



The Glendale Historical Society

NEWSLETTER VOL. 4, NO. 1, 1983

THE DOCTORS' HOUSE: A Successful Restoration

The Doctors' House restoration was initiated by just a handful of determined people who felt that this small piece of Glendale's architectural and historical past should be saved for future generations. And, as work began on the House, more and more individuals came to feel the same way. For many the House symbolized a growing awareness of the need for preservation. For others the House itself struck a responsive chord, capturing the hearts and imaginations of those people who have been involved with it.

Everyone who has contributed to the Doctors' House can take pride in this remarkable City project--the members of the City Council; the numerous departments within the City, most notably Community Development, Parks and Recreation, and Public Works; the professional men; the businesses; and the community organizations.

But the heart and soul of this project has been the behind-the-scenes community volunteers acting under the auspices of the Glendale Historical Society. Giving unstintingly of themselves, they have raised over \$17,000. Fundraisers such as tours of local homes of historic and architectural interest, garage sales and an ice cream social have allowed the purchase of materials and supplies. Webster's defines the word "indomitable" as "not easily discouraged, defeated, or subdued; unconquerable" and it is this word that best describes President Carole Dougherty, whose unflagging energies have guided these and all activities of the Society.

Over 1,500 volunteer hours have gone into the research and documentation necessary to validate the restoration, all of which, with the opening of the House, will be made available to the public. The meticulous efforts of Sue Lazara and her Research and Acquisitions Committees will assure a restoration true to the period. It will benefit this community and will truly be a source of pride.

And then there are the Saturday Volunteers. Beginning two years ago with only five to six, the crews have gradually swelled ranks, presently numbering 25 - 30 people each work session. Saturday after Saturday they come. Each has his or her skills thoroughly tested. New skills are learned, until over 7,000 hours of volunteer time have accumulated. Without exception the volunteers apply themselves with cheerfulness and good will, no matter how tedious or bone weary and strenuous the task - from mixing mortar and laying brick to stripping, sanding, staining and varnishing; from structural reinforcement to finished cabinetry work; from replacing and repairing door and window hardware to pulling up later-period flooring and deplastering walls. As volunteer Bridget Mahoney commented: "Working at the Doctors' House gives a whole new dimension to my Saturday Night Bath!" And Dick Montgomery ruefully added: "I cancelled my appointment with my chiropractor yesterday because I knew I was coming today!"

Gradually and almost imperceptibly, the joyful spirit of this project has become contagious. With each brick laid, each timber nailed in place, each trim piece stripped and sanded, enthusiasms have soared and the project has taken on a rhythm and momentum of its own. But this is not to say there have been no setbacks. Although a house as elderly as the Doctors' House has earned the right to its own foibles, often times the discoveries of these within its walls or beneath its floors have been anything but happy ones. But in each and every situation those involved have approached these problems by asking what is best for the House. Graham Latta, first phase Project Architect, expressed the feelings of all when he said: "None of us involved in this restoration is looking for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow; we just appreciate the rainbow." These are the kinds of remarkable people we've had on this project.

As "Boss Lady", as she is affectionately called, of the volunteer crew and Project Coordinator of the Doctors' House, Marie Luft has supervised dovetailing the volunteer work with that of the contractors. Her efforts have included interviewing prospective subcontractors, obtaining their estimates, and, with the data gathered by the Research Committee, compiling the information necessary for the two sets of contract specifications. The knowledge she gained from assisting Graham Latta in the formulation of the exterior specifications allowed her to write the interior specifications on her own. The restoration of the interior is now underway. By persuading, prodding, cajoling, pushing, coaxing, wheedling and encouraging, Marie is coordinating and supervising the contract and volunteer work. She is ably assisted by Robert Inslee, second phase Project Architect, and Jim Kieser, President of Atom Heating, who the Society is fortunate to have once again as the General Contractor. Handling the payroll and acting as liason with the City, Jim's diplomacy helps keep the project running smoothly.

It is all these volunteers who are primarily responsible for the meticulous restoration of the Doctors' House and for the high regard this restoration has received statewide. Because of their efforts, this historic structure will become an educational resource for the graphic presentation of Glendale's history, not only benefitting the youth of our community, but all those who desire a window into our past.

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DETERMINED VOLUNTEERS SAVE FLAGPOLE

Because of the persistence, generosity, and work of a handful of interested people, the imposing flagpole from a landmark Glendale downtown building was saved even though the building itself was razed to make way for Galleria II. The flagpole now graces the grounds of The Doctors' House.

Archie Trowbridge, Ellen Perry, and Sid Gordon were determined that the Bank of America building, at the southwest corner of Brand and Broadway, would not be entirely lost or forgotten. Although the foreman for the Cleveland Wrecking Company was less than enthusiastic about their plan to save the flagpole, days of pleading and a \$150 check from Les LeVitt finally made it possible for the pole to be saved intact from the wrecking ball.

The pole, which is very tall, was transported from the site with the advice and assistance of Mayor Jack Day and W. E. Cameron, Superintendent of Public Works. Sid Gordon, aided by people who contributed money for supplies, cleaned, painted, and polished the pole and the large golden ball at its top.

