



# The Glendale Historical Society

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WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE A NEW LIFE FOR GLENDALE'S DOCTORS' HOUSE



Michael E. Hogan, Photography ©

"This is the sort of home, indeed, where lives and loves unfold."  
*Jewel City Press*, December 13, 1910.

In the first years of its existence, this structure at 921 East Wilson (north-west corner of Wilson Avenue and Belmont Street) was commonly referred to as the "Doctors' House," as there were at least four doctors who resided there at different times. The Doctors' House is a significant part of Glendale's past. It's historical ties to our city, architectural style and the period of it's construction substantiate its importance to the community.

The house represents the Queen-Anne, Eastlake style of architecture which gained popularity in the years 1885-1900 in southern California. These styles were characterized by an asymmetrical overall design, gables, towers and extensive porches. While the early houses of this period were strongly vertical, the Doctors' House was built circa 1895 and expresses the horizontality which appeared in the later houses of the period. At present the Goode House is the only other surviving Queen Anne style house in Glendale.

The year 1895 places the house's construction within the economic recovery period of the 1890's in southern California. This period was represented by a change in the origins of settlers who came to southern California, from a New England based migration to a mid-western migration. The early occupants of the Doctors' House reflect this change in migration patterns.

The house is believed to have been built by Dr. C.V. Bogue of Chicago, Illinois. He came to Glendale seeking improved health, and was the physician to the Verdugo Family. Returning to Chicago in 1901, he sold his home and practice to Dr. D.E. Hunt. Dr. Hunt was originally from Sterling, Minnesota and became active in Glendale civic affairs. In 1902 he became the president of the Glendale Improvement Association which secured right of way for the Electric Interurban Line in to Glendale, and took steps towards the incorporation of the city in 1906. He was vice president of the city's first bank, The Bank of Glendale established in 1905, and purchased the city's first automobile. He was also active in the formation of the Glendale school system.

Dr. Hunt sold the house in 1906 to Dr. Leon H. Hurtt, first president of the Glendale Chamber of Commerce, who also built the Hurtt Block Commercial Center.

The members of the Glendale Historical Society have joined not only in the preservation of this important structure, but also in the recording of it's history. We hope that this will become the nucleus for future research, as well as the beginning of our community's awareness of it's rich past.

Joni L. Atkinson

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Kay Liversidge: Donation of her services as a calligraphist for the Society's award certificate.

The Parker Press: Reduced printing costs. Curt Kolar is also donating his time in helping the Society with set-up.

Don Busik of the 3 Man Eng. Co.: Donation of lettering for a banner plus reduced prices on T-shirts.

Swain Art Materials: Donation of a \$25 award to each of the four winning student artists in the Society's stationery contest plus a frame for each winning print, the prints to be hung in the Doctors' House.

Joe Graydon: Donation of proceeds from his show "Big Band Festival of the 40's" to be held in November at the Pasadena Civic.

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

April 12-13: Benefit "Garage" Sale at Sparr Heights Community Center, corner of Downey and Glencoe, behind Bob's Big Boy in Montrose. 9 am to 4 pm. Antiques, household items, books, clothing, stained glass, baked goods, etc. To donate any usable item, call Audrey Hales, 243-6320. She will pick up. Contact your neighbors and friends for tax deductible donations and to attend.

April 19-20: Booth at the Glendale Galleria. Items for sale: GHS T-shirts, stationery and certificates; the Preservation Element; History of Glendale pamphlet by W.W. Robinson; narcissus pips from the Doctors' House if escrow closes as scheduled.

May 7: Membership meeting at Special Collections, Main Library, Harvard St. Barbara Boyd, Curator, will speak on her work. 7:30 pm. All interested may attend.

Second week in May — Preservation Week: Reception at the Historic Lorelei House. Date to be determined.

Memorial Day Parade: GHS will have a banner and several old classical cars participating.

June 4: Membership meeting. Dr. Robert Winter, noted preservationist and architectural historian, will speak. 7:30 pm. Glendale Federal Community Room, 401 N. Brand. All welcome.

