



# Glendale Arizona Historical Society

*"preservation of the past"*

OCTOBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Volume 40, Issue 6

## UPCOMING EVENTS

at a glance  
Please Save These Dates

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2019

**Sanderson Ford Museum Tour**

Neil Schrock, Tour Guide

**2:00 PM at Sanderson Ford  
6400 N. 51st Ave. in Glendale**

Saturday, November 16, 2019

**Annual GAHS Picnic**

11:00 AM

Manistee Ranch

Monday, December 16, 2019

**Annual Christmas Party**

7:00 PM

Manistee Ranch

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2020

**Annual Potluck & Election**

6:00 PM

Manistee Ranch

## Highlights Inside

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## We're all invited to a tour of the Sanderson Ford Museum



The members of the Society and their guests have a unique opportunity to tour the outstanding Sanderson Ford Museum on **OCTOBER 28, 2019, 2PM AT SANDERSON FORD, 6400 N. 51<sup>ST</sup> AVENUE, GLENDALE, AZ.**

**NEIL SCHROCK**, who worked over 50 years for the dealership will be our guide. Please go south on 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue and turn right at the traffic light at the bottom of the bridge over Grand Avenue. The museum is the first building to the right. Park on the north side of the building.

## When the Movies Came to Glendale

Carol St. Clair, former Society president, and her husband Charles St. Clair, Manistee Ranch Curator, did research and published an interesting article in the *Glendale Republic* on March 11, 2006. The article discussed the history of the Rainbow Theater- Glendale's first movie theater. In 1910, George and Leeta Cox arrived in Glendale. They built a metal structure with dirt floor and wooden benches. They used a hand-cranked movie projector and showed the most recent Hollywood silent



1911 Rainbow Theater



Hand-crank Projector



1911 Movie Poster

films. George became the chief of volunteer firemen. Leeta and her brother Ted Allen, became co-owners of the *Glendale Herald*. George and Leeta made ongoing improvements to the Rainbow Theater. The metal building was replaced with a

brick building and a hard floor; a motor-driven projector replaced the hand cranked projector; chairs replaced the benches; a Wurlitzer electric piano provided music for the silent films. In 1929, the owners installed a fancy metal ceiling, remodeled the front of the theater, and built a new box office. A major improvement was installing sound equipment in 1930. The first "talkie" shown in Glendale was the comedy *Hot for Paris* followed up by *The Sophomore* and the musical *Rio Rita*. The admission price was 45 cents for adults and 25 cents for children. New owners modernized the theater and named it The Glendale Theater, later renamed Plaza Theater. Fewer theaters were established in town. After the end of WWII, the Plaza Theater closed.



**Ron Short, President**  
**GAHS Board of Directors**  
*Photo from 1963*

The hot summer weather will soon cool and months of delightful Glendale weather will be before us. This means the Glendale Arizona Historical Society is back with newsletters, program meetings, exhibits, tours and research and working hard to promote and preserve Glendale's amazing history.

Join us in this effort by volunteering a small amount of your time and being a wedding beau or belle, docenting for a couple hours on Sunday afternoon at the Guest house, docenting at the Guest house and Adobe house for the Tractor Days and Folk and Heritage Festival, docenting for Manistee Ranch tours or helped as a host or hostess at program meetings and social events and helping with school tours , Call 623-435-0072 to volunteer.

One major accomplishment of May 2019 was significant repairs to the second-floor windows in the Nanny's room. The windows that have pulley and weights were separating from the wall and for decades there was a wide gap filled in with pieces of wood and putty, but never fixed. It allowed the elements to enter the house. The woodpeckers had drilled thirty holes in the side of the house and windows and entered the house. Scott GoodBallet of G & G

## President's Message

Specialty Contractors, who restored the Glendale Woman's Club building, submitted a bid of nearly \$8,000 to make those repairs. Thanks to those who donated funds for Manistee Ranch repairs. The historic buildings are citywide historical gems telling the story of Glendale's beginnings. The Society does not have adequate funds to maintain the buildings without donations. Any donations to the Society, unless specified, will go toward annual maintenance of the historical buildings and grounds at Manistee Ranch.

The Society is very appreciative to Bill Greb and John and Paulette Geurs who in the past couple years have devoted considerable volunteer time in maintaining the historic orchards, rose garden and making small repairs on the buildings. These volunteers have helped stop the decaying of our historic buildings. John and Paulette have been repairing and strengthening the beautiful arbor. Recently, Larry Rovey graded and built up berms on the west side of Manistee Ranch with his tractor and workers to allow for better flood irrigation. Thank you, Larry.

Join us for a historic 2019-2020 year by renewing your membership, volunteering, attending events and making donations for Manistee Ranch maintenance.



## Doña Maria Luna Primera

In 1900, Doña Maria was born in Mexico. Her husband, Florencio Primera, was born in 1888 in Mexico. Doña Maria attended private Catholic schools. During the Mexican Revolution (1910-1920), they both experienced persecution by the government because she was a Spaniard and he worked for the government. They migrated to the United States through New Mexico and got married there in 1915. They went to Nogales to get passports and then in 1919, they came to Phoenix and Glendale to work in agriculture.

