



The Glendale Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 2, NO. 2, 1981

GETTING THE JOB DONE: *Using Peopower to Raise Money and to Restore*

MONEY FOR RESTORATION OF THE DOCTORS' HOUSE

In May, the Glendale City Council by a 4-1 vote approved the city's application for \$2.1 million of federal Community Development Block Grant money for fiscal year 1981-82.

Because the Doctors' House is a local historic landmark, it is eligible to receive a portion of these funds for restoration. An allocation of \$80,000 will be used for reroofing, painting, repair and replacement of exterior decorative trim, plumbing, electrical and mechanical systems and insulation. These funds must be used by July 1982, the end of this fiscal year.

While there was some controversy over the priorities of the recommended allocations of the block grant money and the strings that might be attached to accepting the grant, there was general agreement that the grant represented tax money coming back to Glendale for use on worthwhile projects recommended by Glendaleans. The CDBG proposal for fiscal 1981-82 also includes funding for a Neighborhood Improvement Program, which will provide low cost loans to homeowners of low-moderate income housing stock; removal of architectural barriers for the handicapped; park improvements at Maple and Pacific Parks; a child day care center at the YWCA; and sewer replacement and street resurfacing in the San Fernando and Tyburn area of Glendale.

Carole Dougherty

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RESTORATION WORK ON THE DOCTORS' HOUSE

On the working front where the chief long-term efforts of the Society are being invested, work is progressing on the painstaking and costly task of restoring our Project House. As of the June meeting of the Society, Committee Chair Marie Luft had the following accomplishments to report. The exterior bracing is complete except for the closing of the roof cut, and the seemingly endless job of stripping cut pieces continues as dedicated Society workers strip, oil, and mend these essential elements of the house's style and ornamentation. The tricky business of rebuilding the chimney structure is underway, and the essential tasks connected with the main foundations of our House are being advanced. Dick Montgomery was so happy with his quarters under the House that when Glenn Luft announced that it was time to quit, Dick answered "I think that I'll stay here; I'm too tired to come out." Glenn Luft, as Project Superintendent, and Graham Latta, On-Site Architect, were immediately taken by visions of having to set up a rotation system to provide nightly feedings for Our Member Residing Under the House!

(Restoration motif from the Doctors' House. Newcomb photo)

Glenn and Graham have held meetings with Bill Kalnoski regarding estimates for finished carpentry work, and Graham has worked with Russ Tyner on heating, electrical, plumbing, and roof requirements. As continues to be the case, however, it is the corps of volunteer workers which will bring this project to a successful conclusion. Marie Luft as Chair of the Doctors' House Committee of our Society calculated that by the start of June nearly 500 hours of volunteer time had been invested on-site by Glenn Luft, Dick Montgomery, Marie Luft, Ray West, Dorothy West, Bill Webb, and Sid Gordon. Children help, Boy Scout help, Society Member help - any and all are welcome since there are tasks for even the least experienced. So, bring your good humor, a hat, and a brown bag lunch and meet within the Shadow of the Doctors' House to insure that the Society extracts from its \$80,000 grant funds the maximum amount of restorative results.

Compiled with thanks to Marie Luft.

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USING PEOPLEPOWER TO RAISE MONEY:

Reports on two Society efforts during the Spring season of 1981.

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THE WALKING TOUR OF DOWNTOWN GLENDALE

The Glendale Historical Society's first walking tour on Sunday, April 26th was enjoyed by nearly 300 people and this considerable effort netted the Society about \$1000. The success of the project was the result of a lot of work and effort by many members and volunteers. The excellent script written by Bill Troiano was based upon the research of Don Bjorkman, and its use made the tours an educational experience as well as a fun outing.

Eleven tour guides combined efforts to lead ten tours, and two of the groups were so large that two guides were needed. The guides were: Vonnie Rossman, Lorraine Zitzman, Zee Blanton, Madeline Rethmeyer, Fran Courtney, Claude Brown, Mark Morley, Jim Udick, Tom Garcin, Don Bjorkman, and our President Carol Dougherty who led two tours.

In each of the four buildings hosts and hostesses helped each group to understand and to appreciate the building and its history. Virginia Ruzica picked and organized this large group of volunteers. At the Egyptian Village Cafe Frances Grigsby, Audrey Hales, and Sid Gordon did an outstanding job to help us relive the beauty that was once there. In the Masonic Building Natalie Montgomery greeted us at the door and, thereafter, Michael McIver, the building manager, and his lovely wife Barbara explained the plans for renovating this building. Ann's Specialty gave each lady a small bouquet upon leaving the Masonic Temple. At the Pendroy Building Wendy Clarke, Pat Henry, Connie Delaney, and Anna Marie Murray greeted each group. Andrew Feola of Symonds and Feola gave a short but clear slide show of the transformation of the old Pendroy Building to its new look. At the Rudy Building, which some still call the Brand Building, Larry Meyer and Mrs. Betty Solis helped us to appreciate the changes in this building which renovation and restoration have produced. Charles Walton explained his firm's proposal for further transformation of Brand Boulevard.

Back at the parking lot where it all started, Dick Montgomery and Shannon Pedlow were selling goodies like Tee-Shirts and publications for the benefit of the Society. Don Bjorkman and Bill Troiano some way or other got each tour going on time and produced organization out of chaos. It was fun for all.

