



Glendale Arizona Historical Society

"preservation of the past"

March 2024 Newsletter

Volume 45 Issue 3

Historic downtown Glendale tour

By Jodi Decker

In recognition of the City of Glendale's Founder's Day, the Historic Downtown Glendale Merchants Association sponsored the first tour of the historic district surrounding the town square at Murphy Park and the Caitlin Court neighborhood this past January.

The tour, hosted by Pink House Boutique owner Danica Coral and Glendale City Councilman Bart Turner, covered about 100 years of history in an informative and entertaining presentation. The Association consists of owners of businesses in the historic area who strive to maintain and preserve the unique aesthetic and stories about the buildings and businesses in the area.



Coury's Market was razed to make way for the City Hall complex built in 1984.

The town of Glendale began after founder W. J. Murphy dug a canal, allowing for access to water for agricultural purposes, and then was followed by the settlement of the religious denomination the Brethren, who purchased parcels of land after the Civil War. Many significant events were discussed, including the founding of the Santa Fe Railroad depot, then followed by establishing hotels, banks, a mercantile, the beet factory, and a movie theater, all leading from and to the growth of residents.

Over time, the businesses, as well as their original locations, have changed names, services, and places. The tour guides discussed several downtown businesses since gone, identifying which buildings were



El Rey Theater, now the Pink House Boutique, closed in 1957.

originally used. Interestingly, Pink House Boutique used to be a movie theater.

One story of interest is that residents used to shop for their groceries at Coury's, and the owner would hold their groceries for them while they attended a movie or got an ice cream sundae. Later, they could pick up their groceries on the way home—our first take-out grocery store!

Other significant town developments included the establishment of Sands Ranch, starting a trolley line, and building a town library and high school for the betterment of the community.

The tour included a stop at The Spicery, Papa Ed's Ice Cream, and the Glendale Woman's Club, where the owners and president, respectively, discussed the history of their locations. Tour participants were treated to cookies from The Spicery and delicious spiced beet ice cream from Papa Ed's, in honor of the beet factory. The historic tour may become an annual event.

March Members Meeting

Monday March 25, 2024 ~ 7:00 p.m. at Manistee Ranch

"The State of the Society"

An overview of what GAHS expects in 2024, society goals, fundraising, and member survey.

Coming to Arizona

From the autobiography of Helen Shelby Farrell Jeffcott, condensed by her granddaughter, Randi LeGendre Turk

In 1923, four young girls and their mother drove from Caddo, Oklahoma, to Phoenix, Arizona, in a Model T Ford. Ida Shelby suffered from tuberculosis, and her youngest daughter, Lois, 11, had poor health due to bouts of pneumonia. The three older girls, Velma, 20, Pauline, 18, and Helen, 15, did the driving.



Velma, Pauline, Helen, and Lois at Eureka Ranch, near Bonita, 1941.

When we had to come to Arizona, Mamma bought a 1921 Model T Ford with a self-starter. She thought that since we were all young girls, it would be better for us not to use the crank. Early one Saturday morning in August of 1923 we started. We had said goodbye to all our old friends the night before, and it was like saying goodbye to soldiers going off to war. All I'd ever read about Arizona was in Zane Grey's novels, and he had painted that country as pretty rugged.

We came across the northern part of Texas finding fair roads, with the exception of a strip one mile long. As we approached, I read a large sign sitting in the middle of the road, TACKS ONE MILE, and that's

exactly what it meant. We fixed 19 flats in that one mile. Fixing a flat in those days meant taking the tire off, patching the tube, remounting it on the wheel, and pumping it up with a hand pump.

We drove on to Santa Fe, where I first heard Spanish spoken. It gave me the feeling that I was completely out of the United States. The day we went to the cliff dwellings, President Harding died, and returning to Santa Fe, we marveled at the speed news travels to the four corners of the earth.

Between Santa Fe and Albuquerque we saw our first Indian dance, the Santo Domingo Corn Dance. From Albuquerque we followed the Santa Fe Trail, that is, when we could see it to follow, but mostly we made our own trail.

At one point, the trail went straight up the mountainside. Our gasoline supply was too low to feed into the carburetor, and Model Ts had no speedometer, so we had no idea where we were. We had about decided to try to back up the mountain, when we saw a car approaching. It was a Mexican family, but one person spoke English fluently. Their plan was to pool our gasoline and drive one car up, then carry the gasoline back down the mountain and drive the other one up.

