



Glendale Arizona Historical Society

"preservation of the past"

NOVEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

Volume 43, Issue 7

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 28 7:00PM

"History of Glendale's Water Conservation Program"

**Joanne Toms,
City of Glendale, Environmental Programs Administrator**

December 19 7:00PM

Christmas Party



HISTORY OF THE GLENDALE WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

MONDAY NOVEMBER 28, 2022 7:00 PM

JOANNE TOMS

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR—
CITY OF GLENDALE WATER SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

Joanne Toms is a Midwesterner who earned a B.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Science and an M.S. in Water Resource Management. Joanne was a Park Ranger for the City of Phoenix and the National Park Service. She relates to customers who have challenges with desert landscaping. Joanne is naturally drawn to WATER, since her maiden name in Czech is "Vokoun" meaning "FISH."

The City of Glendale developed a water conservation program in 1985 in response to the 1980 Ground-water Management Act, which required water providers in the state's Active Management Areas to create water conservation programs. Glendale was one of the first cities in the nation to offer a landscape rebate to incentivize the conversion of water-intensive grass to a water-wise landscape. To date over 5,600 residential and non-residential customers have converted 118 acres of grass to xeriscape. Glendale was among the first U. S. cities to adopt a code requiring water-efficient fixtures, which went into effect in 1988, four years prior to the federal government setting water efficiency standards for toilets, faucets, and showerheads in 1992.

Glendale has developed partnerships in expanding conservation education and outreach through the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association, Conservation Committee, Water-Use It Wisely campaign, partner in the EPA Water Sense program and the ASU Sustainable Cities Network. Water conservation serves an important role in helping Glendale provide reliable water supplies for the future and enabling the city to stay in compliance with state water conservation requirements. Glendale remains committed to providing a safe, secure and reliable water supply and continues to prepare for drought.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Board of Directors is considering several important items this fall. Manistee Ranch maintenance and improvements are an ongoing critical focus of the Board. Some homeless individuals broke into the historic 1909 granary and set up living quarters with a TV, refrigerator, beds, furniture and clothing. The materials were removed; some items were donated to nonprofit charities and the city's sanitation division provided bulk trash pickup for the remainder. The Board approved installation of additional security cameras covering the granary and outhouse. Interpretative signs for the farm display area, bee habitat and Wallis tractor display are being installed during October. Plans were approved to improve the front steps to make them more durable due to considerable use by groups for photos. Nominations for the Board of Directors are being accepted since there may be several positions available, including some on the executive committee. The Golden Anniversary Committee has been actively developing terrific ideas for celebrating 50 fantastic years of the Glendale Arizona Historical Society next year. Weddings are increasing after the coronavirus shut down, and wedding facilitators are needed. Call the office at 623-435-0072 to volunteer. The Manistee Ranch tours have resumed on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month from October 2022 through May 2023. The City of Glendale is developing a Sahuaro Ranch Master Plan and is asking for public input by filling out a survey at "Survey for Sahuaro Ranch Park Master Plan" on the Glendale Parks and Recreation web site [<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GNDQJMW>]. The Board is also developing six interesting educational programs to be held during 2023.

ORAL HISTORY MANAGER WANTED: The Society is fortunate to have a vast collection of oral histories. A volunteer is needed to develop new oral history interviews, work with volunteers and interns, and ensure the preservation of existing histories. To volunteer for this important task, call 623-435-0072.



Bertie Decker, 70-year Glendale Resident

By Jodi Decker



Alberta “Bertie” Cross Decker has been a Glendale resident for nearly 70 years. She recalled moving to the city Memorial Day weekend, 1953. Bertie, born July 17, 1923, relocated from Maryland with her husband Joseph Decker (married May 5th, 1944), a retired USAF colonel, with daughter Linda and son Rex in tow. In 1955, they added identical twin boys to the family, Curt and Carl. They moved to be closer to Joe’s family, joining 4 other siblings (Bill, Al, Bud, and Eva), and working for the family business, Decker Vendors, established in 1947. Bertie and Joe were married for 76 years, and the Decker family now includes 10 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Bertie, a very spry 98-year-old, still walks every day, reads the newspaper, and follows the Phoenix Suns games. She still lives in her original home, (which cost \$10,000 at purchase), near the downtown Glendale area. Bertie remembered when Maryland Avenue was almost the outskirts, the population between 8,000 to 10,000 people. “A lot of people married the ones they met here, so you had to be careful who you talked about—you might be talking about their cousin,” Bertie observed with a laugh.

An early memory of Glendale was that it was a friendly town, but hot. She found it amusing when people would walk around in the rain. The town, then mostly situated around Murphy Park, had businesses such as J.C. Penney, Master’s Television, banks, Eva Allen’s beauty salon, and the First United Methodist Church. Joe and Bertie were active members of the community and the church, where Bertie served as President of the Women’s Circle and taught Sunday School, and Joe was on the Board of Trustees and was Scoutmaster. The church was the center of family social activities, such as ice cream socials and potlucks. Joe was even asked to run for mayor one time, as no one was stepping up. However, their busy family life and Joe’s other leadership commitments had Bertie warning Joe not to do that; “I told him if he ran, I wouldn’t vote for him. So he didn’t run.”

