



## The Glendale Historical Society

NEWSLETTER VOL. 4, NO. 3, 1983

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### **BUILDINGS AND MEMORIES: Historic Survey of Glendale Begins**

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We are pleased to welcome Leslie Heumann and Paul Gleye, of Heumann, Gleye and Associates, who will be the consultants during our historic survey of the central Glendale area. We have accepted their proposal for co-ordinating the survey in accordance with the guidelines of the Department of the Interior and the State Office of Historic Preservation. The \$14,100 grant from the State, which has enabled us to hire Heumann, Gleye, and Associates, is being matched by the City of Glendale's donation of office facilities and by the work done by volunteers.

Both Leslie and Paul have worked with other cities and organizations on historic preservation projects. Leslie has participated in several historic surveys, including studies in Los Angeles, Pasadena, and Santa Ana. Paul, with a Ph.D in urban planning specializing in historic preservation, has written The Architecture of Los Angeles and many articles and reports on land use and architecture. Heumann, Gleye and Associates is presently writing Santa Monica's Historic Preservation Element.

The survey will have four overlapping phases. During the identification phase, the potentially important sites will be noted and photographed and a manual, "How to Research Buildings in Glendale", will be prepared listing the helpful resources such as fire insurance maps, subdivision plats, city directories, local oral and written histories, and Glendale Public Library materials. An evaluation committee will be formed, consisting of members of our organization and other community boards and groups. The committee will eventually review the results of the inventory done by volunteer surveyors and evaluate the findings to determine the relative significance of each site.

The research and documentation phases of the project will involve the volunteers, who will be under the guidance of our consultants. In addition to the research guide, they will receive survey training and information about architectural styles and Glendale's history. They'll prepare architectural descriptions, take photographs, and research the history of each site being surveyed.

The last phase will be the review phase. Based on the research and the decisions of the evaluation committee, our consultants will prepare a final inventory report which can be submitted to the State Office of Historic Preservation and the City of Glendale. They will also produce a slide and tape presentation showing the results of the survey, and will prepare text for walking or driving tours of significant sites.

Aided by the expertise of Heumann, Gleye and Associates, we look forward to bringing to light the history of Glendale's original downtown area. For details about how to participate, call 242-7447.

Suzanne McKay



### THREAT TO THE EXTERIOR DESIGN OF THE MAIN POST OFFICE

Bars on the main post office windows?

This was a security measure proposed by the US Postal Service in February of this year. Luckily our postmaster, Hal Hemmingsen, felt that such an extreme measure was not warranted and that installation of window bars would destroy the timeless beauty of our post office.

His action was to protest and to notify city officials and The Glendale Historical Society.

TGHS responded by writing letters recommending alternate ways of protecting the post office, ways which do not violate either the exterior or interior design of the building. Letters were dispatched to the US Postal Service in Pasadena, the Regional Director of the Postal Service in San Bruno, the Office of Historic Preservation in Sacramento, and the Mayor and City Manager in Glendale. We also solicited and received the support of the Women's Civic League of Glendale.

According to Tom Barber, Superintending Engineer at the main post office, the Postal Service is now "proceeding much more cautiously." It will consider alternatives which meet with the approval of the State Office of Historic Preservation (which agrees with our position), and will probably use bars only minimally and not on the main front facade.

Because the main post office on Broadway, designed by architect George M. Linsay in 1933, stands as the only unaltered Italian Renaissance public building in Glendale, it has great architectural significance locally. It has classic decorative elements both inside and outside--coffered ceiling, marble floors and walls, suspended lamps, bronze fixtures, tile roof, balustraded parapet, ornate brackets, granite block facade, generous arches, pilasters, lion's heads, grand entry steps. Its symmetry and monumentality express the community's conservatism at the time of its construction. It is unlike most public and semipublic buildings of the 30s, which were built in a style which is affectionately called WPA Moderne or Moderne--the style of our City Hall. Only one other classic Renaissance building, First Church of Christ, Scientist on South Central, exists in Glendale. Its design is Greek Revival.

