



Ranch Poster Sales to Benefit GAHS



By Kathy Hoynes-Goreé

For those of you who have ever strolled the grounds of Sahuaro Ranch and enjoyed all the wildlife we share the land with, or for those of you who have moved away and miss this beautiful historic spot, GAHS has exciting news

for you!

Nationally known wildlife illustrator Roger Hall has created the "Animals of Sahuaro Ranch in Glendale, Arizona" which stunningly depicts 21 images of the wildlife found on our grounds, surrounding a pen & ink illustration of the ranch & guest houses along with a short history and is offered in a choice of two background colors. The poster is printed on matte, museum-quality paper with Giclée printing quality and makes a wonderful gift for yourself or anyone who has a special fondness for Sahuaro Ranch.

And now for the best part... Mr. Hall has generously agreed to donate 50% of all sales of the "Animals of Sahuaro Ranch in Glendale, Arizona" to Glendale Arizona Historical Society. To order the Animals of Sahuaro Ranch poster, please visit Roger Hall's Inkart.net website: <https://inkart.net/product/animals-of-sahuaro-ranch-in-glendale-arizona/> If you would like to see the poster before ordering, GAHS currently has one framed in the hallway of Sahuaro Ranch Guest House, and it can be viewed during our regular business hours.

Readers Speak: I Remember Glendale When....

Charlotte Filer Peters: "In the 40s and 50s, Glendale on Saturday night was wonderful. All the people, including our farmers, gathered in Murphy Park to join their neighbors talking about the week that just passed, laughing at corny jokes, etc. All the shops were open until 9:00 p.m. The park was where celebrations were held: Mexican Fiestas, watermelon days, a yearly carnival.... There were lots of parades in downtown Glendale and they always ended up at the park! I even remember the old men who played checkers or whatever in the park every day. They had fought in WWII, and I heard them talk about their experiences over there."

Lisa Garten: "Growing up in Glendale in the 70s and 80s, one of my fondest memories was my mom taking my sister Jenny and me to the Velma Teague Library on the weekends. We utilized everything the library had to offer a small family on a tight budget. We listened to albums of music and signed up for the

summer reading program every year. We were a poor family, but the Velma Teague Library made me feel like the richest kid in Glendale."

Please email your memories to: jodidecker@live.com, subject to editing for clarity and length.

Upcoming Events

Monday October 23, 7:00 p.m. at Manistee Ranch "Bringing a Little Spice to Glendale" presented by Matt Borowski.

Monday November 27, 7:00 p.m. at Manistee Ranch "History of Tribal Tourism in Arizona" presented by Arizona Office of Tourism.

Monday December 18, 7:00 p.m. at Manistee Ranch GAHS Annual Christmas Party and board nominations.

Thelma Heatwole Remembered



By Jodi Decker

Thelma Heatwole was known as the “Mother of Glendale,” according to columnist Mike Hatton in the Arizona Republic, 1991, a title she earned for her numerous contributions to the City of Glendale. Born in 1912, Heatwole came to Glendale in 1920. She graduated from Glendale High School and then began her storied career and contributions to Glendale city history. “She knew everyone, and everyone loved Thelma,” Hatton wrote. Heatwole’s background in Glendale included her father

H.L. Renick serving as mayor (1936-1946), and her husband Don serving as the Fire Chief. She was the mother of two boys, Bruce and David.

She began her career as a journalist, reporting for the Glendale Herald in 1946, and later for The Arizona Republic. Heatwole covered city events, accidents, and crime scenes, and she even found herself, at times, on the scene of a fire that her husband was supervising as part of his job.

Passionate about Glendale and Arizona history, Heatwole was an early member of the Glendale Arizona Historical Society. She was known for her love of Glendale, passionate enthusiasm about Arizona history, and travel around Arizona.

Through her pursuit of history, she eventually published three books: *Ghost Towns and Historical Haunts in Arizona*, *Arizona—Off the Beaten Path*, and *Arizona Hideaways*. She won over 100 communications awards during her career.

One of the most significant contributions to Glendale history that Heatwole accomplished was completing historical research on Sahuaro Ranch Park, in order to have it qualify to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

When she wasn’t devoting time to her family, church, and community, she participated in adventures such as riding camels, turbo jets, and helicopters. Heatwole is recognized for her love of history and sharing it with others to appreciate as well.

Carol St. Clair Legacy Gift

On May 20, 2023, the members of the Glendale Arizona Historical Society gathered at the Martin Auto Museum for a short meeting before touring the facility. Rick St. Clair, our only Honorary Life Member, presented a check for \$1,000 to our treasurer, Marty Cole. The donation was bequeathed to the society by Carol Coffelt St. Clair.

Carol and her family were the guiding lights of the renovation of our Manistee Ranch Property. Attending the presentation were Rick and Candy St. Clair and their children, Colton, Aniya, Grant and Heath who came from Tacna, AZ. Jeff and Kathy St. Clair joined us from Coolidge, AZ. Their adult children, Dustin, Jason, and Ryan were unable to attend but were present in spirit. Carol’s children and grandchildren have been constant presences at Manistee Ranch. They helped Carol and her husband, Chuck, with all aspects of the ranch, including the house, office, granary, and

garage. After leaving the museum, the St. Clairs were able to visit the Manistee Ranch property and relive happy, precious memories of past accomplishments, festivities, and projects. The children were especially interested in visiting the taxidermy specimens in the basement. We have been blessed by their physical and monetary support through the years. The welcome mat will always be out for the St. Clairs!