The couple lived in various farm locations before moving to Sonorita Barrio in 1925 when the Primeras worked in the cotton fields for the Russians. Only Mexicans were employed to work the fields, and they were paid \$1.00 a day. Doña Maria carried her smaller children in a box and kept them with her while picking cotton. Many children worked in the fields. Don Florencio also worked on the railroad repairing rails and was a licensed electrician for 25 years. In 1928-1929, there was no gas or electricity in the area. Doña Maria led the effort to get gas and electricity installed. Don Florencio in 1927 made adobe bricks and built their home at 6733 N. 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Doña Maria started a small grocery store and made a living making corn tortillas, tamales, and menudo. They ground their own corn to make masa and also made nixtamal hominy that was used to make menudo. Their ovens were in the backyard. Doña Maria was well known for her Mexican food in Glendale and Peoria. The family had a booth at Fiestas Patrias-Mexican Independence Day-September 16 in the downtown park. They sold Mexican food and the very popular raspados flavored shaved ice.

The family joined the First Baptist Church (Hispanic). Although raised as Catholics, the Primeras' memories of the Revolution kept them distant from the Catholic Church. In 1928, the poor Mexican women could not afford a doctor in Glendale. Doña Maria brought a midwife, Carmen Garcia, from a Sunnyslope ranch to Glendale, and Doña Maria helped Carmen deliver babies. Doña Maria helped pay the expenses of many sick people who could not afford a doctor. The women thought it amusing that Carmen was a Seventh Day Adventist and Doña Maria was a Baptist, and they served the Catholic community.

Doña Maria and Florencio had four children; Ernesto (1920), Roberto (1923), Adelita (1925) and David (1932). Florencio died in 1954, and Doña Maria passed in 1994 at age 94.



### **CORRECTION** *from a previous issue*

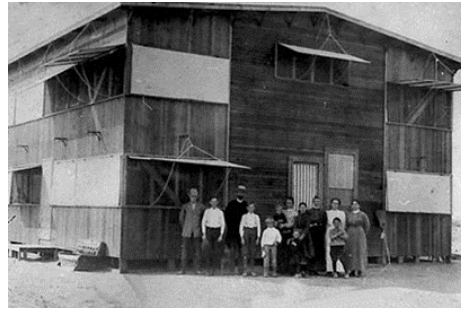
The May 2019 newsletter article "Sands Family 1913 Auto Trip to San Diego": In the fourth paragraph indicated the "ferry got stuck in a mudhole". It was the "car" that became stuck and required help for removal. The fourth paragraph should read: "On June 8, 1913, they left Yuma by ferry across the three-mile-wide Colorado River. Once on the California side, the car got stuck in a bad mudhole for three hours requiring chains, boards and block, and the help from an Indian boy to get out. Their car, again, met with heavy sand and a steep upgrade making progress difficult."



# WEEDVILLE AND THE WEED FAMILY

Soon after arriving at the Southwest Indian School in 1964, Doug Carter went to a barber shop in Peoria for a haircut. The barber asked what Doug did for a living, and Doug mentioned the school. The barber said "You live in Weedville." Doug went back to the campus, thinking that "Weedville" meant weeds. He removed the weeds, so the school would not be called Weedville again. He later learned the history of the site and that of its founder, Ora R. Weed (1868-1942).

In 1911 while living in Kansas, Mr. Weed bought 160 acres five miles north and two miles west of Glendale at Lateral 20 and Avenue R (NEC of 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Thunderbird Road). On February 5, 1912, Ora, his wife Phebe, and family arrived in Peoria, which consisted of the depot, post office, one store and a few homes. Ora carried with him a printing press and broom making machinery. The property was barren desert with no roads. Ora found mile cornerstones east and west. He tied a handkerchief to the wheel of a buggy and counted the times it went around from one cornerstone to the other before he found



*Ora Weed and family in front of their house*

the halfway point and measured the rest of the property. The Ora Weed family was deeply religious and published a religious newspaper called "The Old Paths". Ora opened the first broom factory in the Valley and was the first to prove that broom corn could be made to grow profitably in the valley.

In 1912, a school teacher began a school in the Weeds' upstairs house. Mr. Weed then built a small school that was also used as a church. In 1918, the Old Paths Chapel and four school rooms were built. The school eventually educated over seven hundred children. The Weeds had up to 40

families living on the Weed property at one time.

Ora found a verse in the Bible that discouraged the eating of pork. The Weed family gave away their money - making hogs prohibited and kept families on their land from eating pork. Ora died in 1942 after three years of illness and was buried in the Old Paths Cemetery.