Although not officially recognized as a local landmark, the post office is listed as a regional landmark in "A Guide to Architecture in Los Angeles and Southern California" by David Gebhard and Robert Winter. The Glendale Historical Society wishes to express its thanks to Postmaster Hal Hemmingsen for his sensitivity to the Architectural gem in his care.

Carole Dougherty

## BEFORE THE DOCTORS: ORIGINS OF "THE DOCTORS' HOUSE"

If you have ever read the published accounts of Glendale's history, then you will recall the name of Ellis T. Byram, who came to Glendale in the early 1880s to join the no more than half a dozen families then settled in the area north of San Fernando Road. A man of sufficient means, experience and foresight, Mr. Byram was a major force in the formation of the infant township in 1887. Byram became local agent for the sale of all properties in the subdivision plan. He also opened one of the earliest businesses in general merchandise, Byram & Dalton. He donated the land for and was founding elder of the First Presbyterian Church, and he worked with H. J. Crow and Judge E. M. Ross to bring the dummy railroad connection linking Glendale to Los Angeles. In addition, he was a principal in the formation of the first real water company in the valley, and was an organizer of the Bank of Glendale. Mrs. Byram, Hulda, was credited with achieving the long-sought name change of the post office from "Mason" to "Glendale."

What we never guessed when we undertook to rescue and restore The Doctors' House was that it had actually been built by the same E. T. Byram, not as a residence for his own large family, but rather as a speculative venture and as an example to all inspecting the new township of the fashionable life awaiting them in this idyllic location.

The Ellis T. Byram family was originally from Indiana, but had lived in Percy, Iowa for some time before coming to Glendale. This must have been a major upheaval for the family of seven at a time when Mr. Byram, at age 43, was enjoying considerable business success in his adopted Iowa town. But he became convinced that the precarious health of his devoted wife of 18 years demanded the relocation to California.

In Glendale, Byram quickly acquired a large land holding in the Childs tract and became active with other pioneers in pooling land and platting a townsite in order to profit in the oncoming land boom. Following the survey and mapping to lay out the township, E. T. Byram became the local agent for the real estate offerings.

During 1888, the real estate boom in Southern California came to an end. Undoubtedly The Doctors' House had already been constructed or was at least underway at that time, but it was not destined to be sold to its first owner until more than a year passed with it sitting idle and forlorn. E. T. Byram seems to have weathered the collapse of the late 1880s rather well. According to the tax roll of 1894, he still maintained the largest real estate holdings in the area. That same year he chartered the First Presbyterian Church, being not only ruling elder but also chief financial supporter. He was a prime example of the Midwestern spirit of pioneering and up-building which gave Glendale its original place on the map.

On January 18, 1890, ownership of the Queen Anne cottage home passed from Mr. Byram to its first residents, the Jay Family. They bought the house, with four lots (three of these small lots formed the grounds, about 1/2 acre) for \$1,500 cash. At this time, land in the area sold for approximately \$400 per acre. The construction of the house may have been by Mr. Fred Hodder, a builder active in Glendale in those days, but no conclusive evidence has yet been found. No other local builder is known to us at this time, and probably no more than twelve homes were constructed in the town during 1888 and 1889.

We assume, but have not proved conclusively, that the Jay Family actually lived in the residence at the time of their ownership. We do know that they were Glendale residents at that time. Also, we conclude from the sale price in those hard times following the crash that the structure, though not necessarily a completed one, must have been included in the sale of 1890.

(Continued)

For the value of the property to have increased from \$1,500 (four lots) to \$2,800 (six lots) during the five years of the Jay residence would indicate that improvements were made. In fact, physical evidence uncovered at the house during restoration has shown some very early alterations, including the finishing of the upstairs rooms and construction of the first stairway for access. It is very possible that the Jay family bought the "shell" and did the interior finishing and other improvements during those first five years.

Interestingly, it was Mrs. Jay who purchased the property in her own name, but it is apparent that she lived there with her husband, W. J. Jay. Mr. Jay's signature appears both at the time of purchase and later when they sold the property. The Jays probably had a small family, perhaps just one daughter, Nettie, who had even in the previous year attended school at St. Hilda's Hall in the class of Ruth Byram, daughter of E. T. Byram. The Jay family was a private one, and they did not leave many tracks for our benefit. So far we have uncovered only isolated incidents relating to them, including the following article which appeared in the local newspaper, the Encinal, on March 14, 1889:

"Some vile thief stole one of Mrs. Jay's turkeys and several chickens a few nights since. May the bones stick in the throat of the miscreant . . .!"

