



Glendale Arizona Historical Society

"preservation of the past"

OCTOBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

Volume 39, Issue 6

UPCOMING EVENTS

at a glance

Please Save These Dates

Hickman Egg Ranch History

Gertie and Bill Hickman
October 22, 2018 at 7:00 pm
Manistee Ranch

Annual GAHS Picnic

Saturday, November 17, 2018
11:00 AM
Manistee Ranch

Annual Christmas Party

Monday, December 17, 2018
7:00 PM
Manistee Ranch

Annual Potluck & Election

Monday, January 28, 2019
6:00 PM
Manistee Ranch

Sands "Trip to Taos" Exhibit

February 2019, Manistee Ranch
(details to come)

Highlights Inside

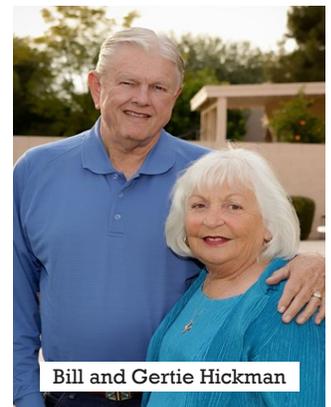
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In 1944 Guy and Nell Hickman bought a few hens for their farm at 67th Avenue and Missouri so the family could have fresh eggs. By 1957, when their son Bill married his wife Gertie, the flock had grown to 500 hens. Bill bought 500 baby chicks for Gertie to raise and they went into business with Bill's parents. While Guy and Bill worked at their jobs, Nell and Gertie took care of the chickens, eggs and customers. Bill quit his job at the service station in 1959 and went full time into building houses for more hens. By 1969 Bill's brother, Glenn, had

Bill and Gertie Hickman present
THE HISTORY OF HICKMAN'S EGG RANCH
Monday, October 22, 2018 at 7:00 pm
Historic Manistee Ranch (enter off 51st Avenue)

entered into the business and their flock had reached 80,000 hens and they were out of room on the 10 acres. The family purchased 40 acres at 91st Avenue and Orangewood, built homes, barns, a processing plant, feed mill, and a salesroom — a property with the capacity for 350,000 hens and they were quickly out of room again. Glenn decided to leave the business at that time, and the next generation purchased property in Arlington. The business is still growing with farms in Arlington, Tonopah, Maricopa, Colorado and California.



Bill and Gertie Hickman

Now, the family owned business is being operated by 3 generations — with the fifth generation of Hickman's making guest appearances! This is an outstanding and rare opportunity for members, guests and others to hear directly from multiple generations of Hickman's Family Farms about one of Glendale's most successful businesses and its history. Refreshments will be served.



Hickman's Family Farms, Glendale 1969

Visit the
brand new
GAHS
Website

www.glendalearizonahistoricalsociety.org

Vice President Tracy Marsh worked for many months creating a brand new and improved website for the Society. She did an excellent job and has our sincere thanks! One major contribution to the website is the National Register of Historic Places for Glendale. This is the only document that has put the text, maps and photos together in one document. President Ron Short did the research and writing; Catherine Morgan and Jessica Koory edited the document and Gail Meyers did a masterful job on its layout and design. Your Board of Directors authorized printing 100 booklet versions of this unique document to share with members and guests.



President's Message

The Board of Directors met on August 11, 2018 for the Annual Board Retreat and made several decisions. Manistee Ranch was a major topic.

John Geurs and his wife Paulette have been providing considerable volunteer work to clean up the orchard and make repairs to the buildings. A few weeks ago a homeless woman cut the screen by the front screen door and slept overnight on the porch. John found her early the next morning and called the police. She had smoked ten cigarettes and put out the butts on the wood floor. Another time a group of homeless had removed thirty screws from the granary window to gain entry. The Board considered installing another camera, but decided not to do it, since existing cameras cover the area. The Board discussed price quotes for repairs of the support piers, gutter installation, repair woodpecker damage, repair stair treads and wood trim and replace wood trim ledge for \$5,800. Other smaller ongoing repairs will be needed to the buildings.

The Board encourages members to make an extra donation to their membership for Manistee Ranch maintenance. The past roof replacement, exterior painting and repairs have been paid for from donations, which the Board deeply appreciates.

The Board approved the acquisition of "Past Perfect" software and a laptop computer that will allow the Society to create a computerized inventory of all documents and artifacts. Nelda Crowell has done considerable work researching what documents exist at the Guest house.

Jessica Koory, with help from Marty Cole, Catherine Morgan, Martha Dennis and others, have organized and cleaned out the rooms at Manistee Ranch this summer. The Board approved buying a new office computer.