The flagpole, in its new, safe, location, stands as a reminder of what can be accomplished by people who are undaunted by the words "can't be done."

Compiled with Thanks to Archie Trowbridge

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON REDEVELOPMENT SUBMITS ITS REPORT

After studying redevelopment for over three months, the seven member Ad Hoc Committee on Redevelopment has concluded that redevelopment is good for Glendale and that most of the opposition to it stems from a lack of understanding of the process and of the direction redevelopment is taking in Glendale.

Therefore, the first recommendation of the committee was that "the Glendale Redevelopment Agency (GRA) should hire a fully qualified public relations consulting firm on a long term basis to design and implement an on-going community awareness program."

Of special interest to members of The Glendale Historical Society are the Committee's recommendations that the ELS design for redevelopment be followed. This design recognizes the value of the Alex Theatre and Masonic Temple. The committee reported that it "may be desirable" to use financial incentives to help incorporate the Masonic Temple into the redevelopment scheme.

The committee realized that, since only office development carries itself financially, residential, cultural, parking, and even commercial/retail facilities must be provided financial incentives. The resulting diversity will ensure the vitality of downtown Glendale-- a goal frequently expressed by both the GRA and other Glendale citizens.

The complete report of the Ad Hoc Committee is available from the Redevelopment Office in the Public Services Building located at the corner of Glendale Avenue and Broadway.

Carole Dougherty
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on
Redevelopment

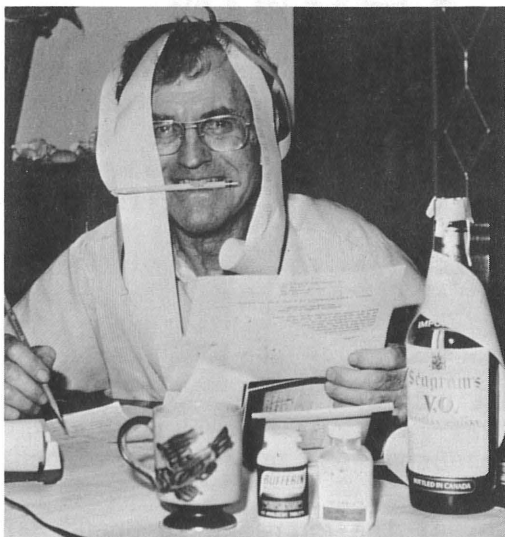
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SPRING TOUR FEATURES BRAND PARK AREA

Our 1983 Spring Tour on June 18 will be a self-drive tour in the Brand Park area. Participants will receive a map and informative brochure describing the history and architecture of the area and the buildings on the tour, and docents will further enhance their knowledge and appreciation of the stops on the tour. Highlights include The Doctors' House, the turn-of-the-century home of author Charlotte Armstrong, the Jensen house at the entrance to Brand Park, and Grand View Memorial Park. The tour hours are 11 am to 4 pm. Tickets are \$6 the day of the tour, \$5 in advance, and \$3 for current and new members. Tickets can be obtained by sending the appropriate amount and a stamped self-addressed envelope to The Glendale Historical Society, P.O. Box 4173, Glendale, 91202.



The Jensen House, at the entrance to Brand Park



Outside The Doctors' House, volunteers strip items for the interior of the house-- high tank toilet pieces, picture rails, and one of the innumerable doors. Strippers are Ray West, Sue Lazara (Research Committee Chairman), Shannon Pedlow, Frances Grigsby, Dorothy West, Tess Clink, Suzanne McKay, Mary Sheppard, Wally Forstall, Elaine Deuel, and Bea Penniall.

Research committee members Lee Sale and Greta Reed discuss wallpaper selections with Marie Luft, Project Coordinator.

The upstairs receives a new floor where the house was cut. Working on it are volunteers Bill Sheppard, Dick Montgomery, Ken Hamasaka, Glenn Luft, Bill Dodson, and Dick Brouillard.

Volunteers Glenn Luft, Construction Superintendent, and Ken Hamasaka reconstruct the stairway.

Treasurer Dick Montgomery tackles the account books.

The Acquisitions Committee discusses newly donated items for The Doctors' House. Members are Bridget Mahoney, Sue Lazara (Chairman), Frances Grigsby, Audrey Hales, Vonnie Rossman, and Maureen Miller.



