgan Vandever

Monday, Feb 22 at 7pm
Manistee Ranch

TOWN OF DREAMS

Ron Brewster

Monday, March 21 at 7pm
Manistee Ranch

PROGRAM MEETING

Monday, April 25 at 2pm
Manistee Ranch

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2015 GLENDALE ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Want to be part of a historical event and go down in the history books ? Then attend the eagerly anticipated 2015 Glendale Arizona Historical Society Annual Christmas Party. There will be desserts and beverages, Christmas carol singing, storytelling and wonderful fellowship with fellow members. The party is on **Sunday, December 13, 2015 at 2:00 PM, Manistee Ranch, 5127 West**

Northern, in Glendale, Arizona (please enter off of 51st Avenue south of Walgreens's).



It would be appreciated if you could bring a dessert to share with others. The Society will provide beverages. What a pleasant way to experience the joy of Christmas through the charm and warmth of an historic 1897 mansion.



President's Message



*Ron Short, President
Board of Directors*

The GAHS Board of Directors wishes you a very merry Christmas and a Happy 2016 New Year. 2015 has been a year of challenges for the Society. We are sad to have lost some of our members who have contributed so much to the city of Glendale as well to the Historical

Society. The Board is pleased with the increase of membership and looks forward to the active participation of the new members. The Society will be sending our membership renewal letters out in December 2015. We appreciate your renewal and encourage you to invite others to join the Historical Society. Membership applications are downloadable at the GAHS website: www.glendalearizonahistoricalociety.com. The Board met on November 10, 2015 with several staff of the City's Community Services Group to discuss a proposed memo of understanding for the Society's use of Sahuaro Ranch. It was a good and informative meeting with the city staff expressing a great appreciation for the value of

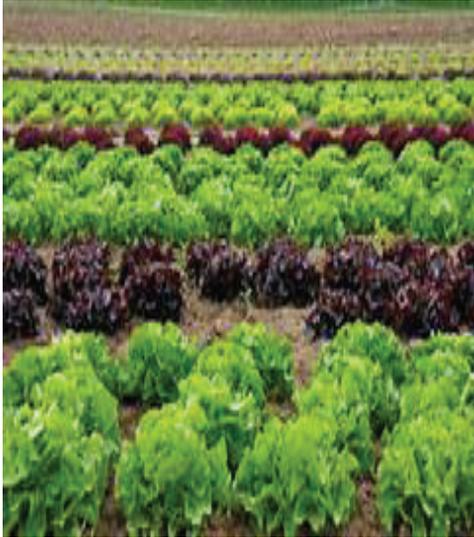
the Historical Society at Sahuaro Ranch. The Board will meet on December 1, 2015 and discuss the draft MOU in considerable detail prior to another meeting with city staff. The Board last month authorized spending up to \$5,000 to make repairs to Manistee Ranch house. These repairs include replacing a storm damaged ceiling in the kitchen, repair water damage ceiling in the main bath, replace front step that is rotting, replace rear porch planks that are rotting and fixing various doors damaged from vandalism. Volunteers have been needed in the past and will be even more critical to assuring the future of the Society. Please consider helping for a few hours as a docent at the Guest House for a couple hours on Sunday afternoon, during festivals and special tours. Also, we are in need of people to help facilitate the weddings on mainly Saturday, a few weekdays and Sundays. It's only a few hours a month. Please call Marty Cole or Carol Hook at 623-435-0072 to sign up. Josie Reardon has been our Secretary for a long period of time, but has decided to move to Prescott Valley, AZ and will leave us near the end of November. The Board appreciates the excellent work she provided the Society. Josie has consistently gone the extra step to help us and it is greatly appreciated.

SOMNAMBULISM

In October 1912 Mrs. O.O. Niestrath was awakened at midnight by a loud noise on the back steps. She investigated and found Fay Betts, dressed in his white night clothes. He asked for a postage stamp and wasn't fooling. She question Fay and he would only say "Yes" or "No". She gave him a stamp and he went home. Early the following morning, Fay brought the stamp back and said he must have been asleep when he was there during the night. People in the Orchard Addition must not get frightened when they see white objects roaming the streets at night.



