



Glendale Arizona Historical Society

"preservation of the past"

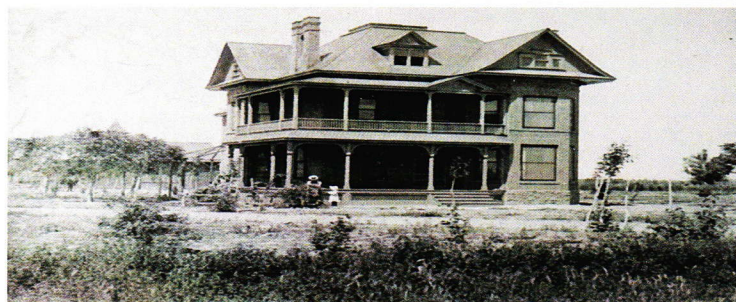
NOV/DEC 2020



Volume 41, Issue 7



ALL TOURS, WEDDINGS AND MEETINGS ARE CANCELLED FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR!



LAURA F. MURPHY PIONEER

EVEN IN HER 80'S

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL THAT HAVE DONATED TO THE SOCIETY THIS FALL! WITH THE LOSS OF OUR WEDDING INCOME, WE APPRECIATED ALL OF YOU VERY MUCH. THANK YOU!!!!

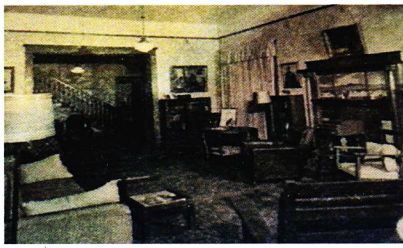
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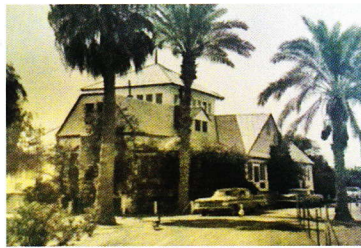
Throughout her life, Laura F. Murphy, was a strong, resourceful and successful pioneer. William J. Murphy and Laura were married in 1874 and spent early years in Illinois where Mr. Murphy was in the agricultural implement business. The Murphy's came to Arizona in 1881 with a contract to do grading for the Atlantic & Pacific railroad across the state. For 18 grueling months, they lived in construction camps 25 miles from a water supply. In the winter when roads were impassable, Mr. Murphy built an apparatus to melt the snow. In 1883, the Murphy's came south to the valley to dig the 40-mile Arizona Canal. Laura was there in a tent helping to manage the project while her husband was off looking for financing. Mr. Murphy showed his appreciation to Laura through a gift of a small pump organ that she played for children and workers. The organ is on display at the Guest House at Sahuaro Ranch. After the canal was completed, he bought sections of land south of the canal. Part of the land he bought was on North Central Avenue where they built their home.

Mr. Murphy died in 1923 when Laura was 77, but she carried on his work, managing a 30-acre citrus grove and a 40-acre cotton farm. In 1931 at age 84, Laura stated "Yes, they (citrus trees) look pretty healthy and thrifty. But, there's so much to be done, around here! It's going to take me at least another 15 years to get this grove anywhere near the way Mr. Murphy would have liked to see it. Then I will be a hundred and after that, I mean to take things easier." Laura contends, "These are my children. I give them the best that I can, and they repay me for it." The Murphy citrus grove was one of the most profitable and oldest in the valley. The tractor work was done by a neighbor. At picking time, a crew from the Arizona Citrus Growers was called. Laura directed the ranch routine, deciding when cultivating or irrigation was to be done, pruning of trees and buying of supplies. She was the boss.

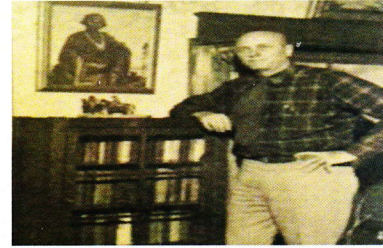




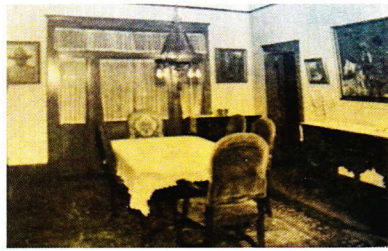
1960 parlor



1960 Manistee Ranch house



John Sands 1960



Dinning area 1960



stair to Sky Parlor 1960



Mrs. Louis Sands, Sr. 1960

SANDS MANSION BEFORE IT WAS A MUSEUM

Vehicles rush by 5127 W. Northern Avenue daily and may quickly glance to the south and view stately date palms and a large beautiful three story mansion setting far from the street. Many residents and visitors visit Manistee Ranch Park and marvel at the beauty of the grounds and buildings. The Coronavirus has forced the society to stop the tours until further notice.