Based on notes by Don Bjorkman.

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THE ICE CREAM SOCIAL WITH FASHIONS OF YESTERDAY & TODAY

"75 years of fashion on parade" was the way in which the Glendale News-Press described this super effort by the Society. With 300 tickets sold and a net profit approaching \$2400, the Society can be justifiably proud of the efforts of a half-hundred of members, volunteers, and contributors. Even the weather collaborated when Sunday, May the 17th provided clear sunshine and ruffling breezes for the crowd assembled within the confines of Friendship Garden in Brand Park.

As is true for all theatrical productions, a great deal of planning and coordinated effort went into the preparations for this afternoon of lovely costumes and delicious ice-cream, and the Society is in debt particularly to the Project Chair and Fashion Coordinator, Irene Blore, and to the Co-Chair, Audrey Hales. Their vision, dedication to this project, and enthusiastic attention to details produced what so many enjoyed, a splendid social outing within attractive surroundings and dedicated to a good cause, the restoration of the Doctors' House.

The preparations for the Social involved logistical support from Glendale City's Parks and Recreation and furniture moving by Larry from the City force, Sid Gordon, and Dick Montgomery. Table set-ups with cloths and flowers absorbed the energies of Gladys Walker, Suzanne McKay, and Shannon Pedlow with the antique cars. Many Society members contributed flowers and containers, and among these should be mentioned Dorothy Krieger, Isobell Meyer, Joan Mullins, Joni Atkinson, and Elaine Williams. Hostesses and refreshments were seen to by Clay Kempson and Nell Banks respectively. The models who carried off so well the display of both period costumes as well as of modern modes included Society members and their children as well as friends and professionals from the Glendale community. With the fashion show commentators doing a clear and concise job, the musical portions of the program rounded out the sounds of the day most appropriately.

A program such as this needs an effective presentation to the public, and Vonnie Rossman worked to bring notice of our efforts to "the folks out there." The arresting posters which proclaimed the event and the program, which told us what was next and who was responsible for what, were the result of efforts by Fred Hatzer, Philip Dockter, and Kay Liversidge. An added spice of attraction was provided by the splendid and intriguing door prizes which Wendy Clarke assembled from a long list of private and commercial donors.

While not wishing to duplicate here the program of this outstanding event but at the same time not wishing to overlook the essential efforts which so many others did contribute, may the NEWSLETTER Editor speak on behalf of the Doctors' House, which overlooked the event, and offer an inclusive "Well Done" to all.

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SOCIETY NOTICES

Congratulations Billie!

Billie Rountree, a founding member of the Glendale Historical Society and an active force in the preservation of the Casa Adobe through the efforts of Glendale Beautiful, has been appointed to serve on the Historical Landmarks Commission by the County Board of Supervisors upon the recommendation of Supervisor Mike Antonovich. When Billie learned of her appointment she said, "There is a need to recognize historic landmarks in Los Angeles county. Glendale especially has been underrated and needs more recognition of its historic landmarks. The Glendale Historical Society has been an asset to the community in developing an awareness of its landmarks."

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It's never too early to think about Christmas Shopping, and the May publication of THE GLENDALE HISTORICAL COOK BOOK by Audrey Hales can relieve your anxieties about appropriate gifts, for this book is a prize collection of both delicious recipes and an overview of Glendale's urban history. Well designed and handsomely assembled, Audrey deserves congratulations on this job from her Associate, our Society.

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At the Society meeting of 3 June it was decided to "go dark" for the months of July and August, hence, the next Society meeting will occur Wednesday, September 2nd at which time Katherine Hull will speak on the Brand Mansion. Our October meeting, Wednesday the 7th, will be a Social Hour Gathering at which we all can conveniently swap historic preservation anecdotes.

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Thanks go with this NEWSLETTER to Ernie's Camera and La Chasse Studio for expert help with our photographic supplement. For typing I wish to thank Peggy Michaels, and Karen helped to find the grammatical errors. In closing may your Editor wish you and yours a Good Summer 1981.

PHOTO CAPTIONS

- No. 1: Front view of the Doctors' House at its new location in Brand Park with the Verdugo Mountains behind.
- No. 2: Dorothy West busy stripping antique woodwork from our House.
- No. 3: Interior labor with Ray West pondering a corner of the middle parlor.
- No. 4: Society Working Party of early May, 1981. From left to right we see Ray West, Zane Haag, Dorothy West, Glenn Luft, Maria Luft, and Dick Montgomery.
- No. 5: A welcome luncheon break for the Doctors' House crew, from left to right are Zane Haag, Marie Luft, Dorothy West, Ray West, Glenn Luft and Dick Montgomery.
- No. 6: Zee Blanton leads her Downtown Walking Tour group across Brand Boulevard en route to the Masonic Building on April 26, 1981.
- No. 7: Frances Grigsby shows visitors the marvels of the Egyptian Village Cafe.
- No. 8: Dick Montgomery mans the open air sales booth for the Society at the starting point for the Walking Tour.
- No. 9: Ice Cream Social finery is readied for the big day in May by, left to right, Shirley Seeley, Linda Sorensen and Irene Blore.
- No.10: The Glendale Historical Cook Book and author Audrey Hales enjoy an autographing party at the Xanadu Antique Gallery in May 1981.

(All photos except No. 9 by Newcomb.)

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