



# Glendale Arizona Historical Society

*"preservation of the past"*

**JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER**

**Volume 41, Issue 1**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

at a glance

Please Save These Dates

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2020

### **Annual Potluck & Election**

6:00 PM

Manistee Ranch

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2020

### **History of the World Wildlife Zoo**

presented by **MICKEY OLLSON**

7:00 PM, Manistee Ranch

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2020

### **History of**

### **Glendale School District #40**

presented by **DAVITA SOLTER**

2:00 PM, Manistee Ranch

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2020

### **History of Arrowhead Ranch**

presented by **JON FROKE, AIPC**

7:00 PM, Manistee Ranch

## **Highlights Inside**

President's Message	2
Nancy Turner, History Advocate	2
Mary Renner Remembers	2
William and Joyce Rasmussen	3
Early Glendale's Hectic Banking	3
Historic New Year's Resolution	4

## **GLENDALE ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL MEETING**

The society will start the new year with the annual potluck dinner. The meeting will include election of officers and directors. Councilmember Bart Turner will install the newly elected officers and directors. Your participation is important to make the society a success. Please bring a salad, entrée, side dish or dessert to share with the group. This is a great opportunity for members to renew acquaintances and make new friendships.



### **ELECTIONS, INSTALLATION and POTLUCK DINNER**

**January 27, 2020 - 6:00 PM**

**MANISTEE RANCH**

*(Enter off of 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue)*

## **GLENDALE ARTS COUNCIL JURIED ART SHOW**

You're invited to attend the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Glendale Arts Council Juried Show and Sale, at the **HISTORIC FRUIT PACKING HOUSE, SAHUARO RANCH PARK**, located at 59th Avenue and Mountain View Avenue in Glendale, Arizona

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM DAILY  
FREE ADMISSION**



**ALL-ENTRY EXHIBIT:  
January 11-12, 2020**

**JURIED EXHIBIT:  
January 14-26, 2020**

The community has a great opportunity to view and participate in one of the best art shows in the Valley. The Glendale Arts Council is holding its **57<sup>th</sup> Annual Juried Show**. There will be sculptures, paintings and mixed media. Enjoy the historic Sahuaro Ranch setting.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Ron Short, GAHS President  
Photo: 1965, Los Alamos, NM

The society is starting a new year and decade in preserving and promoting Glendale's history. The society has an important role in maintaining the outstanding collection of historical documents in the Guest House Library and Research Center. Board member **Nelda Crowell** has been superb in organizing a strategy for the inventory of all historical documents through a "Past Perfect" software program. It is highly technical and very time-consuming. **Marty Cole**, Treasurer and part-time secretary takes care of the Society's finances.

**Martha Dennis** coordinates tours on Sunday and during festivals at Sahuaro Ranch and welcomes hundreds of school children to the Adobe House where they learn about Glendale's history. **Martha (Marty) Cole**, and **Jessica Koory** coordinate the annual picnic. **Jessica Koory** is our secretary. She keeps a record of board proceedings, and coordinates tours, meetings and repairs at Manistee Ranch. **Gail Meyers** is the genius that creates the beautiful monthly newsletter. I research and write nearly all articles and **Catherine Morgan**, **Nelda Crowell** and **Jessica Koory** edit every article and the completed newsletter. Board member, **Bill Greb**, is an outstanding volunteer at Manistee Ranch. **Leslie Newcomb**, the Society's other part-time secretary, volunteers considerable time facilitating weddings. **John Geurs**, attends all of the Board meetings and with **Paulette Geurs** provides considerable maintenance for Manistee Ranch. This is a working board with others helping. It is a big job to promote and preserve Glendale's history and the board needs volunteers to make the Society successful. Please call 623-435-0072 and offer your time for the Glendale Arizona Historical Society.

## NANCY TURNER *was a History Advocate*

Long-time member and friend of the Glendale Arizona Historical Society, Nancy Dale Turner, passed away on October 26, 2019. Nancy grew up in Texas and went to school and college there. She met and married Pat Turner, an engineer, and moved to Glendale in 1963. Their children, Angela and Reese, were born here. Nancy had lived in the same Glendale house, since 1965. She became deeply involved with the society, politics, the community and educational activities.

In the society, Nancy gave tours at the guest house at Sahuaro Ranch, volunteered at special events and helped with exhibits. The Board of Directors join her three children, Scott, Angela and Reese, their families and other friends in fondly remembering a very special person.



## Mary Renner Remembers... *The 'Good Ole' Days' Were Better*

Mary Elizabeth White Renner was born on June 2, 1919 near a Glendale palm tree at Northern and Grand Avenues. She lived at 38 W. C Avenue until she got married. Her father managed the Glendale Silver Swimming Pool, and her mother Elizabeth ran the snack bar.