We also know that either Mrs. Jay or her daughter visited the old Sepulveda School on November 9, 1888, but Nettie never enrolled in public school. Instead she attended St. Hilda's, the Episcopal seminary a short walk away. This school, operating in the old Glendale Hotel building, boasted 100 pupils.

In December 1894, five years after their original purchase, the Jays sold their home on 3rd and B Streets (with six lots) to a single woman, Alice M. Junken (or Junkin), for \$2,800 cash. Miss Junken's life is so far a mystery to us, but she held the home for 18 months, selling in the summer of 1896 to Dr. Charles Virgil Bogue, the first of the medical men to live and practice their art there.

The ensuing years of the history of the house were a period of great activity and historic contributions to Glendale by the resident families. The following issue of this newsletter will continue with the story.

Sue Lazara

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### DOCTORS' HOUSE PROGRESS REPORT

Restoration of The Doctors' House is fast nearing completion, with some of the wallpaper up, most of the interior painting done, and many electrical and plumbing fixtures installed. Volunteers are presently doing finish work on woodwork, cabinetry, and floors. The Glendale City Council has appropriated \$16,200 for security fencing and a wrought iron entry gate, construction of which will begin shortly.

Because of delays by the New York firm supplying the remainder of the wallpaper, the formal opening of the house has been postponed. Members and the public will be advised of the new date as soon as one can be set.

Meanwhile, the Acquisitions Committee is continuing to accept offers of furnishings and collection pieces for the house. For information contact committee members Sue Lazara, 241-5597, or Audrey Hales, 243-3421.

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

Our thanks to Susan Read, who did the typing for this newsletter, and to all our contributors.

THE GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Calendar of Events for Autumn and Winter, 1983

- OCTOBER 1,2  
Saturday,  
Sunday North University Park Community Association House Tour. Walking tour of six interiors, including the opulent USC Hancock Suite. 10 am to 4 pm, \$6. Tickets at 2703 S. Hoover or phone 747-2798.
- OCTOBER 2  
Sunday Whitley Heights Tour. Bus and walking tour of the Mediterranean style subdivision which includes some of the most glamorous homes built during the early days of Hollywood. Continuous tours between 11 am and 3 pm. Tickets \$10, \$7.50 for seniors and students. For reservations phone Hollywood Heritage, Inc., 466-6782.
- OCTOBER 5  
Wednesday Webb's Day, 12 pm to 4 pm. Webb's will donate to us a percentage of the sale of each customer mentioning The Glendale Historical Society. Do your Christmas shopping early and help our organization. Fashion Center, corner Glendale Avenue and California Avenue.
- also
- General Meeting of TGHS. Awards night.
- OCTOBER 8,9  
Saturday,  
Sunday TGHS yard sale. Donations and customers welcome for this gigantic event at 418 Spencer (east of Pacific, north of Glenoaks). To help, phone Audrey Hales, 243-6320.
- OCTOBER 15  
Saturday Annual Days of Verdugos Parade sponsored by the Glendale Jaycees. **Central Avenue,** 10 am.
- OCTOBER 20-23  
Thursday-  
Sunday Days of Verdugos Carnival, Community Fair and Art Festival, Verdugo Park. Includes Lions Club Pancake Breakfast on Saturday and Kiwanis Steak Fry on Saturday and Sunday.
- OCTOBER 26-30  
Wednesday-  
Sunday 37th National Preservation Conference of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, San Antonio, Texas. Workshops, conferences, and tours on topics such as laws, the management of historic sites, fundraising, community involvement, education, and federal benefits. Non-member fee \$125. For further information contact Carole Dougherty, 246-0508, or the conference co-ordinator at (202) 673-4088.
- NOVEMBER 2  
Wednesday General meeting of TGHS. Member Bill Sheppard presenting slide show and commentary "Sleepers: Undiscovered relics from the past".
- NOVEMBER 5  
Saturday Day-long workshop by the Southern California Alliance for Historic Preservation, covering preservation issues confronting local organizations. (This means us!) Highland Park Ebell Club. For information and mailer call Bill Ellinger at 792-8539.
- DECEMBER  
Annual holiday celebration for members. Details to be announced.
- JANUARY 4  
Wednesday General meeting of TGHS. Slide presentation by the Glendale Redevelopment Agency.

