



The Glendale Historical Society

NEWSLETTER



VOL. 1, NO. 3, 1980

THE DOCTORS' HOUSE: A MOVING EXPERIENCE



The Doctors' House poised for the move. The Glendale Historical Society worked hard to keep vandals at bay and to salvage as much as possible from the building and the site.

(Photo by R.M. Newcomb)



Symbolizing the launching of the Doctors' House on its journey to Glendale's Brand Park, the developer Jan Czucker makes a presentation to the Society's President, Marie Luft, and Audrey Hales before joining them in the champagne toast. *(Photo by Sid Gordon)*

THE HOUSE ON ITS TRAVELS

Almost fifty witnesses were on hand for the moving of the Doctors' House on the night of September 15/16, an event which climaxed a year-long effort by the Glendale Historical Society.

Although extensive planning has been ongoing since the commencement of the project, preparatory work for the actual move was begun about a month in advance. Weekend work parties removed interior molding, carpets and flooring, as well as labeling and detailing the spindle work of each porch in anticipation of the cut. Exterior woodwork and windows were removed prior to the cutting in half of the structure, and several members (assisted by the explorer scouts, boy scouts and community volunteers) managed to salvage and clean bricks which will be used to face the new foundation. The actual cut was made by Gregg-Gangi Development Corporation with direction by Larry Winans of Heritage Square, who graciously donated his time and experience. Ability Heavy Movers were contracted for the actual move--they carefully mapped the proposed route and made trial runs to insure the success of the relocation.

The structure was rolled from its location of some 85 years just a few moments past midnight on the night of September 15/16 and, in a flood of light, developer Jan Czucker presented the Glendale Historical Society with a check in the amount of \$1,000.00. This happy event and a champagne toast began the evening's work. The parade, led by two Glendale police cars with blue and red lights flashing, was followed by tow vehicles with flood lights directed at the house. Yellow lights adorned the two parts of the structure while follow-up vehicles and onlookers trailed behind. Clocked at twelve miles per hour, the house made its way down Wilson to Glendale Avenue, then west on Broadway to Central and went north to Glenoaks. At this point the parade turned east on Glenoaks and drove down the wrong side of the road in order to avoid street lights before turning north on Grandview where the house reached out to upset a line of trash cans before making the turn west on Bel Aire. One step ahead of the procession were the telephone company and city workers who carefully lowered power and service lines so that the two-story house could pass. Turning north on Western the parade was detained for some time while heavy wires were disconnected, and scantily attired neighbors joined the rest of the interested onlookers. Moving west on Mountain Street, the procession finally turned north on Vista as the sun began to rise.

At approximately 7:00 a.m., the Doctors' House made its way through the rear gates of Brand Park to come to rest at its new location where it will await the completion of the foundation by Frank T. Howard Investment Co. Ability Heavy Movers showed great skill in their handling of the Doctors' House and impressed onlookers particularly with their manipulation of the huge structure.

Whereas the uncertainty of the past has given way to the solid accomplishment of the completed move, the Glendale Historical Society must now look ahead to the next major task which is the restoration of the Doctors' House. The success of this entire project will be the key to our organization's future and will serve as our Diamond Jubilee gift to the city of Glendale, an achievement to which we can then point with pride.

Joni L. Atkinson, Director TGHS

THE GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Starting in October, Channel 28 is carrying a Thursday night program on restoring old houses.

October 7 - 24: California Federal Savings and Loan Grand Opening. Display of historic artifacts and photographs prepared with the help of TGHS, Barbara Boyd of Special Collections, Southwest Museum, Philip Dockter, John Richardson and Eric Schneirsohn. Special thanks to Susan Pepler of California Federal.

October 8: KNXT Two on the Town. 7:30 p.m. Segment on The Egyptian Village Cafe.

October 11: Hostessing at Webb's Department Store. Shop at Webb's and mention TGHS. Saturday afternoon from noon to 4:00 p.m.

October 11-12: Sale of Big Band Festival Tickets at the Galleria, Clock Tower. See November 15 below.

October 19: Historic Structures Tour. Buildings on tour include: Egyptian Village Cafe, Verdugo Adobe grounds (includes the Oak of Peace), Derby House and a shingle-stype home.

Price: \$5.00 (if check received before October 12), \$7.50 Member, \$9.00 Nonmember. Tickets will be presold.

Mail checks to: The Glendale Historical Society, P.O. Box 4173, Glendale, Calif. 91202.

First tour bus leaves at 9:00 a.m. Board buses at Security Pacific National Bank parking lot, 601 North Brand Blvd.

For further information call: 247-6320.

October 25-26: Rummage Sale. Sparr Heights Community Center at Downing and Glencoe in Montrose. For further information and pick-up call: 243-6320.

October 25-26, November 1-2: Sale of Big Band Festival Tickets in front of Novotny's, 219 North Brand Blvd,

November 5: General Membership Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Glendale Federal Community Room. Speaker: Robert Caskey. History of Movie-Making in Glendale. Public welcome.

November 8-9: Sale of Big Band Festival Tickets at the Galleria, Clock Tower.

November 15: Home Savings & Loan Association Presents for the Benefit of TGHS The Big Band Festival of the 40's, produced by Joe Graydon. With Andy Russell and his Orchestra, Helen Forrest and the Pied Pipers.

Place: Glendale High Auditorium, 1440 East Broadway.

Two Performances: 2:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.

Prices: Evening--\$10.00, \$8.00; Matinee--\$8.50, \$6.50. All seats reserved. Mail checks to: The Glendale Historical Society, 610 West Broadway, Glendale, Calif. 91204.

For further information call: 247-6633 or 244-5043.

December 21: Reception at the Queen Anne Goode House. 6:30 p.m. Hostess: Norma LaDell. 119 North Cedar. Free to members only. For membership information call: 246-1922.

Glendale Historical Cookbook (in production) Audrey Hales.

Glendale Area Historical Book, Diamond Jubilee Edition (in production). Carroll W. Parcher, E. Caswell Perry and Eric E. Schneirsohn.



The two sections of the Doctors' House approach the junction of Central and Glenoaks, drawn by the powerful trucks of Ability Movers and watched by members of the Society, telephone company employees and curious nightbirds. (Photo by Sid Gordon)



The two sections of the Doctors' House rest expectantly adjacent to their new foundations prepared in Glendale's scenic Brand Park. The future is here for this historic relic from the city's past. (Photo by R.M. Newcomb)

MOVING HISTORIC BUILDINGS is considered to be a last resort designed to rescue worthy structures which will otherwise be doomed to the wrecker's ball. Two recent publications carry a good deal of information on this demanding undertaking:

NELSON, W. Dale. "Moving Experiences," Historic Preservation, Vol. 32, No. 4, (July/August, 1980), pp. 52 - 57.

CURTIS, John Obed. Moving Historic Buildings. U.S. Department of the Interior, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, Technical Preservation Services Division. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office), 1980, 50 pp., illus.

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THINGS TO COME:

Continuation of PHASE ONE of the Doctors' House undertaking is central to the activities of the Society. After the achievement of structural relocation come the challenges of exterior restoration and the meeting of the associated financial obligations. As the attached listing indicates, the Society is energetically involved in fund raising activities which are designed to help meet the costs of this portion of the Doctors' House project. From a successful participation in a Jogathon on July 19, which included 13 entrants from the Society and which realized about \$1,000, to the Big Band Festival, we have been and continue to be active. Glendale has a rich architectural heritage which has captured our attention and demanded our energies. The wonders of the Egyptian Village Cafe also beckon our Society.

R.M. Newcomb, Newsletter Editor.

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