



# Glendale Arizona Historical Society

*"preservation of the past"*

OCTOBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

Volume 43, Issue 6

## UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 24 7:00 PM

Glendale History as I Saw It  
Martha Dennis

NOVEMBER 28 7:00 PM

History of Glendale's Water  
Conservation Program

Joanne Toms

City of Glendale

Environmental Programs Ad-  
ministrator



## "GLENDALE HISTORY AS I SAW IT"

MARTHA DENNIS

OCTOBER 24, 2022 7:00PM

MANISTEE RANCH

5127 W Northern Ave. (Enter from 51st Avenue)

Martha Dennis experienced Glendale as a small agricultural community centered around an active downtown and community park. She knew the adults and their children. Martha saw the town grow and experience challenges. Her dad, Byron W. Peck was Mayor of Glendale for many years.. The community's commercial district expanded to shopping centers as major residential development blossomed. Martha has many interesting and amusing stories to tell. This program is a true oral history told by a native Glendale resident. Bring a guest to enjoy an outstanding talk by Martha Dennis. She has been a long time member and board member of the historical society as well as the Glendale Women's Club. Refreshments will be served after the presentation.

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## ANTIQU 1929 WALLIS TRACTOR ON DISPLAY AT MANISTEE RANCH

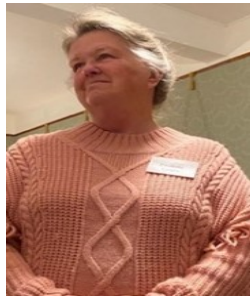
Raymond Johnson started farming in 1931 at Thunderbird Road and 79<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Avenue R and Lateral 20½ ) and bought a 1929 Wallis 12-20 Tractor from Wasser Citrus Nursery. The only problem: he was 15 miles from home and had no truck to haul the tractor. Raymond drove the steel-wheel tractor with a top speed of 5 miles per hour, a crank start, three speeds forward and reverse, back home. All tractors in the 1930s had steel wheels with lugs jutting out of them. The lugs made divots into paved roads and rode roughly. The Wallis tractors were built between 1902 and 1932 and were replaced by the Massey-Harris brand, which later became Massey Ferguson. Raymond had to go to Mesa for parts. This was Raymond's only tractor until 1950 and was used for row crops. He had used horses and mules for planting and cultivating row crops. When the horses and mules ran away, Raymond bought a John Deere tractor. He used the Wallis tractor to plow and disc until the hand cranking, which started the engine, became too difficult. The 1929 Wallis tractor became a Peoria Historical Museum item until the museum closed, and in 2022, it became a part of the Manistee Ranch farm implement display.

## Highlights Inside

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| President's Message | 4 |
| Martha Dennis       | 1 |
| Wallis Tractor      | 1 |
| Never Forget Garden | 2 |
| Lost Glendale       | 3 |
| Tours               | 3 |



John Geurs



Paulette Geurs



JAN. 24, 2022 DAR Donation



Dedication Program



Dr. Cates Presentation



COMPLETED NEVER FORGET GARDEN April 30, 2022



Mayor Weiers dedication

## HONORING THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER WITH THE NEVER FORGET GARDEN AT HISTORIC MANISTEE RANCH

Perhaps the most notable addition to the historic Manistee Ranch Park is the “Never Forget Garden”, that honors the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) through the Anasazi Chapter created the concept of a way to honor the 100th anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Chapter was given a \$1,000 donation from Major Jerry Weiers for a project and the Chapter reached out to the Glendale Arizona Historical Society for suggestions. Manistee Ranch Volunteer and GAHS member John Geurs then offered to create a garden of roses at historic Manistee Ranch.

John Geurs and his wife Paulette Geurs took on an extensive and difficult project. John was able to get various private companies and vendors to donate time and materials. He also asked the City of Glendale Parks and Recreation department for help and the DAR members helped as well. John and Paulette donated more than 500 hours of their time to build the “Never Forget Garden”. The Manistee Ranch security camera captured the two toiling almost daily with wheelbarrow and hand equipment. The total project, if done by a contractor would have cost \$11,000. John coordinated the project with DAR.

John Geurs went to a grower of roses and was able to get donated 21 white rose bushes to symbolize the 21 steps taken by the single sentry guarding the tomb day and night. The sentry walks one half hour in the summer and an hour in the winter before a change in sentry.

