



## The Glendale Historical Society

NEWSLETTER VOL. 4, NO. 2, 1983

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# Society Promotes Sign Preservation

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In response to a request by Zoning Administrator John McKenna, The Glendale Historical Society has submitted guidelines for a historic preservation component of Glendale's sign ordinance. At present the ordinance lacks provisions for exempting signs which may have historic or cultural significance yet which do not conform to City regulations concerning size, placement, and animation. The ordinance prohibits rooftop signs, animated signs, portable signs, and signs projecting at a 90° angle.

The Chamber of Commerce initiated the idea of an exemption, and the City Council requested additional information from the Planning division to aid in their decision. With only a week's notice, we were able to present the results of our findings. After a windshield survey and research by Joni Atkinson a recommendation was prepared, then reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors and submitted to John McKenna.

The recommendations are as follows:

1. That an historic preservation component be added to the sign ordinance exempting signs having special significance as determined by criteria used for National Register status.
2. That the City fund a systematic survey of remaining signs with an emphasis on a search for signs which may meet National Register criteria.
3. That the survey be designed to discover, identify and evaluate the significance of (a) signs 50 years old or older, (b) all neon signs, (c) all animated signs.
4. That based on the survey and criteria the Zoning Administrator make a determination of those signs to be exempt from the sign ordinance.
5. That the restoration and reconditioning of signs of special significance which have deteriorated be enforced.

Signs that may meet these criteria are the following:

Bob's Big Boy (free standing plastic sculpture)--900 E. Colorado  
George Seeley Furniture Co. (rooftop)-- corner of San Fernando and Brand  
Zinke's Shoe Repairs (animated, neon)--119 W. California  
Sea & Jungle Imports (animated, neon, plastic sculpture)--4666 San Fernando Road  
(continued)

*Barberpole at Loeffler's, 106% E. Broadway  
— an animated sign*

The Smokers' Den (programmatic neon)--117 W. Wilson  
Arthur Murray School of Dancing (projecting neon)--140A N. Brand  
Bekins Moving & Storage (rooftop)--929 S. Brand  
La Fonda Restuarant (animated, neon)--1114 E. Colorado  
La Cita Restuarant (animated, neon)--4608 San Fernando Road  
Van de Kamp's Bakery (animated, neon)--Crown Foods Supermarket--corner of Pacific and  
Broadway

When the Council hears this matter, a representative of the Historical Society will make a presentation and will be prepared to answer questions.

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SOCIETY WILL CONDUCT SURVEY OF HISTORIC AREA

The Glendale Historical Society has received a grant of \$14,100 from the State Office of Historic Preservation for a survey of historic and architecturally significant buildings near Glendale's Central Business District. July 1, 1983 is the effective date of the grant, and the survey will continue through June 30, 1984.

Bounded by Brand Boulevard, Wilson Avenue, Chevy Chase Drive and Colorado Street, portions of the survey area date back to the Town of Glendale's original plat (1887). We selected this area for study because of its breadth of architectural styles, its numerous facilities of cultural, social and architectural significance, and its mixture of uses.

Through the Historic Preservation Element of its general plan, the City of Glendale has committed itself to the principle of historic preservation. This survey will help Glendale carry out the goals of that element. In addition, volunteers in the survey will become versed in the various areas of the study.

We have issued a request for Proposal for the position of Project Coordinator. Anyone interested in this position or in any other aspects of the survey should contact Cara Stemen at 793-4885 (evenings).

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BRAND PARK DISTRICT TOUR

Our June 18 tour of the Brand Park District drew many visitors to the beautiful park and residential area which spreads down the gentle slope of the Verdugo Mountains. Tour participants expressed enjoyment, and the tour brochure brought to light the wide range of residential architectural styles popular in our city down through the decades of this century.

For the success of our project we are indebted to Joni Atkinson, chairman and brochure text; Mimi McIntosh Stuart, brochure illustrations; Barbara Boyd, research; Winifred Sehm and Louisa Hall, research assistants; Elaine Williams, Brand Associates liason; Dorothy Wynn, Katherine Yamada, Judy Cash, Zee Blanton, house chairmen; and all the homeowners, docents, and salespeople who so graciously and ably welcomed the public.

