



Glendale's trolley history



All aboard the Phoenix to Glendale trolley.

By Jodi Decker

Perhaps we think of Disneyland or San Francisco when we think of the romantic notion of the trolley car. Yet in the early 1900s, there was a trolley line that ran between downtown Phoenix and Glendale.

Traveling north on 7th Street, it turned west on Orangewood for a route into the heart of Glendale. This trolley car system began in 1911, and cars were scheduled to run every 70 minutes. The trolley line was a more convenient transportation method than horses or horse and buggy wagon.

For those traveling "up" from Phoenix, the passengers were often picnic parties wanting to be out in the desert and nature on the weekends. A trolley ride from 7th Street and Orangewood to downtown Glendale took 30 minutes. The Glendale Hotel sold round-trip tickets to Phoenix for 50 cents.

Alas, the trolley company business was relatively

short-lived. Around 1925, the company began to experience financial difficulties, and eventually the trolley line stopped running. Passengers complained that the early morning trolley rides from Glendale to Phoenix were too cold in the unheated cars for an hour-long commute. Conversely, passengers also wanted drinking water provided during the summer heat. A third complaint was that the cars needed toilets.

Beginning in the early 1920s, Henry Ford was able to begin mass production of cars, allowing cars to become more affordable for less affluent Americans. An early model car cost \$300.

With the invention of the mass-produced car, families had more transportation options available. This also likely made the trolley cars a less popular mode of transportation. Glendale's own Martin Auto Museum located at 4230 W. Thunderbird Ave. features displays of many early-model cars which came to replace the beleaguered trolley line.

(Source: "News Accounts Tell Trolley History," The Glendale News, February 8th, 1962.)

Welcome New Members

Bell Bank/ Kyle Kennedy
Conchita Lopez Boggs
Denise Dennis Carlin
Kaleo Cockett
DeeDee and Mike Denton
Maria Kinney
Tanja Shineman

Filming “The Last Dance” in Historic Glendale

By Sandy Kim

In 2012, independent filmmakers Marcus A. Stricklin and Sandy Kim set out to find locations for their film “The Last Dance”, and they were at a loss as to where to look. The film tells the story of Don and Rita and their lifelong relationship from their first meeting at the age of five to their 60th wedding anniversary. Tragically Rita is diagnosed with terminal cancer, and the two decide that after a lifetime together, they can never be apart.

The movie almost didn’t get produced, because Marcus thought it would be too difficult to find locations in Arizona that could believably look like they were from the 1930s to the 1950s. Sandy was from the east coast and not very familiar with Phoenix, having just moved there.

Luckily, someone told her to check out the historic district in Glendale, and as soon as she saw Papa Ed’s Ice Cream Parlor in Caitlin Court and the surrounding historic downtown area, she knew that this would be the perfect location for some of the scenes featuring Don and Rita as young children. Sandy thought it was going to be difficult getting permission to film in these locations, but to her delight, everyone asked was immediately supportive of the idea.

After securing all the locations, Marcus adjusted several scenes to make them work. For example, he had written a scene that originally takes place in a forest, where Don and Rita are in a scary part of the woods. At first they thought they would have to go to Flagstaff, but when Sandy saw the old Beet Sugar Factory, Marcus agreed to modify the scene without losing the intent.

Owner Morgan Klemp of Arroyo Vodka was more than accommodating in allowing use of the old building to film. The Glendale Fire Department, which has a fire house right next door, even allowed them to use their electricity for some of the equipment.

For one particularly sweet scene that recreated the moment when Don and Rita first met, the filmmakers spotted the lovely intersection of 58th Drive and Northview with its charming historic homes and white picket fences.

Not wanting to upset the people who lived in the area, they knocked on the doors of several houses to let residents know what was happening. One of the homes belonged to Kathy and Rory Goreé, who were understandably a bit skeptical at first of a rather large



cast and crew of over 30 people gathered outside their home with cameras and filming equipment. But very soon this wonderful couple not only welcomed the crew into their home, allowing them to film right on their front porch, but they soon became part of the crew. They provided cold water and shade to the cast and crew as they filmed outside in triple digit weather, with the cast in heavy period costumes, hair and makeup.