Welcome New Members

Sue Berntsen
Coit & Valerie Burner
Thomas & Virginia Johnson
Frank Morris Lopez
Chris Reed
Nicolas Chocas
Vicki Hunt

New Deal Public Works Administration



Glendale High auditorium today

President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal goal was the employment of workers to help get the country out of the depression. This program, through the Public Works Administration (PWA), facilitated the construction of the Glendale High School auditorium and the gymnasium in 1939. The auditorium was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on May 2, 2006.

It took considerable effort to obtain the necessary funds to build both buildings. The PWA agreed to provide \$49,000 in federal funds for the two projects, but the federal grant had to be matched with \$60,000 in school district funds. The auditorium would be 68 feet by 132 feet and 35 feet high seating 750 people. Voter approval was needed before the start of the fiscal year on October 1, 1938; they moved the election up to September 2.

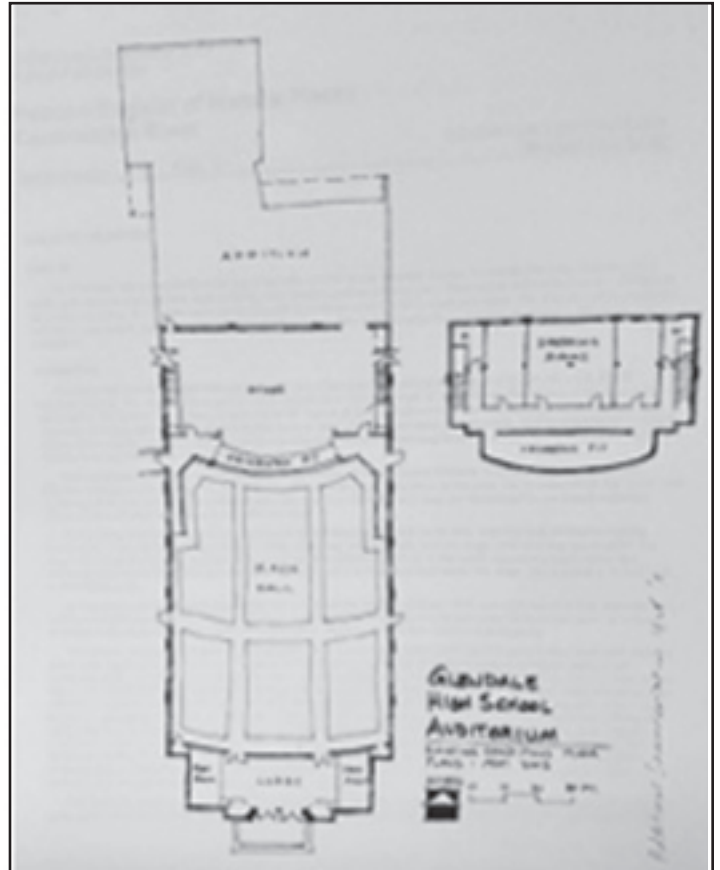
The Glendale News newspaper published a drawing by the architectural firm Lescher and Mahoney of the proposed auditorium on September 2, 1938. The voters had to be registered voters and property owners in order to vote. The bond election passed 250 in favor and 162 against. The district advertised for bids specifying the project had to be done in 70 days.

On December 5, 1938, the nine bids were opened and William Peper Construction Company had the lowest bid of \$85,565 to construct both the auditorium and gymnasium; it was approved by the PWA in January, 1939. By April, 1939, both buildings were nearly complete and were finished in June, 1939.

The final cost of both projects was \$83,733. For the auditorium, this included central heat, a concrete floor, acoustical plastered walls, acoustical board ceiling, and a dressing room and cast room beneath the stage. In addition, there were a proscenium that projected out to the audience, a promoter's box constructed in the footlight section, and emergency power for lighting. On February 27 and 28,

1940, Glendale High School students performed the first light opera ever staged at the school.

The auditorium building style was southwestern mission architectural design. An addition was constructed extending 78 feet north for the music room and backstage shop area. The exterior material is stucco over the brick structural walls. The interior was basic with minor embellishment. The lobby has been modernized, but the stage and basement remain nearly the same.



Above: Sketch of the original auditorium, 1938
Below: Newly completed structure, 1939



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623-931-8848

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

GAHS
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Address Service Requested

President’s Message



Glendale Arizona Historical Society began 50 years ago with the mission of promoting public awareness and appreciation of the history of Glendale and the surrounding region.

In 2023 we continue to preserve the past and believe that an understanding of the

past illuminates the present and gives vision for the future.

To enable the GAHS Board of Directors to continue their mission, we now look to you for help ~ as

members, as volunteers, and to help grow our archive library through your family remembrances, histories, and photographs. However, the biggest need of the historical society presently is financial.

We are solely supported by your donations and can only continue to exist due to the continued financial generosity of our members and supporters.

GAHS currently is in the process of creating a member survey, because the board is very interested in how our members think the historical society should plan to tackle the next 50 years.

It may be an uphill climb, and we hope that ALL our members will take the time to respond, so that we may continue to serve the community.

Glendale Arizona Historical Society
GlendaleArizonaHistoricalSociety.org

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