Thelma Heatwole interviewed Mrs. Louis Sands, Sr. and her son John Sands, for a May 22, 1960 article in *Arizona Days and Ways Magazine*. Thelma took the photos. The mansion was built by Herbert W. Hamilton in 1887 by carpenter William Weigold. In 1907, Louis Sands bought the house and 320 acres, and brought his bride Frances to the house. Frances fell in love with Manistee Ranch, which was named after their lumber holdings in Manistee, Michigan. After, the death of Louis Sands Sr., Mrs. Sands turned Manistee Ranch over to her son John and daughter-in-law, Marie, and their four sons. Mrs. Sands, Sr., talked about the lone store and post office, their first car a 1907 Tourist, and the good well on the property that neighbors used for drinking water. Frances and Louis developed a large collection of original paintings.

The house itself was huge with 17 rooms and a sky parlor, plus several baths, nanny room, basement and huge oil furnace. The basement had a large game room with a billiard table older than the house, which the four boys enjoyed. The thick walls were effective for insulation, heating and cooling were turned on about a month after other homes. The property was eventually sold for development of Manistee Ranch subdivision, for commercial, and some was donation for parks. In 1996, the Glendale Historical Society bought the buildings and surrounding grounds through a Arizona State Heritage Grant. The City of Glendale bought the date palm area in front of the house with another Arizona State Heritage Grant. The area is now Manistee Ranch Park.



2021 BOARD NOMINATIONS

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MARVIS JEAN (PECK) BRICE DIED IN AUGUST



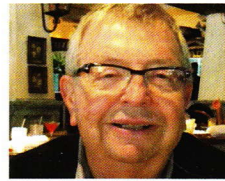
Marvis was a Glendale native born on June 22, 1940 to Byron and Opal Peck. Byron was a past Glendale mayor and city councilmember. Marvis grew up in Glendale with her twin sister, Martha, and brother, Bill. Marvis married her high school sweetheart, Gene Brice, in 1957 and was married for 63 years. In 1970, Marvis and Gene moved to Idaho to carry on the family tradition of dairy farming and trucking. Marvis pursued a career in real estate which she excelled in for over 45 years. She earned the Idaho Realtor of the year award and in 2018 receiving the highest honor of the National Association of Realtors "Realtor Emeritus". She was very active as a founding member of the First Baptist Church in Burley, Idaho. Marvis was preceded in death by her parents Byron and Opal Peck, brother, Bill Peck, daughter, Cindy Forthun, and her granddaughter, Michelle. She is survived by her husband Gene Brice, three sons-Gene Brice, Robert Brice and Byron Brice and her twin sister Martha Dennis as well as nine (9) grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Marvis's great smile, love of family and generous spirit will be missed by family and friends.

TOUR GLENDALE IN YOUR VEHICLE AND SEE THE PAST



The tours and activities at historical Sahuaro Ranch, 9802 N. 59th Ave., and Manistee Ranch, 5127 W. Northern Ave., are

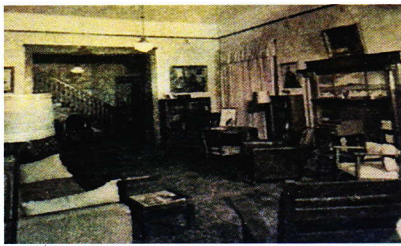
closed until further notice, due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The grounds of the historical parks are open to the public to tour, but not the inside of the buildings. Get in your vehicle and see if you can find and tour all Glendale historic districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places: Glendale Townsite/Catlin Court, Floralcroft, Northfield, 59th Avenue, Sands Estates, Glendale Tract, Glendale Gardens, Thunderbird Estate/McDonald Addition, Myrtle Avenue Residential, and Sage Acres. Each of the historic districts has a bronze plaque located in the street rights-of-way telling the story of that district. Then on another day find the following properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places: Beet Sugar Factory, 5243 W. Glendale Ave; Glendale Woman's Club, 7032 N. 56th Ave.; Glendale Grammar School, 7301 N. 58th Ave.; E.C. Bunch House, 5601 W. Lamar Road; First United Methodist Church Sanctuary, 7102 N. 58th Drive; C.H. Tinker House, 6838 N. 59th Drive; Glendale High School Auditorium, 6216 W. Glendale Ave.; Jonas McNair House, 5919 W. Myrtle Ave.; George O. Dowdy Rental House, 6818 N. 60th Ave.; First National Bank Building, 6838 N. 58th Drive. Learn more and appreciate the wonderful history of Glendale, Arizona.