THE GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Calendar of Events for Spring and Summer, 1983

- MAY 4
Wednesday General Meeting of TGHS. Bob Wood presents "The Horse Came to America".
- MAY 5-8
Thursday-Sunday 1983 California Historic Preservation Conference, Chapman College, Orange. Features workshops, films, speakers, and tours on a multitude of aspects of historic preservation. Registration fee \$60 (\$35 students). For further details contact the Orange County Historical Commission (714) 834-5560.
- MAY 15
Sunday TGHS Fundraiser at Shakey's Pizza, 1133 S. Glendale Avenue, 10 am to 2 pm. A donation will be made to us based on a percentage from meal receipts placed in a designated container. Invite your friends for a convivial occasion.
- JUNE 1
Wednesday ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF TGHS. President's Annual Report. Election of new board members.
- JUNE 18
Saturday Brand Park Area tour. A self-drive tour of this historic and scenic section of Glendale. 11 am to 4 pm. Tickets \$6 (\$5 in advance), \$3 for current and new members.
- SEPTEMBER 7
Wednesday General Meeting of TGHS. The Glendale Redevelopment Agency will be presenting its slide show on redevelopment in the downtown area.
- SEPTEMBER Dedication of The Doctors' House interior. Gala evening celebration. Details to be announced.
- OCTOBER 8,9
Saturday,
Sunday TGHS Garage Sale. Periodic event for closet-cleaners and bargain-hunters.
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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HONORS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Glendale Chamber of Commerce recently honored our organization with its special project award for The Doctors' House restoration. The award was among several presented to Glendale organizations and individuals for their outstanding contributions to the community during the past year. We were very pleased to receive this public recognition of our major preservation project.

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IN APPRECIATION

Many thanks to Shakey's Pizza and Manager Marge Llanusa for hosting a Saturday afternoon pizza luncheon for Glendale Historical Society members on January 29. We enjoyed the hospitality, the food, and the wonderful collection of photographs of old Glendale which are a highlight of Shakey's decor.

Thanks also to Pacific Telephone Company for their generous donation of \$750.00. Glendale resident Jerry Milner was instrumental in bringing our organization to the attention of the company, and we appreciate his involvement.

HISTORICAL SURVEY PROPOSED

The Glendale Historical Society has submitted an application to the State Office of Historic preservation for a \$20,000 matching grant to be used toward an architectural and historical survey of one of the neighborhoods of central Glendale. The area to be surveyed is bounded by Wilson on the north, Colorado on the south, Chevy Chase on the east, and Brand on the west. It includes the Civic Center and some of our oldest structures.

We would like to develop a description of the architecture and condition of each building in the area, and research any historically significant aspects. The City could use this documentation in developing long range plans for the area, such as allocating Community Development Block Grant Funds and fostering neighborhood revitalization. The \$20,000 would match the value of volunteer services and facilities provided by the City to aid in the survey. The City Council has unanimously passed a resolution supporting our application.

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ELECTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Elections will be held at the Annual General meeting on June 1 to fill the positions of the four Board of Directors members whose terms will expire on that date. The nominating Committee, consisting of Larry Meyer, Zee Blanton, Margaret Hammond, Frances Grigsby and Shannon Pedlow, will present the names of the nominees at the May general meeting. The Board members whose terms are expiring are Carole Dougherty, Chuck Walton, Audrey Hales, and Sue Lazara.

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CIVIC APPOINTMENTS HONOR MEMBERS

Congratulations to several of our members who have been chosen to serve on various Boards and Committees. We are pleased and proud to announce that--

Director Chuck Walton has been appointed by County Supervisor Mike Antonovich to the Los Angeles County Architectural Evaluation Board.

Member Ruth Dodson has been appointed to the Glendale Public Service Commission.

Director Vonnie Rossman has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Glendale Adventist Medical Center Foundation.

Members Shannon Pedlow and Linda Lujan have been appointed to Glendale's Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee, which makes recommendations to the City Council for the distribution of block grant funds.

We wish our members well as they continue to serve our community.

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MEMBERS INVITED TO CHAMBER MIXERS

Because our organization is a member of the Glendale Chamber of Commerce, we are all invited to the Chamber mixers held on the third Wednesday of each month. These gatherings provide the chance to have a good time, get to know the other members of the Chamber of Commerce, and to publicize The Glendale Historical Society. For further information contact Dick Montgomery, 241-2775.

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The editors thank Sue Read for typing this newsletter and Bill La Chasse for assisting in the photo essay. Thanks also to Carole Dougherty and Marie Luft for their research and information.

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to new members Kay Liversidge, William Robert Wood, Robert and Janet Lindley, A. J. Rundle, Lorraine Forstall, Thomas and Joan Manning, Dr. Rex and Jan Craig, Kenneth and Margaret Le Duc, and Mrs. Carl E. Daum.

Thanks to all renewing members for your continuing support. Since January, renewing members have been Audrey Hales, Jim and Carole Welling, Margaret Butts, Frances Grigsby, Joan Sarsfield, Frances and Carol Felkel, Dick Erdos, Lynn J. Duvall, Larry and Isabelle Meyer, Theresa Clink, Thelma Herriott, Archie and Evelyn Trowbridge, David Lawton, Bill and Ruth Dodson, John S. Clauss Jr., Katherine Yamada, Henrietta Goforth, August and Marguerite Pfirrmann, Elyn Bizillion, Margaret Hammond, Bridget Mahoney, Zee Blanton, Sid Gordon, Wally Forstall, and Suzanne McKay.

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 non profit organization, and \$100 for corporate.

Name _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ () New Member () Renewing Member

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

EDUCATION
RESEARCH
CLERICAL

PRESERVATION ACTION
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT
NEWSLETTER

MEMBERSHIP
WAYS AND MEANS
OTHER _____

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

The Glendale Historical Society
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