



# Glendale Arizona Historical Society

*"preservation of the past"*

**JANUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER**

**Volume 40, Issue 1**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

at a glance

Please Save These Dates

**Potluck & Elections/Installation**  
Monday, January 28, 2019  
6:00 PM at Manistee Ranch

**Sands Family Trip to Taos, NM Exhibit**  
Tricia Loscher, Curator  
Scottsdale Museum of the West  
Monday, February 25, 2019  
2:00 PM at Manistee Ranch

**Where the Girls Are?**  
Martha Dennis and Marty Cole  
Monday, March 25, 2019  
7:00 PM at Manistee Ranch

**History of Sahuaro Ranch**  
Liz Duncan  
Monday, April 22, 2019  
2:00 PM at Manistee Ranch

Watch your mail for your renewal notice. Your Society depends on your generous support. Please renew promptly. Happy New Year!



## **Highlights Inside**

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## **The Annual Glendale Arizona Historical Society POTLUCK, ELECTION & INSTALLATION**

**Monday Evening**  
**January 28, 2019**  
**6:00 pm**  
**Manistee Ranch**

5127 W. Northern Avenue  
(enter off 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue)



The annual potluck dinner and election is an important start to a new year. Please attend and bring your favorite entrée or side dish. The Society will provide the plates,

utensils and beverages. The annual meeting will be held to vote on the slate of nominations. Councilmember Bart Turner will install the directors and officers.

Bring a guest to the meeting and be prepared to have an enjoyable time and support the Board of Directors, who are working hard to preserve and protect Glendale's history.



Think 2019 and the first event to come to mind is the exciting and beautiful annual Glendale Arts Council Juried Show. Enjoy this exhibit of fine art created by Arizona artists. What a great way to start off the New Year. The show, open to the public with free admission, will be held at Historic Sahuaro Ranch Park Fruit Packing Shed, located at 9802 N. 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

**All Entry Exhibit: January 5-6, 2019**  
**Juried Exhibit: January 8-27, 2019**  
**10:00 am to 5:00 pm daily**

Everyone is welcome and what a terrific way to renew your appreciation of outstanding art. It is also a great opportunity to visit Glendale's unique historic treasure of the Sahuaro Ranch late 1800's historic buildings and rose garden. This art show is in partnership with the City of Glendale, Parks and Recreation and Library Services.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Ron Short, President  
GAHS Board of Directors  
1943

It's a new year and new opportunities for the Historical Society. The Board of Directors wishes you all a healthy and great 2019. The Board looks forward to preserving and protecting Glendale history. The maintenance of historic Manistee Ranch and buildings is the major on-going preservation project. The Board will spend nearly \$12,000 for necessary repairs for the house this year including replacement of four porch support piers and repair of two piers, gutter installation, woodpecker damage repair, stair treads and wood trim, wood trim ledge, porch floor damage,

window and door screens repair and fixing crawl space screens to bar feral cats from access under the porch. Work will proceed with inventory of the Society documents and assets using a "Past Perfect" software and computer, oral histories will be completed, tours conducted at the Guest House, Adobe house and Manistee Ranch, changing of the exhibits, website, newsletters, program meetings, events and weddings to facilitate. The Board will continue to champion the preservation of historic resources such as Thunderbird Field #1 buildings and Glen Lakes Golf Course. It is considerable amount of work to accomplish these projects and is essential that volunteers help with these efforts. Also, donations for Manistee Ranch repairs are appreciated and have been the sole funding source to keep these landmark resources in good shape.

## Our November 2018 Picnic Great Food, Fun...and so Historic

Over 50 members and guests enjoyed a sunny day and great food at historic Manistee Ranch on November 17, 2018. Board of Directors member Bill Greb entertained the picnic goers with enjoyable western and country music. Thanks to the band.



Bill Greb and the Wrangler Band

Charlie Sands attended the picnic and had an opportunity to talk with many attendees. Tours were given to visitors. Martha Dennis, Marty Cole, Jessica Koory, Tracy Marsh and her family and other volunteers were very helpful in the production of this picnic.



Great Food and Fellowship

# GOOD NEWS

## for the former THUNDERBIRD SCHOOL of GLOBAL MANAGEMENT



Arizona Christian University is "taking flight" and landing at historic former Thunderbird Field #1. University officials held an announcement meeting on November 14, 2018 at the Thunderbird School of Global Management Campus. Len Munsil, President of Arizona Christian University, indicated that the university will determine in a master plan whether any buildings need renovations.

Arizona Christian University traded for equal value their 20-acre campus located at Cactus Road and 24<sup>th</sup> Street for the 68 acres that contains the historic buildings at the Thunderbird of Global Management Campus. ACU has a current enrollment of 800 students. The Thunderbird campus will allow the university to expand and house 500 students on campus. The new site provides improved academic and sports facilities and more space for classrooms. Classes will start at the new location for the 2019-2020 academic year.

The Glendale Arizona Historical Society is reaching out to President Munsil and asking for a meeting to discuss the historical significance of the site and urge the university to preserve and protect the air control tower, Founders Hall and the hangar. Arizona State University would retain control of the vacant property and work toward possible residential development.