In her childhood days, everyone knew each other and irrigation farming was a way of life. She learned to swim at the pool, and the police gave her a special permit to drive her dad's truck to pick up pool supplies. In school she was somewhat difficult. She was moved up a grade to keep her challenged. She would host large parties in Murphy Park with live music, festivals, and games. She and friends would chase the water sprinkling truck on dirt roads and have picnics on bridges over irrigation ditches. She attended dances at the Glendale Woman's Club and would go to a popular burger diner after school. Mary graduated from Glendale High School in 1936 at age 16. She attended University of Arizona for one year and decided she was too young for college. She got a job as the first woman teller at the First National Bank. Mary met Ossie Renner while working at the bank. They eloped to Las Vegas in 1939. They wanted to keep it a secret, but the secret got out. She was fired at the bank because only unwed women were allowed in the workforce because it put men with families out of work.

Ossie went to work for her father who started White Realty and Insurance. Her father died, and they renamed the business Renner Realty and Insurance. Mary and Ossie had two sons, John and George. John became a Army Major General and George was mayor of Glendale for 12 years. Mary was active in the Glendale United Methodist Church, Rainbow Girls, Glendale Woman's Club, Worthy Matron of the Eastern Star, PEO, and Beta Sorority.

As a member of the Glendale Arizona Historical Society, Mary welcomed visitors to the Guest House at Sahuaro Ranch festivals, attended monthly meetings, and especially enjoyed the Ole' Timers Picnic.

Mary died January 4, 2015 at age 95.



*"A New Year is like a blank book, and a pen is in your hand. You are free to write anything you want. Fill your book with words and colors of joy and happiness."*

*Happy New Year from the GAHS.*



# William and Joyce Rasmussen of Sarival Farms

A beautiful book was published in 2007, *"Bill and Joyce Rasmussen & Sarival Farm"*, by Kathleen Gilbert. It is the wonderful story of two people, deeply in love, who shared a very productive life mostly in Glendale, AZ. The book is in the historical society library at the Guest House at Sahuaro Ranch. William was born on October 14, 1920 in White Plains, NY. His mother suffered from asthma so the family moved to Phoenix when Bill was six years old. His father was a homebuilder for 22 years. His mother died in 1930, and his father remarried. Bill was active in Boy Scouts earning his Eagle rank. Bill liked animals and bought a cow and then, another and another until he had 10 cows. He graduated from high school in 1938, attended Arizona State Teachers College for one year, and then, junior college for another year. He worked for his father building homes and looking after his cows.



Bill Rasmussen and "Friends" 1955

Joyce LaRae Pike was born on April 14, 1921 in Phoenix, six months after Bill was born. She attended Jackson School and Adams School, renamed Grace Court School. She spent a lot of time at her grandparents' farm acquiring considerable homemaking skills. Bill

and Joyce met when she was a senior at Phoenix Union High School (class of 1940). Bill was a recent graduate (class of 1938). They dated for six months and went to Wickenburg to get married by a toothless Justice of the Peace with two gas station attendants as witnesses. The young Rasmussen couple built one home, sold it, and built another. With each move, they increased the number of cows. By 1945, dairy farming became Bill's fulltime job. Joyce became known for her culinary talents putting on cooking demonstrations at the state fair and on television. She



was active in The Homemakers' Club for 51 years. The couple had two sons, Robert (1941) and John (1949). In the mid 1950s, the family moved to Santa Barbara, CA. Within a year, they moved back to Phoenix. In 1955, Bill and Joyce bought the land at the Southeast corner of 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Peoria Avenue and named the business "Sarival Farm". The name is an acronym for "Salt River Valley". The dairy business was very successful, and they bought a second farm in Peoria. The business produced 3,000 gallons of milk daily from 360 cows and employed 32 people.

Bill got the idea of raising racehorses and with a friend researched racehorse breeding at Turf Paradise racetrack. Bill and his friend picked a horse in a "claiming" race and won the horse. That started Bill's racing business. Bill bought, sold, and raced horses building a reputation for his ability in horse training. The dairy farm in Glendale was transformed into a thoroughbred breeding and training operation with two horse barns, pens and sheds, a half-mile training track, and hay fields that housed 70-80 horses. Eventually, the Rasmussen's sold part of their land to become an 86 lot subdivision. The house and buildings were removed, but the training track remains as a memory of the great enterprises Bill and Joyce built in dairy and horse breeding and training. Bill passed on February 23, 2013 at age 92 followed by Joyce the same year.

