



## The Glendale Historical Society

NEWSLETTER VOL. 3, NO. 4, 1982

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# 1982: A YEAR OF FULFILLMENT AND GROWTH

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Our major goal during the past year has been the completion of the exterior restoration of The Doctors' House. With the aid of an \$80,000 Community Development Block Grant and thousands of volunteer hours under the able direction of Marie and Glenn Luft, Jim Kieser, and Graham Latta, we succeeded. With Vonnie Rossman as chairman of the event, The Doctors' House and its newly landscaped grounds supervised by Bill Peacock were dedicated on September 19, 1982--a few days past the second anniversary of its move to Brand Park. Continued enthusiasm of volunteers and contributors and an additional CDB grant of \$96,000 will ensure restoration of the interior.

The size of The Glendale Historical Society continues to increase, with Membership Chairman Dorothy Krieger reporting about 40 new members during the year and a current total of 267.

Through our membership dues, our Benefactors' Campaign with Tye Veden as chairman, Audrey Hale's garage sales, and Joni Atkinson's and Margaret Hammond's tours, we raised \$15,000 this year. This allowed treasurer Dick Montgomery to make a first payment of \$6,000 to Gregg/Gangi Development toward repayment of our \$31,000 loan drawn to pay for the move and structural retying of The Doctors' House.

We have started to receive donations of furniture for the house, necessitating the formation of an Acquisitions Committee under Sue Lazara. This committee will determine furnishing needs and criteria for accepting donations.

Another new committee, formed by Lee Sales, will set up a dynamic docent training program enhanced by a lively format.

Throughout the year we have reached out into the community with our slide programs conducted by Greta Reed and her committee, our newsletters edited by Suzanne McKay, our monthly meetings arranged by Dr. Robert Newcomb, our TV spot on Channel U designed by Jerry Jaskulski, our participation in Webb's Day, and our articles contributed to Glendale Today magazine.

Our concerted efforts to convince the Glendale Redevelopment Agency to require the preservation of the Egyptian Village Cafe were ultimately of no avail, as the Agency accepted the plans of the American Trading Real Estate Company to raze the Jensen Building housing the Cafe.

Our presence in the community this past year has been positive and very visible. The foundation has been laid for an active role in the years to come. -- Carole Dougherty

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON REDEVELOPMENT

In October 1982 the Glendale Redevelopment Agency appointed a seven-member Ad Hoc Committee to make recommendations on the redevelopment process. Historical Society president Carole Dougherty is on this committee, which has been meeting weekly with the various people involved in the redevelopment of downtown Glendale.

The committee received reports from Redevelopment Agency staff and consultants and various city service department heads; testimony from previously affected property owners and businessmen; and statements from Glendale residents including Sue Lazara, vice-president of the Historical Society. The committee toured the three historic sites in the redevelopment area, the Alex Theatre, the Egyptian Village Cafe, and the Masonic Temple building.

The committee is now preparing its recommendations for submission to the Redevelopment Agency in February. The issues it will address in its report are the negative reaction to redevelopment in the community, owners' and tenants' lack of knowledge of their rights and relocation benefits, alleged abuses during the acquisition of property for redevelopment, the delay between the issuance of exclusive negotiating rights and relocation of businesses, dissemination of information of the ELS Design Group's suggested redevelopment plan for downtown and redevelopment progress, and the impact of redevelopment on traffic in the downtown area. A final report on the committee's recommendations will appear in the next newsletter.

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION TASK FORCE

The Glendale Historical Society is among several groups of local historical and preservation organizations participating in a project assessing the needs and priorities of historic preservation in the State of California. This project, the California State Historic Preservation Task Force, was established by a State Senate Concurrent Resolution during its last session. The task force is to operate from November 1982 to November 1983 with the aim of drafting a proposal for consideration by the State Legislature after January 1, 1984. The report will address state issues in historic preservation, the need for effective co-ordination among preservation groups, and the cultivation of a broad spectrum of possible funding sources essential for preservation work. The task force includes sixteen members, drawn from state and local preservation groups, the building and construction industries, state and local governmental bodies, and the building trades unions.

Because of its broad mandate and its comprehensive membership the task force has been divided into two sections, one for the north and another for the south of California. Several meetings have been held in our part of the state, and Roger Holt, the task force chairman, has been organizing the forces necessary to carry out the survey of needs and to complete the report.

The Glendale Historical Society is privileged to be among those groups involved in the Southern California Section of the task force. This project will give an important statement to the State of California regarding policies for the advancement of historic preservation.

