



Glendale Arizona Historical Society

"preservation of the past"

NOVEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

Volume 35, Issue 7

UPCOMING EVENTS

at a glance

Please Save these Dates

GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY PICNIC

Saturday, Nov 21 at 11:30 am
Manistee Ranch

CHRISTMAS PARTY ELECTIONS

Sunday, Dec 13 at 2:00 pm
Manistee Ranch

POTLUCK / INSTALLATION

Monday, Jan 25 at 6:00 pm
Manistee Ranch

PROGRAM MEETING

Monday, Feb 22 at 7pm
Manistee Ranch

PROGRAM MEETING

Monday, March 21 at 7pm
Manistee Ranch

Highlights Inside

Presidents Message	2
Memorial Donations	2
Downtown Drag Racing	2
Treasured Organ Returns	3
Tour the Ranches	4

Glendale Historical Society Annual Picnic



Want to have some old-fashion fun in the comfortable fall weather? Then attend the annual **GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY PICNIC ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2015 AT 11:30 AM AT MANISTEE RANCH** (enter off of 51st Ave). This is a wonderful opportunity to have fellowship with the participants, enjoy some delicious food, visit the beautiful and historic Manistee Ranch House and met some of Glendale's ole' timers. The Society will provide hot dogs, buns and beverages. It would be appreciated if

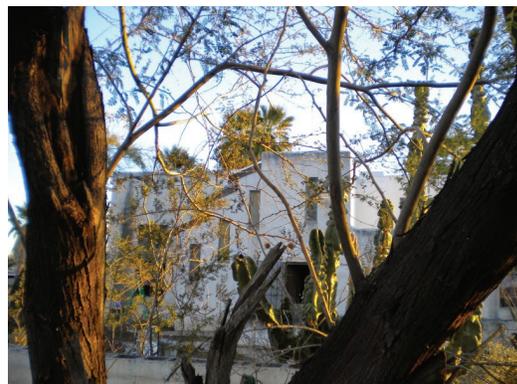
participants could bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share with others. The picnic is **free** to participants and **everyone is welcome**. The photo is the 2014 GAHS Picnic.

White Dove of the Valley

Deena Goodale, a blogger and resident of the neighborhood, became intrigued with the white house sitting far back from 67th Avenue south of Olive Avenue at 8778 North 67th Avenue. She decided to do some outstanding research into the history of the 1949 house and its owner Rodrick Guy McGill and the McGill family. The "Dove of the Valley" is from a plaque on the front of the unique house which sets on a 1.91 acre parcel.

Deena traced the McGill family back to Zachary Taylor McGill born in 1849. Guy McGill, son of Zachary, came to Phoenix in 1912. Zachary passed away in 1918. Guy was living four miles west of Glendale at that time, which probably is the site of the "white dove". Guy lived on the property until his death in 1957. In the 1940's Guy and Florence McGill deeded the property to their son Rodrick, who was born August 1, 1924. Rodrick attended Glendale High School as did his future wife June Collins. She died November 18, 2013. They had five children over a twenty year period – Lawrence, David, Brian and Lyle and Robyn. Rodrick enlisted in the military in 1944 during WWII. Rodrick and June did divorce in 1966.

Rodrick's parents in 1949 deeded the land and a home was constructed with 2,400 square feet. The house had an upper level and a basement and three balconies. This was a large home at that time. Rodrick lived in the house for 45 years. He retired as an aerospace technician. He died the day after Christmas in 2010. The house was sold in May 2014 and Zillow web site describes the house as a "teardown". How sad it would be to lose this part of Glendale's past.