BULLOCK'S PASADENA TOUR AND RECEPTION

More than 60 TGHS members and friends were the guests of Bullock's Pasadena and Pasadena Heritage on August 23, when we were given a tour and reception at this beautiful and distinctive department store in our neighbor city. Thanks to Bullock's Publicity Director, Dana Prettyman, and Pasadena Heritage docents Bill Ellinger, Peg Stewart, Sue Mossman and Claire Bogaard for the gracious hospitality extended to us in this carefully designed and meticulously preserved example of Streamline Moderne architecture as adapted to Southern California.

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BENEFACTORS' CAMPAIGN

To encourage businesses, organizations and individuals to become part of the effort to restore The Doctors' House, the Benefactors' Campaign team has been formed to promote financial contributions toward the project. Team members Tye Veden, Bill Holderness, Genevieve Sultenfuss and Dr. James Perkins are hoping to add more benefactors to the present total of 24. All benefactors will be listed on the plaques at the gateway to The Doctors' House, designated as follows according to their contributions:

Cultural Benefactor	\$1,000
Heritage Benefactor	\$2,500
Landmark Benefactor	\$5,000
Preservation Benefactor	\$10,000

For information about donations, which are all tax deductible, telephone Tye Veden at 240-7670, Bill Holderness at 245-8911, or Genevieve Sultenfuss at 247-2983.

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NAME BADGES

Personalized name badges for use at tours and other events may be ordered through Helen Pedlow, 242-7066. Priced at \$3.00, each is made of heavy plastic and includes our logo, organization name, and member's name.

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T SHIRTS AVAILABLE

Since September 1982 we have sold 119 Doctors' House T shirts at a profit of \$416.50. We have on hand nine shirts: four men's style, size x-large, in blue; and five ladies' style, size large (1) in white, and size medium (3 blue, 1 white).

We can take orders for the T shirts, which feature a drawing of The Doctors' House and the word "Glendale", and will place the order when we have at least 12 shirts to buy. Sizes are small, medium, large and extra large. In the men's style the colors available are white, light blue, yellow, and red. In the ladies' style the colors available are white, light blue, yellow, pink, and lavender.

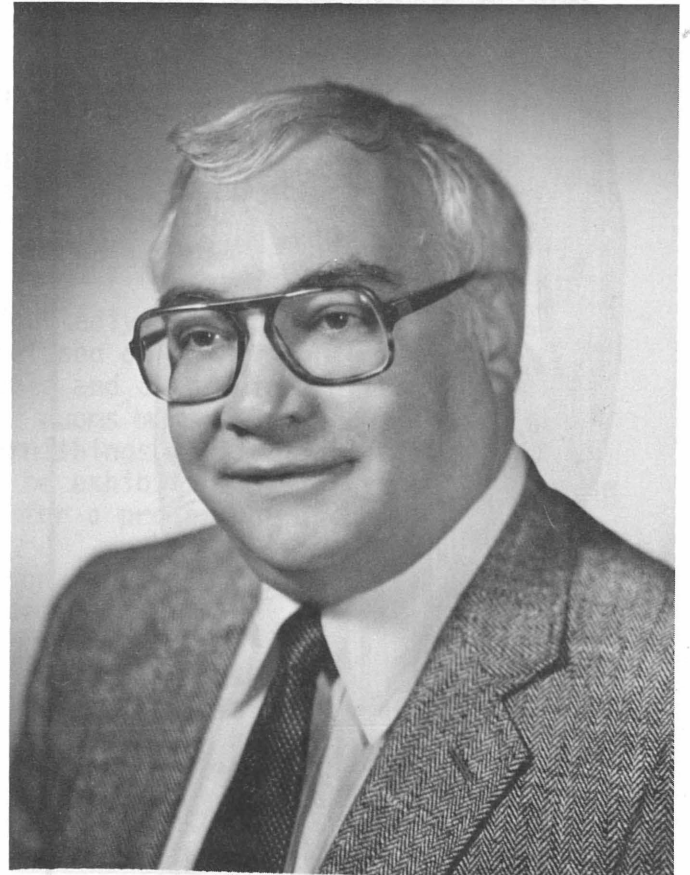
The T shirts are a great advertisement for our Doctors' House project and an exclusive item sold only by our organization. To order, phone Frances Grigsby, 246-3885

