



Glendale Arizona Historical Society

"preservation of the past"

MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER

Volume 44, Issue 3



UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon., March 27 at 7:00 PM

History of the Federation of
Women's Clubs
Grace Kobjek
Arizona State President

Mon. April 24 at 7:00 PM

Golden Anniversary
Celebration
Nelda Crowell
Martha Dennis
Lorraine Zomok

A GLIMPSE INTO THE HISTORY OF ARIZONA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

**Grace Kobjek, Arizona
President Greater
Federation of Women's
Clubs
Monday, March 27, 2023,
7:00 p.m.**



Grace Kobjek came to Arizona in 1965 as the new bride of Stan Kobjek. After four years serving in the United States Air Force, Stan was hired by the Glendale Police Department. Grace became involved in the Fraternal Order of Police Wives' Support Group. They have two daughters and two grandsons, and three Frenches. She taught in the Glendale and Peoria school systems as an elementary educator and became involved with the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) after her retirement. An enjoyment of history is one of her passions, and she and Stan are members of a local reenactment group. Now serving as GFWC Arizona President, Grace is happy to share information about GFWC's roles in pioneer Arizona to present times. The meeting is part of the 50th anniversary celebration of the Glendale Arizona Historical Society. A festive history quiz and game will follow the presentation, and light refreshments will be served at the close of the meeting.

**GLENDALE
FOLK
& HERITAGE
FESTIVAL
2023**

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
MARCH 4 & 5, 2023

SAHUARO RANCH HISTORIC PARK 9802 N 59TH AVE. GLENDALE, AZ

FOOD AND CRAFT VENDORS • HIBS ACTIVITIES • PLANT AND PAINTING COMPETITION
PERFORMANCES & WORKSHOPS • FREE ADMISSION • BRING A CHAIR OR BLANKET

WWW.GLENDALEAZ.COM/EVENTS



Couples Chosen to Participate in Renewal of Vows Ceremony

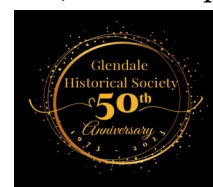
As a highlight of the year-long celebration of the Glendale Arizona Historical Society's 50th anniversary, eight couples have been chosen to participate in a special ceremony to repeat their wedding vows and re-affirm their love for each other. The event will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 18, 2023, at the Rose Garden of Historic Sahuaro Ranch. Glendale Councilmember Bart Turner, who represents the Barrel District in which Sahuaro Ranch is located, will officiate. Turner himself has historic roots as a descendent of one of Glendale's founding families.

Participating couples are: Gary and Joanne Daye, Curt and Jodi Decker, Tom and Laurie Faulconbridge, Cary and Teresa Grant, Daryl and Jami Griffiths, Dan and Jodi Kallberg, Daniel and Stacie Kopa, and Samuel and Larsa Wardas. The couples are encouraged to invite up to 15 seated guests, but standing room is available for other guests and GAHS members who wish to enjoy the celebration. Light refreshments will follow the ceremony. The celebration is sponsored in part by GAHS, Glendale Flowers and Gifts, and The Spicery Tearoom.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VOW RENEWAL EVENT

The Golden Anniversary Committee is seeking volunteers to assist with the set up and event logistics for the Vow Renewal Ceremony to be held on Saturday, March 18, 2023, at Historic Sahuaro Ranch.

Volunteer shifts begin at 8 a.m. If you are available to volunteer, please contact Lorraine Zomok at 602- 619-8894 or email Lorrainezomok@gmail.com. Thank you for your consideration. It's going to be a lovely day at the Ranch!



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Following is Part II of an article by the late Thelma Heatwole about Sahuaro Ranch. Part I appeared in last month's newsletter.

The main entrance gates to Sahuaro Ranch were on Olive Avenue at the head of a half-mile palm tree lane, most of which was used in landscaping years later at Glendale Community College. The other entrance was a bridge over Lateral 18 [now 59th Ave.] at the half-mile mark. That road was bordered by ash trees, forming a "sort of a tunnel." Most original citrus, olive and pepper trees used in landscaping in the grounds are still in place, according to Dick Smith, who purchased the ranch from the original owner, William Bartlett.

"About 60 acres were in a commercial olive grove at the time we took possession. These trees were neglected and in poor condition. My father pulled out what remained and planted (with mule and horsepower) over 100 acres of grapefruit, oranges and lemons and about six acres of pecans," Smith recalled. The elder Smith developed the property into a working farm that included a dairy, known widely as the Sahuaro Jersey Farm. Remnants of the dairy operation remain on the property.