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BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED

In accordance with Article 4.2 of the Bylaws of The Glendale Historical Society, three positions on the Board of Directors expired in June and were filled by members elected at the Annual General Meeting June 1. Audrey Hales, Jim Kieser, and Bill Dodson were elected for three-year terms. In addition, Sue Lazara was elected to serve the remainder of a term for a fourth position, which expires in 1984. Congratulations and welcome to our continuing and new board members.

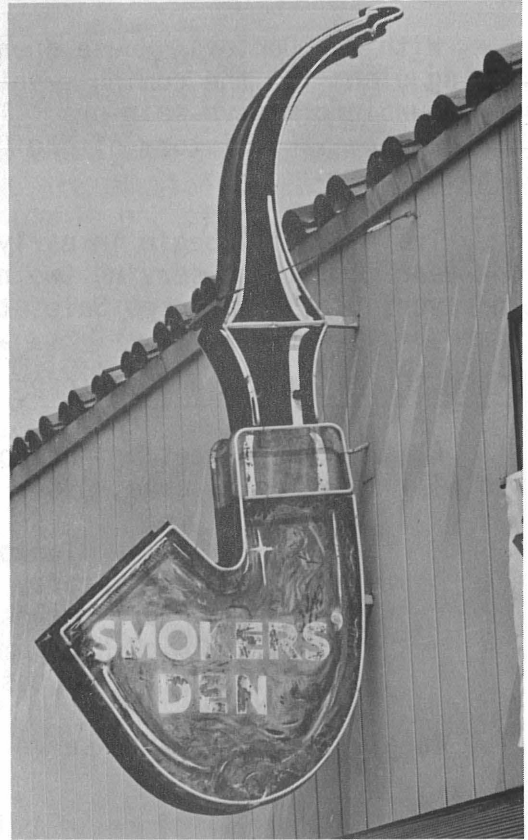




### SOON TO BE ILLEGAL?

All of these long-time, familiar signs would be in violation of the City's new sign ordinance prohibiting animation and 90° angle projection. See story on Page 1.

(photos by Carole Dougherty)



## DOCENT TRAINING OFFERED

With The Doctors' House opening a near reality, the Docent Committee is formulating plans for the coming events and year. Docent training will include three two-hour informative sessions. The areas of study will be Glendale at the turn of the century, the history of The Doctors' House, and Victorian architecture and furnishings.

Training will begin in early September, and docents will be asked to make a one-year commitment serving two hours each month. If you're interested in this endeavor, please call Lee Sale at 240-2120.

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## BOARD SELECTS 1983-1984 OFFICERS

At their June meeting the Board of Directors selected the following officers, who will serve until June, 1984:

Zelia Blanton, President  
Sue Lazara, Vice President  
Audrey Hales, Recording Secretary  
Dick Montgomery, Treasurer  
William Dodson, Research Historian

Carole Dougherty will serve as Advisor (Ex-officio).

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## VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE CUT NAIL AWARDS

In recognition of their many hours of work on our various projects, nineteen people were presented with square nail awards at the June general meeting. Each of the nails, which were used in the original construction of The Doctors' House and which needed to be replaced during the restoration, represents one hundred hours of time given. Up to four nails are mounted on special redwood plaques, which also bear the recipient's name. Several members received additional nails for their plaques, and five received their first nail. Recipients were Larry Meyer, Zee Blanton, Dorothy Krieger, Steve Preston, Natalie Montgomery and Bill Sheppard (first nail); Dr. Robert Newcomb, Tess Clink, Bridget Mahoney, Wally Forstall and Lee Sale (second nail); Bill Dodson (third nail); Jim Keiser, Frances Grigsby, Suzanne McKay, Dick Brouillard, Ray West and Dorothy West (fourth nail).

Upon passing the five hundred hour mark, volunteers receive a mounted large "cut spike" nail from The Doctors' House. Frances Grigsby, Dick Brouillard and Bea Pennial were each presented with this award, thereby adding to the growing number of volunteers who have already received cut spikes.

Congratulations and thank you to all these volunteers. We encourage you to report your hours worked to Frances Grigsby, 246-3885, so that we may honor you for your participation.

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## GRANDMA PRISBREY'S BOTTLE VILLAGE

At our June Annual meeting Amy Skillman from the Trust for American Folk Art presented a film about Grandma Prisbrey and her Bottle Village. Many members expressed interest in writing to Grandma (Tressa) Prisbrey and visiting her house. Her address is Central Gardens, 1355 Ellis St., San Francisco, CA 94115. The Bottle Village is at 4595 Cochran St. in Simi Valley, reached by the Topo Canyon exit from the Simi Valley Freeway.