John then worked jointly with DAR representatives in developing the memorable April 30, 2022 dedication ceremony. Mayor Weiers, city representatives and DAR and historical society members were among the forty people attending the ceremony. Dr. James Cates provided a stirring and information presentation on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

John and Paulette voluntarily worked for months to complete the “Never Forget Garden” project. Both have given of themselves with this project as a work of love for their country and community. Thank you, John and Paulette.



## LOST GLENDALE

Without a doubt, one of the loveliest homes in the Catlin Court area of Glendale was located at 7322 N. 58th Drive (or per it's old school address - 538 N. 1st Avenue) known as the McAbee-Ingram House.

Constructed in 1919 by Glendale businessman Green McAbee, owner of Peoples Lumber & Supply, this grand lady was one of the largest bungalows in Catlin Court. Its first occupant was Glendale city councilmember J.B. Ingram in 1920, followed by the Appleby family in 1923, and then Robert Reynolds in 1932, with others coming after.

The Appleby family moved to Glendale from Kansas in 1917 as Mr. Glenn A. Appleby had been named president of The Bank of Commerce and was employed there until the bank closed in 1931. The Glendale City Hall moved into the former bank building shortly after that. The bank building was one of the many homes and business locations razed during the late 70's/early 80's in order to build the huge new Glendale City Hall complex.

In 2008, Glendale Arizona Historical Society received a letter from Lorna Pfluke, youngest daughter of Glenn Appleby, in which she told a bit of history about the bungalow at 7322 along with sharing her childhood memories of attending the local grammar school, her friends, and of the pasture across the street on the north side of her home where every year the circus would set up and elephants would parade down the street. The majestic eucalyptus, which still stands at 58th & Gardenia, is well known as the historic Elephant Tree. Lorna also mentioned that Glenn Drive was named in honor of her father. After The Bank of Commerce closed, the Appleby family moved in the summer of 1931 and returned to Kansas.

Sadly, 7322 N. 58th Drive is another lost part of Glendale. During rehab of the house in the late aughts, a fire destroyed this beautiful structure just days prior to its completion.

Glendale history runs deep and is richly interwoven. We need to continue to cherish and respect what remains and always fight to save that which is threatened with destruction.



### HISTORICAL TOURS

#### MANISTEE RANCH 1897 HOUSE

**5127 W. NORTHERN AVENUE** (enter from the parking lot on 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue)

Tours are conducted by the Glendale Arizona Historical Society docents from October through May: noon to 4 pm (last tour starts at 3 pm). Fees: Adults \$5, Seniors \$4, Veterans \$4, Ages 6-16 \$1, GAHS MEMBERS FREE. The 2022 tour dates are the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of the month on October 1, 15, November 5, 19, December 3, 17.

#### SAHUARO RANCH 1898 GUEST HOUSE

9802 N 59th Ave. Glendale AZ

FREE TOURS of the Guest House by appointment only: Donations accepted

**SAHUARO RANCH MAIN HOUSE** No tours until further notice



P O 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](http://www.glendalearizonahistoricalociety.org)

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**Glendale Arizona Historical  
Society is designated as a Cer-  
tified Historical Society**

**NEW MEMBER**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Bob Strander**



**IN MEMORY  
GOODRICH  
SIMMONS**

## Presidents Message



Welcome back to the Glendale Arizona Historical Society newsletter. I hope you had a pleasant summer and were able to visit cooler areas in the state, nation or world or just enjoy the monsoon rainstorms after a couple years of limited rain. The Board of Directors held its annual retreat on August 20, 2022 at historic Manistee Ranch and discussed several topics.

A major topic came forth this summer with the City of Glendale City Council proposing a major Downtown Campus Reinvestment Project of re-imagining the city hall, parking garage, amphitheater and Murphy Park. Early concept drawings showed Murphy Park as mostly hardscape with desert landscaping. Murphy Park is the major historic centerpiece of Glendale with a defining character of large trees and grass. A group of civic organizations and the Glendale Chamber of Commerce formed the “Save Murphy Park” group and attended the August 9, 2022 City Council work-shop on the project expressing concern by wearing green shirts with “Save Murphy Park” on the front. The Board discussed and acted on interpretative signs for the Manistee Ranch farm implement display, Manistee Ranch maintenance needs, the society’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2023, a sponsorship program to recognize donors, library and research update, newsletter, educational programs, oral histories, Facebook, Website and weddings. Two outstanding programs are scheduled before the end of the year: On October 24, Martha Dennis will talk about the Glendale she knew growing up, and Joanne Toms will give a presentation on the history of Glendale’s Water Conservation Program on November 28. The annual Christmas Party will be held on December 19. All programs and the party will be held at 7:00 p.m.