President's Message



*Ron Short, President
Board of Directors*

The Board of Directors thanks the volunteers who helped guide visitors through the Guest House and Adobe House during the **October 23-25, 2015 Wild Western Festival** at Sahuaro Ranch. There were hundreds that toured the two buildings and were assisted in their questions by our volunteers. The Board specially expresses their appreciation to Martha Dennis, who has given considerable time, energy

and knowledge in organizing the volunteers for this event. The Board of Directors and the City of Glendale will be discussing a Memorandum of Understanding between the city and the Society as to the Society's roles and use of Sahuaro Ranch facilities. This will be a very important document for the future of the Society and the Board looks forward in working with the City of Glendale in a successful MOU that works for both the Society and the City of Glendale. The Board decided to put on hold a GAHS bus tour of Sahuaro Ranch and Manistee Ranch that was planned for March 2016. The Society was not able to receive a To-

hono O'odham Indian Nation grant to complete roof replacement for Manistee Ranch and did not pursue a Community Development Block Grant with the City. The cost to complete the re-roofing is \$28,000. The Board did approve funds for Manistee Ranch to repair the sagging kitchen ceiling, water damaged ceiling in the bedroom, replace steps in the front, and replace rear porch landing, door repairs and painting. Those funds will come from a saving account and donations. The Society currently has 136 members, 189 with life members and we send the newsletter to 275 individuals. The Board considered raising all wedding prices by \$100. This was disapproved by the Board indicating the lower cost venue is one reason why couples select the Rose Garden wedding venue. Carol Hook is to be commended for putting together, with Martha Dennis, an excellent Wedding Belles Guide and training session on October 13, 2015. It is important that the Society builds its membership. Please encourage people who are interested in preserving and promoting Glendale's history to join the Society by calling 623-463-0072 or go to the Society's web site at www.glendalearizonahistoricalociety.com and fill out the membership application.

Memorial Donations

The Glendale Historical Society would like to thank all of our many generous contributors that have given in memory of members that are no longer with us. Since the beginning of 2015 we have lost too many of our long standing members. Donations have been given in memory of Charlie Bootz, Margie

Connell, Art Meyers, Julia Phillips and Mary Renner. The money received will be used towards the preservation of the history of Glendale.

On the porch at Manistee Ranch we have a large plaque that has all the names of members that have been remembered with donations. The

plaque is divided into sections, depending on the amount of donations. The plaque is getting close to being completely full. We are planning on making an extension, although we wish it wasn't necessary. When you come to Manistee for a meeting, please take a few minutes and look at the plaque.

DOWNTOWN DRAG RACING

Karl Abel moved to Glendale from Globe in 1921 when he was 4 years old. Karl was a 1933 graduate of Glendale High School. Karl was a long time local farmer and past Chairman of the Salt River Project Board of Directors. Karl talked in 1990 to the Arizona Republic/Phoenix Gazette reporter about drag racing in downtown during the 1930's and 1940's. The racers would start



at City Park from a dead stop and go "barreling" out towards the high school- sometimes the racers would go east. Karl used the family Chevy. The last time Karl was in a drag race was with Louie Espiel. They started at Camelback Avenue and 75th Avenue headed north on a really narrow cement road. Louie drove a Buick. The Buick was heavier and slower on takeoff. At Bethany Home Karl was in the lead going 85mph. The clock struck 10 PM. At Glendale Avenue the boys were going 90mph and didn't pay attention to the stop sign. Glendale Avenue was a heavily traveled road. The racers got stopped one-third of a mile up the road. They drove slowly back to Glendale. Louie won the race but neither of the boys ever drag-raced again.

A TREASURED HEIRLOOM RETURNS TO THE VALLEY LAURA'S PUMP ORGAN COMES BACK AFTER 130 YEARS

By Dana Trethewey

Perhaps, it was love at first sight. Perhaps, it was the end of a long search. Or, was it impulse? Or, simply curiosity? And, was this Chicago or Boston or New York?

It really didn't matter. It was right there: a musical instrument that looked like an organ but was more compact, portable with handles, pedals, and a keyboard encased in a soft, slight reddish brown colored box with gold lettering inside, "Mason-Hamblin" At the time the company was considered "the finest piano and organ maker ever" and still in business.

The purchase was made, shipping address given, and the special gift was on its way to the desert-Salt River Valley: Phoenix, Arizona. The buyer was W.J. Murphy, and he was sending this little pump organ (or is it a Melodeon) to his wife, Laura.

I don't know if it happened this way, but I do know that W.J. Murphy did give his wife, Laura, this pump organ as a gift sometime in the early 1880's.