Frances Grigsby

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Pasadena Heritage docent Claire Bogaard, Carole Dougherty, and Beverly Place gather in the Fountain Room for the start of our tour of Bullock's Pasadena.



Harry W. Gorst (above) and the Rotary Club of Glendale are the two newest members of our Benefactors group. Bob Kitchin presents the Rotary Club donation to Treasurer Dick Montgomery (left).





## Glendale Historical Society "Day at Webb's"

- Date: Wednesday, October 5, 1983
- Time: 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.
- Place: Webb's  
Glendale Fashion Center  
253 No. Glendale Avenue  
Glendale, California 91206

If you will mention the **Glendale Historical Society** when you make your purchase, Webb's will contribute 10% of their gross sales to our organization for all purchases made on that day between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Webb's will also credit our organization \$3.00 for each charge account opened on our "Day at Webb's" provided this is requested on the application.

Tell your friends to shop at Webb's on **Wednesday, October 5, 1983** to help our organization.

Volunteers from our membership will be serving refreshments at the Tea Table on the 2nd floor from 12:00 to 4:00 P.M. Come Join Us!

**Open to the Public**



ACQUISITIONS FOR THE DOCTORS' HOUSE

The Acquisitions Committee has been carefully compiling a list of appropriate collections for The Docotrs' House and finding the items through donation. (So far, we have virtually no budget.)

Our objective is to recreate the house as it was between 1890 and 1902 so that it will reflect the lives of the particular families who made it their home. It will thus show how people in Glendale actually lived at the turn of the century when the township of Glendale was only about 15 years new.

Because the architectural style of the house is distinctive to the last quarter of the 19th century, we have set guidelines ensuring that the furnishings reflect that period. These necessarily exclude furniture styles that came into vogue after 1902, even though such items could be treasured antiques for a Craftsman or other period houses. The Acquisitions Committee will verify the age of an item through research, documentation, or the evaluation of a licensed appraiser.

The strict approach we are taking will undoubtedly be disappointing to those who find that the item they want to donate is refused on the grounds of date or style. But, as this is to be a museum--an example and a teaching tool for all those who visit--we have a responsibility to make the rooms more than just a pleasant arrangement of interesting old objects. The furnishings have to be correct for a house of that time and circumstance, or we will be exhibiting a picture that is false and embarassing to so many who have worked hard for a project of high integrity.

Already we have many fine items. Over 75 donations have been received. Please help us spread the word of how much more is needed.

Sue Lazara  
Acquisitions Committee member

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DOCTORS' HOUSE DOCENTS PROGRAM

What a wonderful response there has been to the Docent Program! How exciting it is to start an endeavor with such enthusiasm. Our training will begin in February and will include three two-hour sessions. Each docent is being asked to make a one year commitment and serve two hours (or more if desired) each month.

If anyone would like more involvement, two positions are open:

Slide coordinator - would develop slides that would be used for the docent training and for the tours.

School coordinator - would develop a program for school age children that would include Glendale history and historical sites, especially The Doctors' house.

For further details contact Lee Sale, 240-2120.

Lee Sale

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VISITORS BUREAU FOR GLENDALE

In the short time since the Visitors Bureau has been organized as a Chamber of Commerce committee, it has accomplished a series of tasks:

- \* Production of collectors' plates featuring The Doctors' House, the Brand Mansion, and the Casa Adobe de San Rafael (available at Webb's and the Chamber of Commerce).
- \* Production of a Visitors' Guide featuring attractions, dining and shopping in Glendale.
- \* Formation of a subcommittee which will promote the continued operation of the Amtrak station at Cerritos and San Fernando.
- \* Promotion of housing in Glendale for Olympics vistors.
- \* Promotion of better transportation between Los Angeles International and Hollywood-Burbank Airports and Glendale.