The GAHS Board of Directors is very pleased and relieved that Thunderbird Campus will be the new home of ACU. This will continue the historic use of the Thunderbird School of Global Management campus for higher education use.

Thank you, Arizona Christian University. The Glendale Arizona Historical Society welcomes you.



# What to do with Historic Murphy Park?

Historic Murphy Park was created as part of the townsite by William J. Murphy in 1895 and later deeded to the town for public use. The park has been the center of public events for over 100 years. In the early 1900s businesses were expanding downtown.

Business leaders approached Mr. Murphy to allow the sale of a portion of the park for private businesses. Great pressure was exerted upon Mr. Murphy to reduce the park

size. He finally declared "No" and died soon after his decision.

In 1961 Maricopa County was looking for a location for their new \$318,000 county building. Glendale wanted the building in hopes of acquiring it through a long-term purchase plan. Mayor Byron Peck had proposed Murphy Park as the location as a means of preserving the park. It would take no more space than the library. The Mayor contended that the city-county building

would draw 5,000 people daily to downtown. Citizens stormed the city council chambers protesting the use of the city park for the building. The city council voted 4-3 not to use the city park.

Currently, the downtown merchants and city officials are discussing what can be done to improve the viability of the downtown. How can Murphy Park contribute to a stronger and more successful downtown?



Murphy Park in Historic Downtown, a beautiful, versatile year-round destination



Gladys and Joe Whitney

## *Two Who Served*

Joe and Gladys Whitney are two people who moved to Glendale and

over decades provided needed services through business and their great effort devoted to serving the community through government and social activities. Joe Whitney was born August 11, 1900. He and his family moved to Glendale in 1911 and his Dad, Clarence, started a farm and dairy at the southwest corner of 67<sup>th</sup> and Northern Avenue at Grand. Joe graduated from Glendale High School in 1920. He worked for People's Lumber and Stauffer's Dry Good and then Union Oil Company.

Gladys Marie Holcomb was born in 1899 and moved to Arizona to attend Tempe Normal School graduating in 1925. Oran Teague convinced Joe to go out on a date with Gladys in 1925. Oran and Joe took Gladys on a picnic at the base of Hayden Butte. Gladys challenged Joe to climb the mountain with her. Joe ran after Gladys up the steep incline until she stumbled and stopped and then extended her arm for support. On their 57<sup>th</sup> wedding

anniversary, Joe said "It makes my feet hurt just to think about that day. I ruined my brand new shoes and had blisters on my feet for a week" Gladys taught at Lowell School until 1928 when she and Joe were married. Gladys taught school in Tolleson until 1930 and then transferred to the Glendale School District. Gladys was active in the Glendale Woman's Club for 50 years, member of the Glendale Historical Society, active in the Glendale Little Theater, Horseless Carriage Club and President of the Glendale PEO. Gladys died in 1989 at age 90.

In 1935, Joe Whitney and Vic Brooks started the Rio Grande Oil Company service station at 58<sup>th</sup> Drive and Grand Avenue. They then bought the Western Auto Store next to the station. After WWII they opened Brooks and Whitney Auto Parts. The partnership stopped in 1960 when Joe retired. Joe was a founding member of the Glendale's Lion's Club and a member of the Horseless Carriage Club. He served in the early 1930's on the City Council and was the prime promoter to purchase the Seagraves fire truck in 1932. Joe died in 1987.

**ANNUAL  
ALL CLASS REUNION  
GLENDALE  
HIGH SCHOOL  
Saturday, March 30, 2019  
10:00 AM  
Glendale H.S. Cafeteria**



Alumni of Glendale High School have an opportunity to see old friends and relive an exciting time. **Mr. Bruce Heatwole** will be the MC for the event. **The deadline to make reservations is March 15, 2019.**

Tickets are available online at <http://ghsaar.myevent.com/> or mail a check to GUHS/GHS AAR Committee at PO Box 6288, Glendale, AZ 85312. The cost is \$20.00 per person. Please include your name (maiden name), graduation year, name of your spouse or other attending with you and your phone number, email and /or street address and city, state and zip code.

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**Your Governing Board of Directors**

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Our next member get-together is:  
**Potluck & Elections/Installation**  
Monday, January 28, 2019  
**6:00 PM**  
Manistee Ranch

Please enter the driveway to Manistee Ranch from 51<sup>st</sup> 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 our newest member:

**WAYNE DARBY**



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

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## 2019 RESOLUTION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION



Sahuaro Ranch Adobe House



Sahuaro Ranch Guest House



Sahuaro Ranch Main House



Manistee Ranch House

Take a step forward by support of the past in becoming a member of the Glendale Arizona Historical Society and resolve to take tours of Sahuaro and Manistee Ranch as well as other historic places in Glendale. You can take your family for a unique guided tour 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. 59<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE**

**FREE TOURS** of the Main House September to 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. 59<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE**

**FREE TOURS** of the Guest House October to 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 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue)**

Your Society's docents conduct tours 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. Tour dates for the remainder of the 2018-2019 season are the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month on the following dates: January 5 and 19, February 2 and 16, March 2 and 16, April 6 and 20, and May 4.