There are 22 weddings scheduled this fall and 19 booked for 2019.

The Society desperately needs VOLUNTEERS to help facilitate weddings and be docents for Sunday Guest House tours, Manistee Ranch tours, festival and school tours. Please call 623-435-0072 and be a VOLUNTEER.

Tracy Marsh constructed a new Society website. Please access it at glendalearizonahistoricalsociety.org.



Ron Short, President
GAHS Board of Directors

GLENDALE the early days

Tom Franklin built the first restaurant in Glendale in 1892 and opened a hotel in the same year. In 1909 Glendale only had three small stores, but by 1912 the business area had grown to four blocks.

The community had a good water system, street railway system, ice plant, electricity, three grocery stores, three hardware stores, three lumber yards, three blacksmith shops, two meat markets, a bank, livery barn, harness shop, two dry goods and clothing stores, a bakery, a jewelry store, a second-hand store, a drug store, three restaurants, a hotel, two barber shops, a rooming house, two confectionaries and two theaters. Glendale also had two physicians, one lawyer, two real estate agencies and three fire insurance agencies.

An early industry was a canned milk company that operated for about ten years. Southwest Flour and Feed Company, owned by D.H. Bonsall, Sr., started business in 1919 providing feed for cattle, sheep, hogs, horses, rabbits and chickens. The company bought local grains and distributed Arizona-made flour. After a few years the business burned down. O.S. Stapley store opened in 1919 selling tractors and plows, but added appliances, housewares, hardware and toys. Another major business was the Maricopa Equipment Company that grossed over \$1.5 million a year.

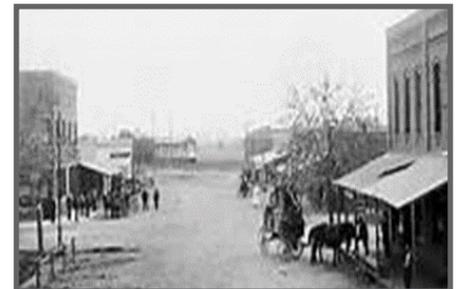
GLENDALE'S BIG LOESS

In 1910 the *Arizona* magazine wrote a glowing article on the strong agricultural progress in the Glendale area. The article called it "the miracle of irrigation." However, credit was also given to Glendale's special soil.



"The section surrounding Glendale owes its fertility to the silt-bearing water from the north which in centuries past have brought down volcanic ash mixed with silt and deposited it to a depth of nearly 100 feet.

Government officials were unable to classify the soil due to the unusual character, as to chemical composition and tilth or compare it to any known soil, so they named it "Glendale Loess." According to the article this was said to be the richest and purest alluvial soil in the world comprising an area of 30,000 acres.



JY "EC" OTONDO and his SHEEP



EC was born on October 21, 1917 and passed September 3, 2016. He grew up in Glendale and became a very successful Basque sheepherder and businessman. On October 31, 1991, Jerry Abbitt did an

oral interview of JY "EC" Otondo for the Glendale Arizona Historical Society. EC's father, Ysidor Frank Otondo, 1882-1934, came here from Flagstaff. He worked for other sheepmen saving money to start his own sheep business in the early 1920's. He ended up owning the Frisco Mountain Sheep Company.

EC recalled the sheep drives on the Black Canyon Trail from the north coming down to the New River Station to buy supplies and water the sheep, which needed watering every two days. After his Dad died, EC, at the age of 17, began full time work operating the sheep company. He would drive the sheep herd down Scottsdale Road, which was a graded county road. At the Arizona Canal they would turn right and go to Papago Park area and bed the sheep down for the night. Then they would drive them across the "old" Tempe bridge, straight through Tempe, and then to Chandler in one day.

EC lived at Fifth Avenue and Glendale Avenue until 1934. He and his siblings went to Glendale Grammar School and Glendale High School. After 1934 they moved to a new home on the ranch. He said he attended school in those "little houses" classrooms with outdoor Johns, and a student would ring the big bell at 9:00am to start class. It was fun to take friends to his father's sheep camps near Tolleson. His Dad would have them drive the sheep from pasture to pasture and feed them beans, but also lamb, prunes and dried apples. Some of the boys did not eat much at home due to the depression and this was a treat.

EC was very proud of his Basque heritage and the raising of sheep. His sheep business included the ownership of ranches in Buckeye, Flagstaff, Yuma and New Mexico. He and his wife Dorothy retired in 1986 and lived in Scottsdale, AZ. He mentioned that he quit high school when his Dad died, but the alumni group always invited him to the gatherings and reunions.