FIRST LETTUCE GROWER



Charles Gilbert was the first man to grow head lettuce at a commercial scale on a farm near Glendale and it grew to one of the largest farm crops with hundreds of carloads of lettuce being shipped out of Glendale going east. The start of this endeavor was not too promising. Mr. Gilbert with associates S.B. Tatum and Fred Ratcliffe offered the first carload shipment to Santa Fe Railroad for delivery to eastern markets. The railway agent was astonished by the product and required a cash bond from the shippers to guarantee

transportation charges. The lettuce arriving to eastern markets found the people had not been educated to the uses of lettuce and, unfortunately, most of the carload of lettuce had decomposed. Neither, Mr. Gilbert or the transportation and refrigeration people learned how to ship lettuce. Not being discouraged, Mr. Gilbert and associates shipped, the next season, nine or ten carloads of lettuce with much better success than the first. Others have made millions from the industry started by Charles Gilbert's experiments.



Think 2016 and the first event to come to mind is the exciting and beautiful annual Glendale Arts Council Juried Show. What a great way to start off the New Year. The show will be held January 13 through 24, 2016 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM at Historic Sahuaro Ranch Park Fruit Packing Shed located at 9802 N. 59th Avenue.

Everyone is welcome and what a terrific way to renew your appreciation of outstanding art. It is also a great opportunity to take a look at Glendale's unique historic treasure of the Sahuaro Ranch late 1800's historic buildings and Rose Garden.

THE MAN WHO SAVED MURPHY PARK

Early in the history of Glendale, Arizona Mr. W.J. Murphy, Glendale's founder, had dedicated the Town Park and platted business properties around the park. In the late teens and early 1920's there was strong agitation to sell a portion of the Town Park that faced Glendale Avenue for commercial purposes. The money from the sale would be used to intensify the development of the remaining parkland into a "community center". City Council started plans to place the proposal before the people in a special election. However, a stipulation in the granting of the land from Mr. Murphy provided, in case the park site was ever used for commercial purposes, title to the real property would revert to the donor. This provision could only be changed by the donor, who was still alive. Mr. Murphy would consent to the change

only upon the advice of one man: **Mr. James G. Hammels**, a good friend of Mr. Murphy. There was intensifying effort to persuade Mr. Hammels by O.D. Betts to approve the change at Town Park to provide for many needed facilities for the youth of Glendale. Mr. Hammels with tears in his eyes said "I'm sorry, boys, but I cannot lend my approval to your plan". The determination of one man "saved" Murphy Park, for soon after Mr. Murphy died and an irrevocable seal was placed upon all conditions of the grant.



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

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Our next membership get together is
GAHS Annual Christmas Party
Sunday, Dec. 13, 2015 at 2:00 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 a new member to the GAHS:
Catherine Morgan



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

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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 city's Parks and Recreation Dept conducts tours of the Main House on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays - 1am to 2pm, and on Sundays - 1pm to 4pm. For more information or to arrange a group tour call 623-930-4201.

The 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. This season's remaining tour dates are Jan. 2 and 16; Feb. 6 and 20; March 5 and 19; April 2 and 16; May 7. Tour fees: adults \$5, seniors \$4. Ages 6-16 \$1. GAHS members are free; (schedule is subject to change. Please call 623-435-0072 for group tours and schedule information.



Your Board of Directors wishes each of you a wonderful new year for you and your family, and look forward to providing you with exciting new meeting programs all year.

February's meeting will feature Memories of Glendale with Karl Dennison and Mary Morgan Vandever talking about growing up in Glendale. In March, Ron Brewster will talk about his reflections on Glendale's history.

So, 2016, is going to be a banner year for the Society with a growing membership and many exciting opportunities for members to help and participate in promoting and preserving Glendale's unique history.