W. J. and Laura are my great-great-grandparents, and I am Dane Trethewey from Salt Lake City, Utah. I have owned this pump organ since 1984 when my grandmother, Elma Murphy, gave it to me. She had received it as a gift sometime in 1940 from her father-in-law, Ralph Murphy, who is my great-grandfather and father of Dysart, my grandfather.

W.J. was absent from his family frequently and for long periods of time. Responsible for building the canal and paying for it, he would go anywhere, mostly back east, looking for investors. His family-Laura, so Ralph and daughters Laila and Loise (son Ray was born later) lived with him, camped out on the desert. There were extended family members and the building crew there, but life was difficult and lonely without their father. Maybe, he thought some music would be bright spot for them. No doubt, they were cheered when Laura played hymns in the evenings, on Sundays and on other special occasions.

In 1885, the canal was completed, and the family moved into their new house on Central Avenue in Phoenix and so did the pump organ. It moved several times, even had a tumble which broke the pedals' support from the legs. This was repaired with only sight aesthetic damage.

My grandparents were living in Phoenix but moved to Chino Valley in 1965. We lived in Salt Lake City. During one of our annual Christmas visits, Grandma gave me the pump organ. It was enjoyed for many years in our home, an interesting piece of furniture, a conversation piece with its own history, and it could play music too. It has held a treasured place in our lives, a reminder of some pretty special people who we were not privileged to know except by the rich heritage they left us.

Grandma Elma did place one condition on her gift: she made me promise that "when it is time, it is to be given to the W.J. Museum in Phoenix". Well, I've found that there are three such museums that feature history and artifacts pertaining to W.J.'s life, but the Sahurao Museum has great emphasis on Laura's life, and this little music maker was a pleasant part of her life, I chose to bring it here.

So, it is time, and I am pleased to give to you this treasured heirloom, Laura's pump organ.

Jessica Koory, Secretary and Accessions Chair indicated Dana had planned to deliver the pump organ to GAHS. He passed away before the journey. Jane Trethewey, Dane's mother and Elma and Ralph Dysart Murphy's daughter, shipped the lovely organ, a family tree, and Dana's letter that is printed above.

W.J. Murphy developed the Arizona Canal and his wife, Laura, inspected the work and reported to W.J. when he was gone seeking funds for the canal project. In 1909, the Murphy's donated a square block downtown Glendale to be used as a park- Murphy Park. W.J. was also involved with Grand Avenue, the Santa Fee Railroad line, the Sugar beet Factory and the Interurban Streetcar line.



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GAHS Phone Numbers:
Guest House Office: 623.435.0072
Manistee Ranch Office: 623.931.8848
Newsletter Editor: 602.770.8202

GAHS E-mail:
General Info: gahs73@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor: gail@gcmeyers.com

Visit our Website:
www.glendearizonahistoricalsociety.org

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Our next membership get together is
GAHS Annual Picnic
Saturday, Nov. 21, 2015 at 11:30am
Manistee Ranch, 5127 W. Northern

Please enter the driveway to Manistee Ranch from 51st 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.

We are pleased to welcome a new member to the GAHS:

Sharon Adams



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

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Tour the Ranches

2015-2016 Season Tour Schedules

The Guest House at Sahuaro Ranch is presenting its scheduled public tours between 1:00 PM and 3:30 PM each Sunday Afternoon by the Glendale Arizona Historical Society from October to May. Call 623-435-0072 to arrange group tours. (Last tour is at 3:00 PM) Schedule is subject to change.

The Glendale Parks and Recreation Department conducts tours of the Main House on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 AM to 2 PM and Sundays from 1 PM to 4 PM. For more information or to arrange a group tour call 623-930-4201.

The Glendale Arizona Historical Society conducts tours of the Manistee Ranch House and Office from October to May, on the first and third Saturdays of each month, from noon to 4 PM. The last tour starts at 3 PM. The tours dates are November 7th and the 21st; December 5, 19; January 2, 16; February 6, 20; March 5, 19; April 2, 16; May 7. The tour fees are adult \$5, seniors \$4. Ages 6-16 \$1. Glendale Arizona Historical Society members are free. The schedule is subject to change. Please call 623-435-0072 for group tours and schedule information. Manistee Ranch is located at 5127 W. Northern Avenue. Please enter off of the 51st Avenue parking lot.