It was late when we arrived at a little village called Socorro in a downpour of rain. The only available shelter was a dance hall, which we shared with the other family. The rain continued all the next day. At Lordsburg, we discovered we had lost our clothes, which had been tied on the side of the car. What a feeling it was to own only what we had on our backs.

Upon arrival in Tucson, we found that Zane Grey had written of days gone by, not a cowboy riding down the street on a horse with boots, spurs, chaps or six guns. We visited the university and San Xavier mission, and then drove on to Phoenix, which was our destination. Mamma bought material and in one day by hand sewed us each a dress to wear. Lois and I went to school that year in Phoenix, but the next year, Velma took a teaching job in Glendale, where I transferred to Glendale High.

Velma married Oren Teague and became Glendale's librarian. Pauline married James Burch, a doctor. Helen became a rancher's wife, widowed and remarried, in Southern Arizona, and teacher of the year for Nogales Public Schools. Lois married W.B. "Bill" Barkley, mayor of Glendale, later a legislator and Speaker of the Arizona House of Representatives.

Glendale Folk & Heritage Festival



34th Annual Glendale Folk & Heritage Festival
March 2-3, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
both days
Sahuaro Ranch Park
This is a FREE event

The City of Glendale’s annual event celebrating folk music, history and culture will take place in historic Sahuaro Ranch Park on March 2-3, 2024, and it is a free event.

Attendees will enjoy Arizona’s music and culture through performances and workshops. The event will have hundreds of musicians, cowboy poets, and storytellers from across the nation on several stages. Special workshops will also be available. The Guest House and the Adobe House will be open for tours on Saturday from 11 to 2. The festival is open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. both days.

President’s Message



Gary Sherwood

Our Glendale Spring is arriving (in deference to most of the rest of the country), which means we have just a couple of months to take care of any outdoor projects that will need to get done by our volunteers.

Most of this will comprise the final gleaning of the citrus grove, minor tree trimming, and picking up the fallen fruit and other debris. The board will set a date with identified tasks and the plea for help will be emailed out to our membership.

It takes a lot of energy and dedicated folks to make the society run. Along with our board, which I wrote about in February, we are truly fortunate to have many other members who contribute many, many, hours of talented work.

I am truly amazed still at what takes place “behind the scenes.” I would like to recognize some of these folks, and I say some, because I am sure I will miss a few. Manistee Ranch takes an enormous amount of

care. John and Paulette Geurs, along with Bill and Donna Greb, spend untold hours at the Ranch, working various projects as well as general maintenance. Many of our projects are contracted out, and John plays superintendent and does a marvelous job in getting generous discounts from these businesses.

Kathy Hoynes-Goreé and Linda Armbruster have headed up the Photo and Archive Library, one our most underrated assets, and work with new software to catalog all our photos and documentation.

Nelda Crowell, who has been a board fixture for many moons, was responsible for getting this all set up. She continues to work with this team as well as anything else she is called upon to do. Norm and Jean Hailey have been responsible keeping up the Never Forget Rose Garden at Manistee.

Many of our board members take on extra duties as well, but I especially want to recognize our secretary, Jessica Koory, who is our gatekeeper at Manistee. Finally, Leslie Newcomb, who works in the Sahuaro office and does so many other things to keep things clean and organized.

Yes, it’s quite a team, and we are always looking for others to spread those responsibilities.

GAHS Board of Directors

Gary Sherwood	President
Kathy Goreé	VP
Marty Cole	Treasurer
Jessica Koory	Secretary
Brenda Bartels	Director
Martha Dennis	Director
Al Lenox	Director
Randi Turk	Director
Carlos Vargas	Director

Sahuaro Ranch Guest House Office
623-435-0072
Wedding dates available

Zelle Payments
602-309-6782

Glendale Arizona Historical
Society is designated as a
Certified Historical Society

Glendale Arizona Historical Society
P.O. Box 5606
Glendale, AZ 85312

Address Service Requested

In Memoriam
Connie Wittig

PLEASE DONATE!



Arizona Gives Day's early giving period starts
March 12, 2024. Donations between
March 12 and April 5, 2024
counts towards GAHS's grand fundraising total.



Donate using the QR Code or visit
<https://azgives.org/GlendaleAzHistory>

MANISTEE RANCH

Tours are held October - April
on the 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month.
Adults -- \$5 Seniors 65+ \$4
Children 6 to 10 --\$1 (under 6 are free)
Military with ID -- \$4
GAHS Members -- free

SAHUARO RANCH GUEST HOUSE

Office Hours
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Tours by appointment only -- 623-435-0072

Glendale Arizona Historical Society
GlendaleArizonaHistoricalSociety.org

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