BUSINESSES LEND SUPPORT IN TOUR

Many thanks to Dunn Edwards Corporation, Home Silk Shop, Stevenson Dilbeck, First Nationwide Savings, Virgil's Hardware, and Coast Federal Savings for their generous assistance with materials and supplies for our recent Brand Park area tour. Because of the assistance of such supporters, our tours are of a high standard and are enthusiastically received by the participants. We are pleased to receive the help of area businesses and to know they share our pride in our city.

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THE FAMILY HEARTH

Visitors to The Doctors' House have remarked on the beauty of the fireplace hearth. Three generations--grandfather Paul Dohnel, son Herb Dohnel, and grandson Ken Dohnel, installed the ceramic tiles in colors chosen to exactly match the original as found on a fragment of it. A warm thank you to you, Paul, Herb, and Ken, for your fine work.

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MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to new members Richard W. Marston, Carolyn Burr, Mrs. Lillian Wood, Dorothy Bomar, Helen G. Young, William P. and Mary Sheppard, Phyllis Kenney, Allene H. Buchanan, Inez D. Zimmerman, R. B. Kimball, Dr. Helen I. Nicklin, Don and Carley Worth, Shirley Clark, Barbara M. Johnson, Dorothy Gill, Grace E. Baldridge, Sue Fraser, and Robert D. Inslee.

Thanks to all renewing members for your continuing support. Since April, renewing members have been Evelyn Fox, Don Bjorkman, George Rutter, Gladys Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Les Thompson, Theo and Barbara Hanft, First Nationwide Savings, John and Mildred Edwards, George Ellison, Lou Ruzicka Jr., Joni Atkinson, Mike Hepburn, Mr. and Mrs. John F. Day, Winifred Sehm, Julie Noyes, Martha Hager, Mildred Helene, Mr. and Mrs. Graham Latta, Dr. Paul G. Schultz, Nida Solana Brown, Sylvia H. Moody, Christy Johnson McAvoy, Dick and Charlene Brouillard, Gladys Walker, Maude Gentry, Professor Leonard R. De Grassi, and Mary Haskell.

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  
RESEARCH  
CLERICAL

PRESERVATION ACTION  
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT  
NEWSLETTER

MEMBERSHIP  
WAYS AND MEANS  
OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

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Newsletter editor: Suzanne McKay  
Assistant editor: Dr. Robert M. Newcomb

Many thanks to Susan Read for her typing of the newsletter, and to Karen Newcomb for her expert assistance in the mailing of it.



THE GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Calendar of Events for Summer and Autumn, 1983

- JULY 16  
Saturday "Colorado Street Bridge Party" on the old bridge, Pasadena.  
7 pm to midnight. Dancing, entertainment, refreshments, eight bands,  
antique cars. Presented by Pasadena Heritage. \$15 per person. Tickets  
at Ticketron and Mutual Agencies.
- JULY 23  
Saturday Summer meeting, Southern California Alliance for Preservation. 10 am,  
Irvine Historical Museum, 5 Rancho San Joaquin, Irvine (714) 551-4105.  
Meet with members of other organizations which share our concern and  
goals.
- JULY 21, 28  
August 4, 11  
Thursdays "Sources: Pioneers of Modern Design--Gill, Wright, Neutra, and  
Schindler" lecture series sponsored by L.A. Conservancy, Society of  
Architectural Historians, American Institute of Architects, and L.A.  
City Cultural Affairs Department. 7:30 pm, Barnsdall Park. Phone L.A.  
Conservancy (623-CITY) for further information.
- AUGUST 23  
Tuesday Bullock's Pasadena Tour, followed by wine and cheese reception. 5:30 pm.  
We are the guests of Bullock's and Pasadena Heritage for this event,  
which is free to active members, in the store renowned for its streamline  
moderne design and its exquisite building materials.
- 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  
and daytime tours. Details to be announced.
- OCTOBER 8, 9  
Saturday, TGHS Garage Sale. These sales get bigger and better every year.  
Sunday Donations and Customers welcome.

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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  
P. O. Box 4173  
Glendale, California 91202

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