A couple, Brother and Sister Schoolcraft, came and taught for three years. A group of Christians from various churches took over the school and tried to fix up the buildings without success. They accepted an offer in 1949 for an old church building in Phoenix for the school, which became the Phoenix Christian High School on Indian School Road. In 1952, Rev K.E. Mendenhall head of the Christian Missionary Society and with The World Gospel Mission bought the Weed property, except for the Old Paths cemetery, to start the Southwest Indian School. Ora and Phebe had two daughters and five sons. Daughter Ruth died in 1924, so only six children survived when he died. Enoch and Jim Weed lived in Glendale.

## HARRY ADAMS Second Sahuaro Ranch Superintendent

Stephen Campbell was the first Sahuaro Ranch superintendent. He was hired by landowner William Bartlett in 1886 to clear the 640-acre property and start developing the property. Mr. Campbell died at age 41. Harry Adams was hired to be the second superintendent of the ranch.

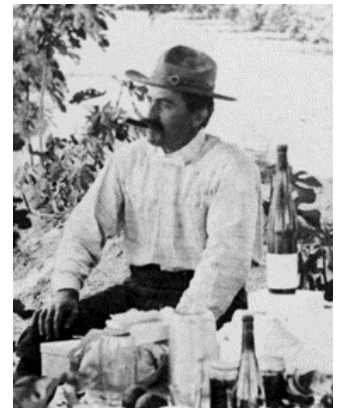
Harry Adams was born in Maine on January 25, 1859. At age 18, he attended the University of Maine for one year. He went to Wisconsin to work with cousins in the lumber business for eight years and returned to Maine. There, he met his niece Mrs. Jerry Millay from Phoenix, Arizona, who said the Salt River Valley was running with "milk and honey." He went with her to Phoenix in 1888. He bought 80 acres of land and planted Muscat grapes.

In 1890, Mr. Adams went in partnership with William H. Bartlett and bought 640 acres of land, planted 160 acres of Thompson grapes and 480 acres of barley. The same year, he became

superintendent of Sahuaro Ranch and planted as follows: 100 acres of figs, 30 acres of apricots and peaches, seventy acres of alfalfa, 20 acres for oranges, one hundred acres of olives and two hundred acres of grain. In 1895, there was insufficient water for the fruit trees and vineyard and they all died by 1898. He bought a few cattle for the ranch.

In 1897, Mr. Adams helped organize the Glendale Library Association and became its first President. In 1900, Mr. Adams bought 300,000 acres of land in Colfax County, New Mexico. He set up the Adams Cattle Company. He had one-third ownership and Mr. Bartlett had two-thirds. In 1910, he bought 75,000 acres in Taos County and rented 75,000 acres and ran about 15,000 head of cattle and 1,000 horses. On December 5, 1918, Harry sold his interests to Mr. Bartlett and moved to Los Angeles, CA.

He died in 1943 at the age of 84.



*Harry W. Adams 1894*



*Harry W. Adams 1928*

This newsletter is a publication of the  
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Our next membership event is ☐

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2019**

**Sanderson Ford Museum Tour**  
**Neil Schrock, Tour Guide**  
**2:00 PM at Sanderson Ford**  
**6400 N. 51st Ave. in Glendale.**

New Members since our  
last newsletter issue:

**Julie Compton**  
**Marion Cruz**

We bid a loving farewell to  
long-time member  
**Harold Uible**  
Our thoughts and prayers  
Are with his family

Glendale Arizona Historical Society  
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#### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## Are Our Historic Buildings "HAUNTED"?

October brings haunting questions by visitors! A television company had even asked to film all night long at Manistee Ranch to look for ghosts. Visitors occasionally ask if there are ghosts at Sahuaro Ranch. Experience these very old places and decide for yourself. The City of Glendale Parks and Recreation staff at Sahuaro Ranch offer free tours of the Main House. The Glendale Arizona Historical Society conducts tours of historic Manistee Ranch, the Sahuaro Ranch Guest House and Adobe House from October to May.

#### **SAHUARO RANCH 1895 MAIN HOUSE, 9802 N. 59<sup>TH</sup> AVE, GLENDALE, AZ**

**FREE TOURS** of the Main House September-July: Fridays & Saturdays: 10 am to 2 pm.; Sundays: 1 pm to 4 pm, (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 & 1887 ADOBE HOUSE, 9802 N. 59<sup>TH</sup> AVE, GLENDALE, AZ**

**FREE TOURS** of the Guest House October – May: Sundays: 1 pm to 3 pm, (except holidays and during weddings).

**FREE TOURS** of the 1887 Adobe House during festivals and with prior arrangements. Call 623-435-0072 for more information, or for group tours.

#### **1897 MANISTEE RANCH, 5127 W. NORTHERN AVE** (enter from the parking lot on 51<sup>st</sup> Ave).

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, Ages 6-16 \$1, GAHS MEMBERS FREE. The 2019-20 tour dates are the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month on the following dates: October 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>; November 2<sup>nd</sup>, and December 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.



Sahuaro Ranch Adobe House



Sahuaro Ranch Guest House



Sahuaro Ranch Main House



Manistee Ranch House