## Banking in Early Glendale was "HECTIC"

Today, Glendale enjoys the services of many fine banking institutions. Banking faced difficulties in the early years of the community but was instrumental in the development of businesses and agriculture.

The first bank in Glendale was established in 1909, operated by W.H. Slaughter. The bank was in a wood frame structure and moved to a room in Wood's Pharmacy. It was called Glendale State Bank.

In 1911, the bank was bought by C.H. Tinker and moved to a new facility at Second and Glendale Avenues. In 1915, Mr. Tinker sold the bank to the Spence brothers, who then sold the bank to Lafe Myers and Associates. It was moved to its prior location at First and

Glendale Avenues. In 1921, the bank discontinued operations.

Mr. G.A. Appleby organized the Glendale Bank of Commerce and operated it in the old city hall building until 1929 when it discontinued operations. In 1916, C.H. Tinker who was the former owner of the Glendale State Bank, organized the Security State Bank operating out of a room at Whitney's Service and Sporting Goods. Mr. Tinker then built a new building and converted the bank into a national bank calling it the First National Bank of Glendale. He operated it from 1918 to 1922 when the bank merged with Valley Bank. Mr. Tinker became vice-president of the Valley National Bank and

later, transferred to the main office in Phoenix.



First National Bank Building, built in 1918

This newsletter is a publication of the  
**Glendale Arizona Historical Society**

PO Box 5606  
Glendale, AZ 85312-5606  
The GAHS Office is located in the  
Sahuaro Ranch Guest House

It is published eight (8) times per year,  
monthly — October through May

**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: gcmeyers@cox.net

Visit our Website:  
[www.glendalearizonahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.glendalearizonahistoricalsociety.org)  
Like us on Facebook

#### Your Governing Board of Directors

Ron Short.....President  
Catherine Morgan.....Vice President  
Jessica Koory.....Secretary  
Marty Cole.....Treasurer  
Nelda Crowell.....Director  
Martha Dennis.....Director  
Jon Froke.....Director  
Bill Greb.....Director  
Rosemary Lynch.....Director

*The Glendale Arizona Historical Society is designated as a Certified Historical Society by the Arizona Historical Society. All Rights Reserved.*

*Our next membership event is  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2020***

**Annual Potluck & Election**  
6:00 PM  
Manistee Ranch

Please enter the driveway to Manistee Ranch from 51<sup>st</sup> 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.

**JUST A LITTLE**  
*Reminder*  
**Membership renewal is fast approaching!**

*Renewal notices are going out soon, so when yours arrives, please respond promptly to continue enjoying your many GAHS benefits.*

*Our commitment to preserving and promoting Glendale's historic past could not continue without your support, our loyal lifetime members, and those you refer for membership. Thank you.*

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

Nonprofit Org  
US Postage Paid  
DMLS

#### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## Historic New Year's Resolution

It's a new year and time for you to make a resolution to visit both Sahuaro Ranch and Manistee Ranch. Learn about the city's beginnings and experience the actual historic physical landmarks. The City of Glendale Parks and Recreation staff at Sahuaro Ranch offer free tours of the Main House. Your society also conducts tours of historic Manistee Ranch from October - May.

#### **SAHUARO RANCH 1895 MAIN HOUSE, 9802 N. 59<sup>TH</sup> AVE, GLENDALE, AZ**

**FREE TOURS** of the Main House September-July: Fridays & Saturdays: 10 am to 2 pm.; Sundays: 1 pm to 4 pm, (Closed August and on holidays, Thanksgiving weekend, December 24, 25, 31 and January 1.) Please call 623-930-4201 for group tours of 10 or more.

#### **SAHUARO RANCH 1898 GUEST HOUSE & 1887 ADOBE HOUSE, 9802 N. 59<sup>TH</sup> AVE, GLENDALE, AZ**

**FREE TOURS** of the Guest House October – May: Sundays: 1 pm to 3 pm, (except holidays and during weddings).

**FREE TOURS** of the 1887 Adobe House during festivals and with prior arrangements. Call 623-435-0072 for more information, or for group tours.

#### **1897 MANISTEE RANCH, 5127 W. NORTHERN AVE** (enter from the parking lot on 51<sup>st</sup> Ave).

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, and children ages 6-16 \$1. **GAHS MEMBERS ARE FREE.** The 2019-20 tour dates are the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month: December 7 and 21, 2019; January 4 and 18, 2020; February 1 and 15, 2020; March 7 and 21, 2020; April 4 and 18, 2020 and May 2, 2020.



Sahuaro Ranch Adobe House



Sahuaro Ranch Guest House



Sahuaro Ranch Main House



Manistee Ranch House