Sheepherder "EC" Otondo (at left) and the Black Canyon Trail Sheep Drive (below), ca 1950

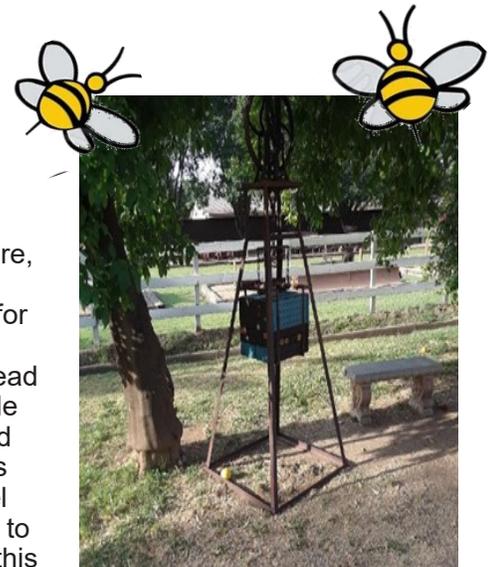


Manistee Ranch Native Bee Habitat

Charles F., Jennifer E. and John U. Sands, in honor of Chuck and Carol St. Clair for their decades of leadership in the preservation of the Manistee Ranch buildings and history, donated the beautiful bee habitat created by Tucson artist Greg Corman.

The native bee habitat, made from recycled wood and old Manistee Ranch hardware, is designed for use by the leaf-cutter bee, one of Arizona's more than 1,300 native bee species that are important pollinators. The wood "box" has many small holes for female bees to use for nesting. Normally, they would nest in dead tree branches where beetles have drilled holes for them, but in urban areas we tend to remove dead material for aesthetic or safety reasons and the bees find it difficult to locate suitable nest sites. A female bee will cut small pieces of leaves and shove them into the end of a tunnel and then deposit pollen, nectar and an egg. She will repeat the process until there are several cells containing eggs in the tunnel. She then seals the tunnel with chewed leaves, resin, sand or a combination of materials and leaves the eggs to develop and hatch on their own in a matter of weeks or months. She might repeat this process in several tunnels during her life of one or two months.

Our native bee species are mostly solitary and unruffled by human presence. They will sting only if caught – and even then, the sting is much less potent than that of a honeybee or wasp. The habitat will not attract the imported honeybee which is from Europe and Africa.



This newsletter is a publication of the
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Our next member get-together is:

Hickman Egg Ranch History

Gertie and Bill Hickman
October 22, 2018 at 7:00 pm
at Historic Manistee Ranch

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.



Welcome to our newest members:

Isabel Apodaca
Diane Kolb
Jane Bachmann
B. Paul Price

Glendale Arizona Historical Society
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UNIQUE HISTORIC RANCH TOURS THIS FALL



Sahuaro Ranch Adobe House



Sahuaro Ranch Guest House



Sahuaro Ranch Main House



Manistee Ranch House

The season has changed to fall and the weather is much cooler. Time for members and others to engage in unique guided tours of Glendale's agricultural past. The City of Glendale Parks and Recreation staff at Sahuaro Ranch offers free tours of the Main House and the Glendale Historical Society provides free tours of the Guest House and Adobe house. The Historical Society also conducts tours of historic Manistee Ranch.

SAHUARO RANCH 1895 MAIN HOUSE, 9802 N. 59TH AVENUE

FREE TOURS of the Main House September-May: 10 am to 2 pm, Fridays & Saturdays; 1 pm to 4 pm, Sundays, (Closed August and on holidays, Thanksgiving weekend, December 24, 25, 31 and January 1.) Please call 623-930-4201 for group tours of 10 or more.

SAHUARO RANCH 1898 GUEST HOUSE and 1887 ADOBE HOUSE, 9802 N. 59TH AVENUE

FREE TOURS of the Guest House October –May: 1 pm to 3 pm on Sundays.

FREE TOURS of the 1887 Adobe House during festivals and with prior arrangements.

Call 623-435-0072 for more information, if you have any questions, or for group tours.

1897 MANISTEE RANCH , 5127 W. NORTHERN AVENUE (enter from 51st Avenue)

Tours conducted by the Glendale Arizona Historical Society docents October to May: noon to 4 pm (last tour starts at 3 pm). Fees: Adults \$5, Seniors \$4, Ages 6-16 \$1, GAHS MEMBERS are FREE. 2018 tour dates — the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month on the following dates: October 6 and 20; November 3 and 17; and December 1 and 15.