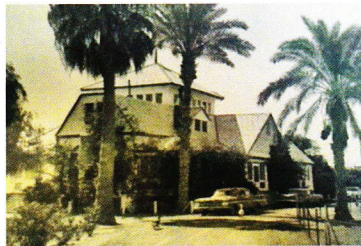
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

These past few months have seen a few changes in the Glendale Arizona Historical Society. The coronavirus pandemic knocked the society to the ground. The Board was very resilient and determined to weather this crisis, and to the extent possible, and provide historical service to the community and our members. Facilitating weddings at Saguaro Ranch is our primary funding source. It was far too dangerous for facilitators and guests to bring large groups to the rose garden and even more so inside the Guest House. The society cancelled the weddings. It is hoped the wedding events will return in 2021. A further blow occurred when our long-time editor of the newsletter, **Gail Meyers**, passed away. She was outstanding in the quality of work. She was the originator and guiding force for the newsletter success. The Board sought someone who would do the newsletter production. **Marty Cole**, treasurer and office secretary for the society bought the Publisher software and taught herself how to put a newsletter together. She did a great job with the October 2020 newsletter. In order to enable our continuing operations, the society asked for financial help from the members and friends for funds to operate the society until funds return from wedding facilitation. The response has been outstanding, and there are now sufficient funds to bring the society into 2021. The Board has a robust list for projects at Manistee Ranch and a contractor to make needed repairs and maintenance. The City of Glendale Parks and Recreation and Facilities Division, as well as volunteers have helped with maintenance at Manistee Ranch. The Board looks forward to 2021 and preserving and promoting Glendale's history.

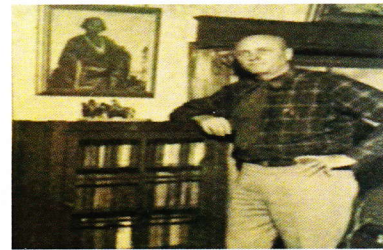




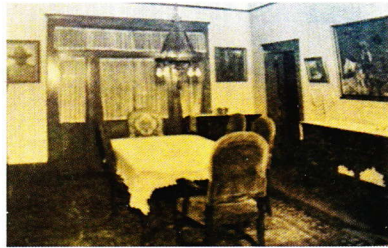
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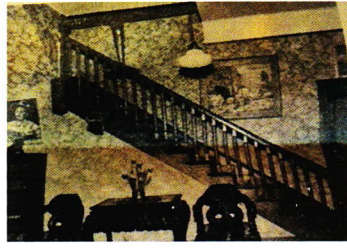
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nominations!

Glendale Arizona Historical Society
PO BOX 5606
Glendale , AZ 85312

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

GAHS Phone Numbers:

Guest House Office: 623.435.0072

Manistee Ranch Office: 623.931.8848

GAHS E-mail:

General Info: gahs73@gmail.com

Visit our Website:

www.glendalearizonahistoricalociety.org

Like us on Facebook

Your Governing Board of Director s

Ron Short.....President

Catherine Morgan.....Vice President

Marty Cole.....Treasurer

Jessica Koory.....Secretary

Jon Froke, AICP.....Director

Gary Sherwood.....Director

Martha Dennis.....Director

Nelda Crowell.....Director

Bill Greb.....Director

Rosemary Lynch.....Director Emeritus

The Glendale Arizona Historical Society is designated as a Certified Historical Society

MERRY CHRISTMAS

ALL TOURS OF THE HOUSES ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE



Sahuaro Ranch Adobe House



Sahuaro Ranch Guest House



Sahuaro Ranch Main House



Manistee Ranch House

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 3:00)Fees—Adults \$5, Seniors & Veterans \$4, children 6-16 \$1, MEMBERS ARE FREE. Tours are the 1st and 3rd Sat. of each month.

NEW MEMBERS

Mike Demlong

IN LOVING MEMORY



Tim Reardon

Dorothy Rucker