Eileen Fullerton, Public Relations Director for the Glendale Galleria and member of TGHS, is now chairman of the Visitors Bureau Committee. TGHS will continue to have a representative serve on the committee and report on future developments.

Carole Dougherty

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Our historic survey will focus on buildings in the central Glendale area. An example is the 1889 home of Edgar D. Goode, with its profusion of gingerbread decoration.

Photo by Archy D. Trowbridge



NEW KID ON THE BLOCK SALUTES OUR PREDECESSOR IN PRESERVATION

As "the new kid on the block" The Glendale Historical Society salutes our predecessor in preservation--Glendale Beautiful.

One of our most important landmarks, the 1871 adobe home of the first elected sheriff of Los Angeles County, Tomas Sanchez, has been lovingly tended for decades by this 80 member organization. Whether acting as docents or presiding over special festivities, the members of Glendale Beautiful have shown a devotion to maintaining a part of Glendale's heritage that warrants the complete support of TGHS.

The Festival of Las Luminarias is only one example of the events Glendale Beautiful sponsors to keep the adobe open and to make early California history come alive. Over a three day period during the Christmas holidays the adobe is decorated inside and out. Brown paper bags filled with sand supporting candles line the walks, porch, and roof of the adobe. At night the candles are carefully lighted to glowingly welcome the community. And inside mariachi play while visitors enjoy punch and cookies, meeting old friends and making new ones. During one of the three days a pinata party is a joyful occasion for the children of the community. The three day event is free, open to all, and co-sponsored by the Department of Parks and Recreation.

TGHS has become a member of Glendale Beautiful and encourages each of our members to join. The \$6 membership is a bargain and an investment in Glendale's heritage. Send your check to Glendale Beautiful, c/o Maude Gentry, Treasurer, 549 Ivy B, Glendale, CA 91204.

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REPORT YOUR HOURS

Please telephone Frances Grigsby, 246-3885, to report your hours spent on TGHS projects since the June meeting. Note that this period includes our June tour. Both you and our organization can be proud of the many volunteer hours given, and for every hundred hours you contribute you will receive one of our special Cut Nail awards.

Frances Grigsby

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HELP WANTED

Time on your hands? Whether you want to satisfy that creative urge or just want to do an easy routine chore, we have a job for you:

- \* Publicity Chairman who will publicize our activities other than our monthly meetings. This person will contact local newspapers, arrange for photos, write press releases that will leave nonmembers drooling over our organization--and of course wanting to join.
- \* Bulk Mailing Chairman who will take charge of our mailings other than our newsletter mailings (about four mailings a year). This job could involve typing, layout work, and copying, as well as applying labels to the material, sorting by zipcode, and then delivering it to the post office. This one position could be broken down into several separate ones.
- \* Tour Chairman who will coordinate our next tour. This job involves contacting property owners, supervising research on historic areas and buildings, and organizing the training of docents. This is a demanding but very fulfilling job.

If you are interested in any of these positions call 242-7447 and leave a message on the tape, or call Zee Blanton at 243-3029 evenings.

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to new members June Ghrist, Meta Chandler, Skip and Debbie Holiday Hudson, Robert Hall, George Pacolt, Marie K. Gilson, Bruce A. Ruzicka, Jacquelin Stark, Kalen Stark, Mrs. Theo Major, Ida Marie Stathos, Lorraine Zabaro, Ella Mae Rosvall, Frances E. Ferrin, Richard Kortez, Mimi Plutae, and Susie Q. Rosalie.

Thanks to all renewing members for your continuing support. Since July, renewing members have been Ted and Darlene Tiffany, Craig Yaussi, Gary and Cindy Cloppas, Mrs. William H. Snow, Gail Schall, Marianne Ramsey, Ruth Odgen, Marion and Milt Antiques, and the Glendale Galleria Merchants' Association. Our total membership is now 302.

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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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