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## CONTRIBUTORS TO PROJECT DOCTORS' HOUSE

- Building Industry Association: Pledge of support in the form of labor, materials, expertise, and help in raising funds.
- Gregg-Gangi Development Company: Pledge to underwrite the cost of moving the House and to help in fund raising and in the restoration process.
- Howard Development Company: \$10,000 worth of labor and materials for construction of a new foundation.
- Carlson Plumbing and Heating Contractor Inc.: \$3,000 worth of plumbing personnel and materials. Pledge to contact other members of the Building Industry Association for work donations.
- Richard Montgomery: One or two stained glass windows.
- Rountree Glass Co.: Contribution in the form of 'All Glass and Glazing' needed in the House.
- A. Palmer Scaffold & Equipment Company: Donation of two Mobile Base units for two months (estimated value: \$200).
- Ray Burian Painting: Donation of all labor and materials to strip, sand, caulk, woodfill, coat with Linseed oil, and paint (three coats) the exterior of the House (estimated value: \$16,000).
- David Junod of Sheridan Gardens Nursery, Inc.: Donation of a landscape plan.
- Glendale Family YMCA: Donation of the Glendale Family YMCA High School youth to help the painter with the stripping of the exterior paint.
- Joel L. Marnette, Electric: \$1,000 worth of electrical work. Pledge to solicit donations of labor and materials from other electricians in the area.
- John and Stephanie Pickett: Donation of labor and some materials in the areas of general restoration, wood stripping, painting, light carpentry, replacement of decorative woodwork. Mr. Pickett also offers his services as Assistant to the Project Engineer of the Restoration Project.
- Atom Heating Co.: Donation of engineering and design, also labor and materials up to a value of \$1,000, toward the retrofit heating and air conditioning necessary for the Doctors' House.
- Louis Diesbeck of New Image: Reduced logo cost.
- Eric Schneirsohn, Senior Appraiser: Free appraisals of all major donations of antiques, object art, or fine arts to the Glendale Historical Society, to be used either for the Doctors' House or other fund-raising events.
- Marco's Interiors: James M. Goodwin, Interior Designer and General Manager is donating his services as project director, undertaking the responsibility of supervising the research, restoration, and decoration of the interior of the Doctors' House. He will also decorate one of the rooms of the House.





Michael E. Hogan, Photography ©

### THE DOCTORS' HOUSE: A LIVING HERITAGE

In 1921 Katie (Ribarich) Dzaich came from Austria to America to visit her sister in Los Angeles. Katie's father, John Ribarich, had come to the United States in 1908 in search of a new life for his family, but, while employed in a West Virginia coal mine, he was killed in a cave-in, and his wife, her four children, and a blind aunt were left in financial straits back home in Austria. In 1915, Katie's sister, Mary, came to the United States where she met and married Peter Kordich. They subsequently moved to Los Angeles and there raised their family. So it was, in 1921, that Katie, in her twenty-second year journeyed across the North Atlantic to visit her California sister. It was supposed to be but a short trip, but events changed when Katie met Joseph Dzaich, a young man who boarded with the Kordiches at their Bunker Hill home.

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Katie and Joseph were married in January 1922 at St. Anthony's Church, and in September of the same year the Kordich family and Joseph and Katie moved into the Victorian home on Wilson near Belmont, Glendale's celebrated "Doctors' House". Katie remembers that the flowers were abloom, and there was a large grove of citrus trees adjacent to the house. The large oleander trees now surrounding the home site and the yellow poinsettias were soon planted. Fig trees were also set out, and they, with the large date palms in the front yard, provided shade for family gatherings during warm Sunday afternoons.

Katie recalls many neighbors, including the Reynolds who were brick contractors and possessed the only telephone on the block. The Camargo family lived on Belmont Street and Officer Joe Clarke on Everett. The Kordich family purchased the first radio on the block, and frequently the neighborhood children would gather on the front porch and listen to the Lone Ranger.

Katie Dzaich never regretted her decision to come to America. She made one return trip to Austria in 1975 in order to visit her brother who was only a baby in 1921 when she had left home. Katie has many memories of her 59 years in Glendale, recollections shared with the sheltering walls and protective roof of her Victorian home. Her history and that of her children, all of whom still live in the Glendale area, represent a romantic family chapter in the American drama of settlers from overseas building a successful new life here. The Doctors' House equally well represents the living architectural heritage which is so valuable a part of a vibrant Glendale in the changing 1980s.

Quoted with permission of the author,

Ellen Perry



### A SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENT

On Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup> a Fund Raising Open House to help relocate the Doctors' House will take place at 921 East Wilson between 1 o'clock and 5 o'clock p.m. General admission is Adults \$1.00 and children 50¢. A reception for members and guests will follow.

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