



Glendale Arizona Historical Society

"preservation of the past"

APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER

Volume 43, Issue 4



UP COMING EVENTS

April 25 2:00 PM

Northwest Hospital and Maryvale Community

May 23 7:00 PM

Pioneer History of Glendale



HOW NORTHWEST HOSPITAL AND MARYVALE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL IMPACTED DEVELOPMENT

MONDAY, APRIL 25, at 2:00 P.M.

MANISTEE RANCH, 5127 W. NORTHERN AVE.

(Enter off of 51st Avenue)

Dr. Anthony Charles Pratcher II is a Lecturer and Honors Faculty Fellow in Barrett, The Honors College at Arizona State University. He was awarded a B.A. in History from Howard University and a Ph.D. in American History from the University of Pennsylvania. His scholarship uses oral interviews, census data, and archival collections to explore how urban policies influence community formation in the metropolitan southwest. Dr. Pratcher has been involved with the Glendale Arizona Historical Society for many years in his research and participation. He serves as Secretary for the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center in Phoenix. This promises to be an enlightening and educational historical presentation. Refreshments will be served. Members are encouraged to bring a friend to the meeting.



WHY DID WILLIAM J. MURPHY NAME THE LOCATION "GLENDALE?"



William J. Murphy came to Arizona in 1880 after working in the railroad industry. He and three Arizona builders were chosen to build the 40-mile Arizona Canal from Granite Reef to New River from 1883-1885. It was a difficult task and costly. He had to spend much time away from the project to get financing. His wife Laura was left with the children to watch over the project. When completed, using only men, mules and wagons, he was deeply in debt. He formed the Arizona Improvement Company for the purpose of selling land and water rights south of the canal. What could he call this area of nothing but desert to get people to come, buy the land and farm? Murphy, the son of Irish immigrants, envisioned that with water, the area could be miles of fertile farmland. Ah yes, why not refer to the area for sale as Glendale, which is the anglicized version of the Gaelic *Gleann Dai*, meaning valley of fertile, low-lying arable land. It worked, and he sold land to settlers who wished to farm. The first formal subdivision (1892) of the area was one square mile divided into several 20-acre lots. Settlers of the River Brethren faith came and bought property. Glendale became an important growing, service and shipping center for an array of agricultural products. The Glendale area indeed became that fertile land envisioned by Murphy in the 1880s.

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Harold and Mae Brewster



The Brewster Family: Mae is on the left

The Brewster Family

By Jodi Decker

Sometimes it's the simple stories that inform us so much about the past. This is the case with the family history, *Home, Mom's Tamale Pie (and other Mid-Century Memories)*, written by Wayne Brewster. He tells about growing up with his parents, Harold and Mae Brewster, in 1940s and '50s Glendale. This colorful recollection, donated to the Glendale Arizona Historical Society, details how the Brewsters raised four boys in the very heart of Glendale, at what was then Central and B Avenues, one block from the First United Methodist Church.

Both Harold and Mae were born in 1899 to Kansas farm families. Harold's family moved to Glendale when he was 5, and his first impression of Glendale was seeing palm and orange trees for the first time. Harold worked on the family farm and later became a house painter. Elsie Mae, known as Mae, was one of seven children. She received her teaching degree, learning at an early age to "not waste time, get the job done and complete the task in a happy state of mind." After a brief marriage ending in divorce, Mae met Harold's mom, who was visiting in Kansas, and Mae was invited to come to Glendale to work as her housekeeper—where she promptly met Harold. After a brief courtship, they married in 1932 and subsequently produced four sons.

They purchased their home in central Glendale, and one of the interesting details about their house was how the important phone numbers were simply penciled on the wall above the big black phone. Mae was very active raising her sons and serving in many volunteer roles at the First United Methodist Church. She kept her boys busy picking fruit and nuts on the property, doing yard work, and tending to flower beds. Since the boys were involved in baseball, Harold and Mae watched many ball games over the years.

Mae was quite the cook, serving homemade waffles and syrup every Sunday morning and cooking a traditional pot roast on Sunday afternoons. Harold supplemented their meals with wild game or fish. This was followed by Mae's homemade pies and ice cream. However, her specialty was her tamale pie, and son Wayne includes the recipe in his story. Apparently Mae's efforts were recognized in the community as well: in 1956 she won the honor of Glendale's Mother of the Year!

While Harold and Mae Brewster may not have been high profile shakers and movers, their son Wayne writes that they passed on a special moral character that needs to be celebrated; they encouraged a strong work ethic; and they provided for a good education and spiritual foundation. These are family and citizenship values which many can appreciate. Harold passed away in 1969, Mae in 1984.





1910 Buick Model F Touring car



1910 Buick Model F Touring car

TALK OF THE TOWN

In 1910, the Town of Glendale, Arizona, was established, and Archie Bennett became the city’s first mayor. Archie had a vehicle that set him apart from residents of the community, a 1910 Buick Model F Touring Car. It was unique with only two cylinders, and the motor, which was underneath the front seat, cranked from the side. (See photo of a similar restored car.) He had a Number One license plate that had on it only “Arizona 1.” Archie was re-elected Mayor in 1912.



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

The Board is already a third into 2022. The facilitators have helped with several weddings this year, which has helped the society’s fiscal condition. There was a wonderful annual potluck in January, and the 2022 Board was elected and installed by Councilmember Bart Turner with Lorraine Zomok welcomed as a new director on the Board. The Daughters of the American Revolution donated \$900 toward the construction of a Manistee Ranch rose garden memorial to honor the Unknown Soldier. John and Paulette Geurs are working on this project that will feature 21 white-rose bushes, a plaque and benches. Work is progressing on developing replacement interpretive signs for the Manistee Ranch Farm Implement Display. Funding for this project is provided by Charles and Jennifer Sands.

Several volunteers have been working with Nelda Crowell on developing a database with the documents in the Guest House Library and Research Center. Linda Armbruster has taken on management of the archival photo collection, which includes more than 20,000 photographs. The society programs in February and March by Superintendent Cindy Segotta-Jones and Adriana Alvarado Parsons on District #40 and Imes Elementary School were excellent. The City of Glendale City Council is considering renovation of the 1984 City Hall building, parking garage, amphitheater and Murphy Park. None of these facilities are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The appearance of the area will change, as have most of the older building facades over the decades. Only the First National Bank Building, First United Methodist Church Sanctuary and the Glendale Woman’s Club Building are the same, and they are all listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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 March 5, 19, April 2, 16 and May 7, 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



P O Box 5606
Glendale, AZ 85312

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Your Governing Board of Directors

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Glendale Arizona Historical
Society is Designated as a
Certified Historical Society

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



IN MEMORY
OF
Darlene Toops



THANK YOU, WILLIAM WILT

The Glendale Arizona Historical Society Board of Directors offers a big THANK YOU to William Wilt, owner of Accent Tree Service. Manistee Ranch volunteers, John Geurs and Bill Greb have expressed serious concern about the safety hazard of a huge dying pine tree at Manistee Ranch. Bids were requested to remove the tree. The bids were very expensive. At the recommendation of Larry Rovey, John Geurs contacted Accent Tree Removal, who agreed to remove the tree at no cost to the society. This is a major donation of equipment and staff for days for the benefit of historic Manistee Ranch.

NEW MEMBERS

- Marita Swoger
- Emily Lawrence
- Paula Moloff