R. M. Newcomb

## STATUS OF THE MASONIC TEMPLE BUILDING

One of Glendale's first high-rise buildings on Brand Boulevard, the Masonic Temple Building, is currently in the possession of a bank which foreclosed the property last July. The General Bank of Commerce took possession of this imposing eight-story building at 232 South Brand when the owner, Joseph Gruber, developed financial problems. Mr. Gruber had been in the process of converting the 60,000 square feet structure into a dining and entertainment complex with an opulent 18th century theme.

Mike and Barbara McIver of Ambience Enterprises had been directing the renovation, which took advantage of the rooms' original purpose as social gathering areas for the expanding Masonic organizations when the building was constructed in 1929. The rooms include a sixth-floor banquet hall seating 600; the spacious seventh-floor Blue Room; and other reception rooms and lounges. In keeping with the Louis XV motif envisioned for the complex, numerous murals and other hand painted details have been added to the walls and ceilings, and stained glass has been utilized in the foyer.

The ground floor auditorium is being leased by the U. S. Cinema, the southernmost of the six popular movie theatres on Brand Boulevard. A large room on the third floor was used for the auction of Mary Pickford's estate in 1981.

The reinforced concrete construction makes the Masonic Temple Building exceptionally sturdy, and fire safety code requirements are already satisfied in several respects.

This building stands as an example of the optimism and energy of Glendale citizens in the 1920s. It is included in the "Historic Preservation--Second Order Criteria" section of the Glendale City Planning Division report of 1977, but it is located in an area subject to redevelopment. The Glendale Historical Society strongly supports its preservation in the face of redevelopment and ownership changes, and will continue to make recommendations in this regard to the Redevelopment Agency.

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Suzanne McKay

## LOCAL HISTORY CURRICULUM BEING DEVELOPED

The third grade students in Glendale are eager to learn about their city's interesting past. A slide presentation with narration will provide their classrooms with a rich source of material on which to base their studies. If you would like to share your knowledge with Glendale's children. contact Bridget Mahoney at 848-3002.

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## THE DOCTORS' HOUSE PROGRESS REPORT

Saturday volunteer work crews continue their carpentry and paint stripping as the interior restoration proceeds. Visitors and participants are always welcome on these days. The Acquisitions Committees are busy locating fixtures and furniture, and are particularly pleased to have received the generous donation of the square piano from the Bayless estate. The landscaping around the house has been enhanced by a palm tree, a pepper tree and a magnolia tree from Glendale Beautiful's Arbor Day program.



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# PHOTO CAPTIONS

1. The Masonic Temple Building, with its strong vertical lines, towers above its neighbors in the 200 block of South Brand Boulevard. (Photo courtesy Jim Drummond, Glendale News-Press)
2. The dedication of the flagpole on the grounds of The Doctors' House took place on December 5, 1982. Katie Dzaich, who lived in The Doctors' House for nearly six decades, assisted members of Boy Scout Troop 178 in raising the flag. Members of the Society salvaged the flagpole from a downtown building demolished as part of Glendale's redevelopment. (Photo by R.M. Newcomb)
3. Claude Brown reminisces about the Society's activities during 1982 at the Christmas Reception in The Doctors' House. (Photo by R.M. Newcomb)

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## VOLUNTEERS HONORED

Twenty-seven members received recognition for their many hours of work at the TGHS Annual Meeting in October. Each was presented with a mounted square nail from The Doctors' House to represent one hundred hours contributed to Historical Society projects. For several members this was a second, third or fourth nail--an indication of true dedication!

Members Sue Lazara, Audrey Hales, Dick Montgomery, Glenn Luft, Carole Dougherty and Marie Luft received "Cut Spikes" to represent 500 hours contributed. Congratulations and many thanks to all these generous people.

So that we may continue to honor our volunteers, remember to report your hours to Frances Grigsby, 246-3885.

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Audrey Hales accepts her Cut Spike Award.

THE GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Calendar of Events for Winter and Early Spring, 1983