The Last Dance could not have come to life had the filmmakers not found the gem of a location in Caitlin Court and the historic Glendale district.

In 2013 the film was screened at the prestigious Cannes Short Film Corner, which is part of the Cannes Film Festival. Glendale residents will not only enjoy the film but also enjoy spotting locations in their city as they watch, which can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2yBFR24Hlvo&t=719s>

A quick glimpse into 1920s Glendale

By Jodi Decker

Vernon Tuckey, wrote in a news article, (“Bustin’ Burros, Fishin’, Fireworks,” The Glendale News, Feb. 8, 1962) about a few memories growing up in the 1920s in Glendale. He recalls riding horse-drawn wagons to school. When he was aged 10 to 12, he recalls that kids would rope wild burros in the desert areas. Tuckey reports, “Once the burros were broken, they became very docile. We would keep them for awhile and then sell them for 25 or 50 cents to prospectors. The burros always were in demand.”

Baseball was a popular dirt lot past-time, as well as swimming in the Arizona canal. Residents would come to town on Saturday nights, hitching their horses and wagons along the roads. Murphy Park was a central gathering place for playing horseshoes. There was also fishing in the fishing hole near the ice plant.



Forrest and Mutt Whitney with cousins from Michigan dipping in Lateral 19.

President’s Message



Gary Sherwood

My hope was that those attending our March meeting where the topic “The State of the Society” was discussed came away with a better understanding of what it takes to run an organization such as the GAHS, and why it is getting more difficult for non-profit organizations like ours to exist.

Your Board of Directors is taking this challenge on with a lot of thinking outside the proverbial box, both in how we present ourselves as a valuable public resource, and how we keep ourselves financially afloat.

The 2023 Annual Report, mailed to all members in late January, shows our stated short and long-term goals, along with other information. While this is not the format that is used for such a report, the board felt it important to get something out to our membership to show where we are, and what we are trying to accomplish this year. We had not published a report in seven years and have vowed to put a user friendly 6-8 page colored report out annually beginning next year.

As we have ~ 220 members with generally 30 or so

attending meetings, I thought I would touch on a few of the highlights related to the financials as a refresher for those who attended and more for those who did not. In 2024, we have an expense budget of \$42,400, with revenue projected at \$36,200, leaving a deficit of \$6200. That is about the same loss we had in 2023. The board thinks we can improve on that number by looking at other revenue streams. Our cash reserves have been able to handle these losses, but the trend needs to be reversed next year. There is not a lot we can do with expenses that we have not done already.

Our insurance represents 39.5% of the budget and has gone-up 40.2% since ’20. Yes, we have shopped around. The office and associated expenses take up another 37%, and again, nothing extravagant here. Twelve other line items make-up the balance of expenses.

We must integrate the Manistee portion into our budget. We keep a separate “pot” of money for the upkeep of the property, which is offset by dedicated donations. Last year we had expenditures of \$13,909.05, with additional in-kind services of over \$7000. Our reserves increased by around \$7,600. I would give a letter grade of our overall finances as a B-, but compared to many organizations, that is a decent grade, and I am optimistic that we will improve that grade.

GAHS Board of Directors

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602-309-6782

Glendale Arizona Historical Society is designated as a Certified Historical Society

Glendale Arizona Historical Society
P.O. Box 5606
Glendale, AZ 85312

Address Service Requested

Upcoming Event

Monday, April 29, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at
Manistee Ranch.
“An Evening with Quentin Tolby”

PLEASE DONATE!



Arizona Gives Day's early giving period starts
March 12, 2024. Donations between
March 12 and April 5, 2024
counts towards GAHS's grand fundraising total.



Donate using the QR Code or visit
<https://azgives.org/GlendaleAzHistory>

MANISTEE RANCH

Tours are held October - April
on the 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month.
Adults -- \$5 Seniors 65+ \$4
Children 6 to 10 --\$1 (under 6 are free)
Military with ID -- \$4
GAHS Members -- free

SAHUARO RANCH GUEST HOUSE

Office Hours
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Tours by appointment only -- 623-435-0072

Glendale Arizona Historical Society
GlendaleArizonaHistoricalSociety.org

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