



The Glendale Historical Society

NEWSLETTER VOL. 1, NO. 1 1980

INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Exciting things are happening in Glendale! Just a few short months ago a small group of concerned citizens banded together in an effort to save the Doctors' House, a venerable Victorian structure currently located on the corner of Wilson and Belmont. Out of the tremendous interest generated by that committee, as well as a growing awareness of the need to preserve our historical heritage, evolved the newly-formed Glendale Historical Society.

The bright plans for the future of the Doctors' House in our community became a reality when on December 26th the City Council generously agreed to donate an area of Brand Park for its new location where it will be restored and furnished to become a residential museum for the community's use.

The venture's estimated cost is \$200,000. But a grassroots campaign is already well under way to assume this cost. Individuals, small businessmen, several developers, and many community organizations have come forward, offering donations of labor, materials, funds, expertise, and volunteer hours. We're hoping that the House can be restored through a total community effort, making the Doctors' House truly "our house". National Register status and matching federal grants are also being applied for.

We are further working toward encouraging the developers of the 100 block of N. Brand Blvd. to preserve and restore the Egyptian Village Cafe by incorporating it in their plans for that block. The Egyptian Village Cafe is located in the vacant second floor above 131 and 133 N. Brand. A list of tax incentives and economic advantages to the developer is being compiled and National Register status is being applied for.

In order to help our community become aware of our architectural and historical resources we have planned:

- slide presentations to service organizations and to school-age youngsters at the elementary, junior high, and high school levels;
- architectural and historical surveys of neighborhoods;
- walking tours;
- the participation of individuals in our monthly meetings who are a part of, have contributed to, or are an authority on Glendale's historical or architectural past;

--making known preservation incentives to local homeowners and businesses in the form of economic benefits such as tax incentives and grants;

--development of a revolving fund to provide low-interest loans to owners of outstanding historical or architectural structures; and

--recognition of businesses and individuals who aid preservation.

If you are not already a member, we invite you to come join the fun! If you are a roofer, electrician, plumber, painter, etc., become an active participant in "your house", the Doctors' House. Anyone interested can become a member and work on a fund-raising or historical research committee. If time limits you, then send a contribution. Even \$1.00 will help make the Doctors' House Glendale's Success Story and the Glendale Historical Society a viable community organization working to preserve the past for our generation and those to follow. For information, call: 247-2452.

Marie Luft, President

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GOALS OF THE GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Glendale we experience today is the gift of diverse periods in our history. These range from the geographical formations of pre-history to the Indian, Spanish, Mexican, and U.S. settlement periods. This city's uniqueness is the product of these many generations contributing their architectural masterpieces and their history. Our cultural environment drew us here and binds us to Glendale's future. This is a legacy to be cherished and protected.

The Glendale Historical Society was formed to preserve our city's rich history by achieving these major goals:

- 1) To promote community awareness and involvement through education.
 - a. To secure public recognition, and support for, the goals of this organization.
 - b. To sponsor tours, lectures, publications, and other cultural preservation programs.
 - c. To distribute newsletters to disseminate information, educate the public, and promote respect for Glendale and its irreplaceable cultural resources.
 - d. To encourage public examination of both public and private actions affecting Glendale's unique character.
- 2) To develop programs of technical assistance which can lend their expertise to preservation minded individuals and groups.
 - a. To act as a storehouse of preservation information which can be obtained by citizens for private and public preservation.
 - b. To provide guidance and aid to groups wishing to improve their homes, streets, and neighborhoods.

- 3) To direct the action of the Glendale Historical Society members to preserve endangered properties and protect materials of historic value for future generations.
 - a. To study and demonstrate effective alternatives to the continuing loss of Glendale's non-renewable cultural resources.
 - b. To develop a positive program of acquisition of private property for conservation, restoration, and resale, to administrate a revolving fund for this purpose, and to pursue a policy of acquisition and holding of architectural easements to maintain the integrity of significant cultural properties.
 - c. To encourage residents and businesses to find alternatives to destruction of existing structures.

Joan Mullins, Treasurer

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The following letters have been received by the Society from the Mayor and City Council of the City of Glendale. Their expressed sentiments regarding the Society's goals and planned undertakings are indeed welcome, and they will serve to inspire us in the tasks which lie ahead.

"The outstanding success which the newly revitalized Glendale Historical Society has had in its plans for restoring and preserving Glendale's celebrated "Doctor's House" is an inspiring indication of the interest of Glendale citizens in maintaining this important link to our past.

The commitments you already have received toward the expense of moving and restoration of the house assure the success of the first stage of the continuing project. Appropriation by the City of the approximately \$35,000 needed to prepare the site in Brand Park where the house is to be relocated, complete access roads and furnish utilities and sewer connections, together with our agreement to provide maintenance after the move is completed is indication of municipal interest in the success of the project.

Sincerely, Carroll W. Parcher, Mayor"

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"I cannot tell you how delighted I am to know that the Glendale Historical Society has been reactivated. You and the Board of Directors are to be commended for your interest and dedication. The preservation of our cultural past is a matter of great importance and significance.

Your endeavor to preserve the "Doctor's House" deserves the support of all of the citizens of Glendale, and I am pleased that so many people have responded. Please call on me for any help I may be able to give.

Sincerely, John F. Day, Councilman

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"It is with pleasure I applaud your efforts regarding the preservation of this important portion of Glendale's history. Locating it as part of Brand Park is exciting and I most certainly am looking forward to your successful completion of this project.

Sincerely, Robert W. Garcin, Councilman"

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"It is indeed fortunate that you are willing to take the reins in re-organizing the Glendale Historical Society. There is a need to preserve some of those qualities of life that have made Glendale such a great and distinctive city. I want to encourage the Society in their efforts in the years ahead. Hopefully the community will respond to preserving their heritage for those who will follow.

We are approaching the age as a city when the past will only be a part of recorded history either in the form of writing or those items saved from generation to generation. May your endeavors be very successful in preserving those qualities of Glendale history that make it unique.

Sincerely, Carl Meseck, Councilman"

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"It is with a deep sense of appreciation that I write this letter of congratulations pertaining to the rekindling of the spirit of the Glendale Historical Society. As we are all aware, this Society lay dormant for many years waiting for the propitious moment for it to awaken. The need of such a Society in Glendale is evidenced by its rebirth out of necessity to act as a catalyst to save the Doctor's House. This it did with robust enthusiasm such as rarely exhibited in any city. Thus our Society, and I say our Society as a proud founding member, serves as a guardian to our historical past. I hope we can keep the rekindled flame burning with continued enthusiasm, for this is the necessary guideline for all our effort.

In closing, I wish to reiterate that which I said at the Council meeting - for the Glendale Historical Society will "Preserve the Past, Protect the Present and Prepare for the Future."

Sincerely yours, Eric Schneirsohn, Councilman"

The Glendale Historical Society
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