- JANUARY 29  
Saturday Photo exhibit of Old Glendale and buffet luncheon courtesy of Shakey's, 1133 S. Glendale Avenue, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. All paid up members invited. Please bring the invitation which has been mailed to you.
- FEBRUARY 2  
Wednesday General meeting of TGHS. John Lee presenting "The Red Car Lines Then and Now."
- FEBRUARY 26  
Saturday "City Lights", free workshop on historic streetlights at the Design Center on Spring Street, Los Angeles. 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. For further information phone L.A. Conservancy, 623-2489.
- MARCH 2  
Wednesday General meeting of TGHS. Dr. William Bowen will speak on "Water in Southern California."
- MARCH 12  
Saturday "Little Switzerland", walking tour of Greene & Greene homes by Pasadena Heritage. 9:30 am. to 3:00 pm., \$6.00. Phone 793-0617 for further details.
- APRIL 6  
Wednesday General meeting of TGHS. Dr. David Hornbeck discusses "From Indians to Urban Planners: 200 Years of Change in California."
- APRIL 24  
Sunday "Streamline Moderne" tour of homes in the Silverlake-Los Feliz area and the Coca-Cola Building. Details available from L. A. Conservancy, 623-2489.
- also
- "Los Angeles, From Pueblo to City of the Future", lecture by Dr. Andrew F. Rolle. Southwest Museum, 234 Museum Drive, Highland Park. 4 pm. Free. Presented by the Historical Society of Southern California.
- MAY 1  
Sunday TGHS Spring Tour, featuring the Brand Park area. Details to be announced. Anyone wishing to be a docent or guide, please call 242-7447 for further information.
- MAY 4  
Wednesday General meeting of TGHS. Bob Wood presents "The Horse Came to America."

General meetings are held monthly (except December, July and August) at 7:30 pm on the first Wednesday of the month in the Carillon Room, Glendale Federal Savings, 401 North Brand Boulevard. Telephone 242-7447.

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

The Glendale Historical Society officers for 1983 are as follows:

- President: Carole Dougherty
- Vice-President: Sue Lazara
- Treasurer: Dick Montgomery
- Historian: Zee Blanton
- Recording Secretary: Audrey Hales

Zee Blanton, Larry Meyer and Vonnie Rossman were elected to serve three year terms at the October general meeting. Board members having two of their three years to complete are Dick Montgomery and Marie Luft. Board members whose terms expire at the end of this year are Carole Dougherty, Audrey Hales and Chuck Walton. Sue Lazara will serve until our next annual meeting in June.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY TELEVISION SPOT

A videotape presentation about the Glendale Historical Society is being shown regularly on Tuesday and Thursday nights between programs on Sammons Cable Public Access Channel "U". The tape, which runs one minute and sixteen seconds, features members Marie Luft, Suzanne Dudley, Dr. Robert Newcomb, and Richard Montgomery. Anyone wishing to borrow a copy of this 3/4 inch video cassette may do so by contacting Jerry Jaskulski at 242-4504.

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SUCCESSFUL BOOK SALE

On the weekends of October 23 and 30 a book sale was held which netted TGHS \$965.78. Thousands of books, the overflow from his Xanadu Book Company store, were furnished by Eric Schneirsohn. Chairmen for the sale were Carole Dougherty and Audrey Hales, with assistance from Frances Grigsby, Wally Forstall, Dick Montgomery, and others. Many thanks to Eric and to all the willing and generous helpers at the sale.

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFERS HISTORIC PLATES

Collectors' plates depicting three of Glendale's historic buildings are now available through the Visitors' Bureau of the Glendale Chamber of Commerce. The plates feature the Brand Library, The Doctors' House, and Casa Adobe de San Rafael. Priced at \$29.00 each, the plates are designed by Glendale artist Ginny Papstein and may be purchased by contacting the Chamber of Commerce, 200 South Louise (240-7870).

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REVISED BY-LAWS

At the January 5 general meeting the recommendations of the by-laws revisions committee were discussed and approved. Anyone wishing a copy of the revised by-laws should phone Isabelle Meyer at 242-7447.

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to new members Earl C. Dick, Helen Wrede, Paul Burkmeyer, Mr. and Mrs. Sonny Sardo, Murray Levy, Sally Kilby, Larry G. Tison, Daphne Lindstrum, Lee Sales, Barksdale Hales, Dr. William Slight, Norma Slight, Edna Jean Olson, Lowell and Alicia Greenwald, Dr. and Mrs. John Dietrich, George Knutsen, Albert Maher, Walter Wheelock, Madeline Collins, Harold and Betty Lou Murray, Garry and Judith Johnson, Milton Zabaro, Mary Woodring, Henry Rousseve, and Carol Koyer.

Thanks to all renewing members for your continuing support. Your renewal month appears in the upper right-hand corner of your mailing label, and you will receive newsletters and other notices while your membership is current. Annual dues are \$15 for single active, \$25 for family active, \$50 for sustaining, \$5 for student/senior/disabled, \$25 for nonprofit organization, and \$100 for corporate.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) New member ( ) Renewing member

I would like to assist in the following area(s):

EDUCATION	PRESERVATION ACTION	MEMBERSHIP
RESEARCH	PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT	WAYS AND MEANS
CLERICAL	NEWSLETTER	OTHER _____

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The typing of this newsletter was done by Sue Read, and we appreciate her assistance.

The Glendale Historical Society  
P. O. Box 4173  
Glendale, California 91202

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