A fun memory Bertie shared about life in Glendale was how “women dressed up to go grocery shopping, did our hair, and went down to Bashas’ in Bud’s Model T-Ford.” Sometimes they ate at The Golden Drumstick, where the 99-cent special was chicken and mashed potatoes. She also recalled 4th of July all-you-can-eat watermelon busts at Murphy Park.

Bertie attributes her long life to exercising, eating healthy foods, sleeping, and going to church. She’s interested in the affairs of the world, always having something to look forward to. She concluded the interview by stating she just “wanted to be a good wife, good mother, and raise a family.” Despite her many world travels, Glendale was always her home.

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 2022 tour dates are the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month on October 1, 15, November 5, 19, December 3, 17.

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



HOTEL GLENWOOD



Lacey Bennett, son of Glendale's first mayor Archie Bennett, was interviewed for an oral history by Thelma Heatwole in 1985 for the city's 75th Anniversary. Archie Bennett built the Hotel Glenwood in 1909, Lacey said. The building was constructed using individually made hollow cement blocks that kept the hotel cool. There was limited electricity and limited water piped to homes in Glendale. The hotel had its own gas plant that made gas available in every hotel room. The guests struck a match, opened the valve and turned on the gas to get light. Lacey stayed at the hotel as did employees from the Sugar Beet Factory. The hotel served meals and occasionally there would be fresh fish on the menu to the delight of guests. To get the fish, Lacey and friends would load up a wagon, pack a lunch and coffee and drive eight miles to the Salt River. The fish would be in small pools. They would scare the fish out of the pools into shallow water and pitchfork them without killing them. They put the fish into gunny sacks, submerged them in tubs of water and took them back to the hotel where they would be killed at the hotel for fresh fish meals, a rare delicacy. The fish were mostly carp and humpback suckers. When the telephone came to Glendale, the telephone exchange was in the office of Hotel Glenwood, and Lacey's sister, Leah Bennett, was the operator. It was a party line in which a single telephone line would serve several households, and incoming calls were differentiated by a pattern of rings on the line. People would call the operator and ask for a number. The operator would plug that number in and ring two long and two short, or whatever it called for. There was no need for a newspaper because the residents got all their news first hand over the telephone.



UNUSUAL GLENDALE HISTORY

By Kathy Hoynes-Goree'



Once a humble empty lot on 47th Avenue, when Max Beyer opened Max's Sports Bar in 1979, it made history not only as the first ever sports bar in the Glendale area but the first of its kind west of the Mississippi. Max's décor featured sports memorabilia of all types including an impressive football helmet collection eventually numbering well over 100, which Max obtained from professional, college and high school teams across the country. Perhaps, the most unique and best remembered part of Max's is The Jocko Bird, a human sized statute created by Max, to serve as the mascot for his establishment. Jocko had the head of an eagle, the body of a beer-bellied sports fan and wore football, baseball, golf, hockey, bowling, baseball and lacrosse gear and stood guard at the front door to the delight of Max's patrons.

Max's Sports Bar went through several owners until 2002 when it was purchased and remodeled by American Greyhound Racing, Inc. Jocko remained at Max's for many years, but experienced a short sabbatical in 2014 when he was on display at the Gallery Glendale (now closed) in Westgate as part of a sports memorabilia exhibit.

In early 2022, prior to the Phoenix Greyhound Park being leveled, 3 cases of Jocko bobbleheads, which had been used as promotional items in the sports bar, were removed from the track's ginny pit area where they had been stored.

The Jocko Bird still calls Max's Sports Bar home, no longer at the front door but in a more secluded location in a corner. Sadly, one of his legs is broken at the ankle, and he now leans against the wall for support. While Jocko may be a bit worse for wear, his name is still synonymous with Max's Sport Bar. Be sure to find him, say "hi" and snap a selfie if you are ever at Max's.

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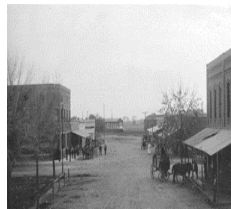
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**Glendale Arizona Historical
Society is designated as a Cer-
tified Historical Society**

NEW MEMBER

ZOE DELEO

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



1910



1911



1917



1951



1991

THE LONGEST RUNNING BUSINESS IN GLENDALE

In 1897, Floyd Holmes Sine came to Glendale and bought the public well and water system. He later sold it to the newly formed Town of Glendale in 1915. His brothers, Tuck and Van, built the Sine Bros. building in 1911 and started their hardware business. Their brother-in-law, Frank Heatwole, helped manage the hardware business until he was 94 years old, and Tuck ran the Sine garage. The photos depict South 1st Avenue in 1910 before the Sine Bros. building was built. Another South 1st Avenue photo around 1917 shows the Sine building. On the other corner was the office of Weigold Real Estate, whose owner, William Weigold, was responsible for bringing folks to Glendale to grow sugar beets. The family also owned People's Lumber Company, and William Weigold's two sons, Ray and Frank, were leading home builders in the area. The Sine brothers building facade changed in 1946, and rooms were rented on the second floor. Then in 1951, the brothers made a major facade change incorporating a more modern architecture. The last change was moving out of the downtown and building a new hardware store building at 51st Avenue and Myrtle Avenue. It is interesting how South 1st Avenue changed over time. The original Sine building has been restored as much as possible and it is now owned by the City of Glendale and used for administrative offices.