The ranch was sometimes referred to as the Peacock Ranch because of its many beautiful, wild peacocks. The rich, plumed birds, sometimes numbering more than 200, roamed the ranch at will for 40 years. The unusual flock was started in 1928 or possibly the early 1930s. It seems that when Mrs. Smith visited an exposition in Chicago, she was so captivated by the peacocks she saw there that she purchased a cock and two hens for the ranch. The peacocks required little care and their nighttime screech would announce trespassers on the ranch.

Said Smith: "We always discouraged shooting, and the place became something of a wildlife sanctuary. We even left the coyotes and foxes alone. This kept the rabbit population under control and established a kind of balance. There is (or was) a sizable colony of raccoons, an occasional badger, numerous owls, quail and always a few resident hawks. I never recall seeing a rattlesnake, and it was my practice never to kill a king snake or gopher snake. For several years we had an extensive prairie dog town but they have disappeared," he continued.

Assorted vignettes about the ranch:

E. E. Jack, an area pioneer, was the Bartlett Ranch superintendent in the early 1900s. He came to Arizona to work on the Del Higo Ranch in 1893, but in time was superintendent of both ranches. He left the Bartlett ranch work in 1903.

Joe Whitney, a former city councilman and Glendale businessman, worked for Pote Bradshaw, ranch owner about 1918, during the summer. Whitney drove a tractor and remembers he chose to work at night because of the Arizona daytime heat. He recalled that during the daylight he slept under a fig tree rather than rest in the ranch bunkhouse.

F. S. Heatwole, now deceased, a businessman in Glendale since 1912, well remembers Richard W. Smith. "He came into our store (Sine Bros. Hardware) frequently to buy ranch supplies. He was of hefty build, friendly and well liked," he added.

About 20 years ago, a reporter for the *Glendale Herald* interviewed Mrs. Lottie Sands Smith, wife of Dick Smith. The scribe recalls that Mrs. Smith was very gracious and among other things she provided information about the peacocks. The gleaming hardwood floors are a standout memory about the parlor.



The Desert Land Act of 1877 Transforms the Western United States

By Nelda Crowell

One of the most important factors in the development of Glendale and other parts of the West was the *Desert Land Act of 1877*. With the end of the Civil War, Congress wanted to populate the West, and the new law enabled settlers to claim up to a section of land, 640 acres or one square mile, provided they cleared and irrigated it within three years. This was different from the Homestead Act of 1862, under which only 160 acres could be claimed and required that the settler live on the land.

The settler had to pay an initial fee of 25 cents per acre plus an additional \$1.00 per acre after proving out the land at the end of three years. Later the fee was raised to \$2.50 an acre and restricted to 160 per claimant. It then cost about \$15.00 per acre to clear and level the land.

The key to development was the fact that the land had to be irrigated, so the next step was the development of the Arizona Canal by Arizona Canal Company in 1882. In 1882, William J. Murphy was joined by three Arizona builders, M.W. Kales, William A. Handcock and Clark Churchill, and together they landed a \$500,000 contract to build the 40-mile-long Arizona Canal from Granite Reef to New River. With the use of whatever machinery was available and the help of 225 mules (horses couldn't tolerate the heat), Murphy and his team completed the canal by 1885. With the Desert Land Act in place and the Arizona Canal providing water, William H. Bartlett was able to purchase the section of land that became Sahuaro Ranch.

HISTORICAL TOURS

MANISTEE RANCH 1897 HOUSE

5127 W. NORTHERN AVENUE (enter from the parking lot on 51st 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 2023 tour dates are the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month—Jan. 7, 21; Feb. 4, 18; March 4, 18; April 1, 15; May 6

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



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Glendale, AZ 85312

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy March everyone! I hope you all survived the excitement and chaos that comes with hosting a Super Bowl in our city. Now for a change of pace, you might enjoy some of Glendale's upcoming events. This year, the Folk & Heritage Festival will be March 4-5 at the beautiful Sahuaro Ranch Historic Park from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. There will be plenty of performances and workshops that you can attend. The following weekend, March 11th, downtown Glendale will be hosting Paris in the Spring from 10 a.m. to close. Both events give you the chance to enjoy the historic charm of our city.

I would like to take a moment to thank the many people who have been donating their time and energy to the work of the GAHS. Did you know that our volunteers are the ones who help with tours, weddings, research, maintenance, and even some landscape care? Please reach out to one of our officers if there is an area you would love to learn more about.

