



The Glendale Historical Society

VOL. 7, NO. 1, 1986

FIRE STRIKES GLENDALE ELKS LODGE



The Elks Lodge on January 19, after a destructive early morning fire

Photo by Carole Dougherty

Editor's note:

On the morning of January 19, the Glendale Elks Lodge caught fire, and it is now a gutted shell. The following article chronicles developments up to the time of the fire.

ELKS LODGE MEMBERS BRING CASE BEFORE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

This past September Glendale Elks Lodge members asked the city's Historic Preservation Commission to request that the circa 1916 Elks Club at 120 E. Colorado Street be removed from the Historic Preservation Element of the City's general plan.

George Lawson, chairman of the Elks building committee, told the commission that the three-story building is too expensive to keep up and that the Elks would like it taken off the city's register of historic places so that it could be demolished. Half the property would be sold, and the profits would be used to build a smaller lodge on the remaining land. The Elks received an offer from a local car dealership to buy the property.

At the October 24 hearing set by the commission, there were contradictory statements given by Elks Club members regarding the Club's membership's wishes with regard to the building. Speaking in opposition to removing the Elks Club from the Element was Dan Molinari, chairman of the Elks Board of Trustees. He said that the body of the Club has not come out wholeheartedly in favor of selling the building. He stated that the financial problems the Elks had were now lessening.

At the November hearing of the commission, after testimony by Paul Wright, Exalted Ruler of the Elks, the Historic Preservation Commission voted unanimously to recommend to City Council that the Elks Club be removed from the Historic Preservation Element. However, at the December 3 City Council meeting the Elks were instructed that they should have applied for a demolition permit since their intent is to demolish the building. Such a request would require a new set of hearings before the Historic Preservation Commission.

Karen Lynn Davidson and Greta Reed represented TGHS at the commission hearings by expressing our concerns to save the Elks Club building.

Greta Reed

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SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND SPECIAL LIBRARIAN

Anyone researching facts of Glendale's history is especially fortunate to have access to a treasure trove of written, pictorial, and personal source material: the local history section of the Special Collections Room of the Glendale Central Library and Special Collections Librarian Barbara Boyd. Carefully and assiduously managed by Barbara, the wealth of material ranges from hand written records of early fire department calls, to City Budgets, to photographs of several Glendale snow scenes.

The room has become a repository of publications, clippings, and photographs which the library has acquired through official channels and by donation since its earliest days. Because most of the materials are one of a kind and are irreplaceable, they are for reference use only and may not be removed or checked out. However, they may be photographed in the room by a person using his or her own camera.

The catalogued materials are listed in the card catalog files in the main reading room. Other materials, both written and pictorial, are organized alphabetically by subject matter.

Some general material on Glendale is kept in the main reading room and is available for reference during regular library hours. Items include History of Glendale and Vicinity (1922), by Sherer; Glendale Community Book (1957), by Parcher and Goshorn; Glendale Area History (1973, 1981), by Perry and Parcher; Glendale, A Pictorial History (1983), by Perry and Berger; microfilmed Glendale News-Press issues since 1928 and issues of five short-lived but valuable newspapers which preceded it, beginning in 1889. A machine is available for photocopying the microfilms.

The more specialized material in the Special Collections Room includes a wealth of official, commercial, and incidental items and publications. Among them are Glendale City Directories, from the first (1908) to the last (1973); theses, including photocopies of theses held by other libraries; clippings and pamphlets since 1906; Glendale City Budgets since 1920; scrapbooks from the original Glendale Historical Society; court, school, and fire department ledgers; brochures such as Chamber of Commerce and Merchants' Association publications; magazine articles; over 15,000 photographs and slides; and over 200,000 negatives, including Glendale News-Press negatives dating from 1940. Although the primary emphasis of the Special Collections is local history, California history is also represented.

Barbara Boyd has often obtained materials on her own initiative when she has heard of an item newly published or discovered which pertains to Glendale's history. She is very interested in receiving donations, regardless of condition. Sometimes an item must be carefully laminated or patched; nevertheless, she states, "If we can rescue it, we rescue it."

If Barbara and her able assistant, George Ellison, are unable to provide a particular publication, they can request it from other libraries through inter-library loan services or from the California State Library in Sacramento. The Special Collections Room is open Monday through Friday from 10 am to 12 pm and 1 pm to 5 pm.

Our organization has benefitted tremendously from Barbara Boyd's knowledge and assistance. She has been a remarkable asset to our community, particularly during times of public apathy towards local history. It is our hope that the public grow in appreciation of our history and heritage through efforts such as hers to collect and conserve our valuable historic source material.

Suzanne McKay

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Special Collections Librarian Barbara Boyd.



(Photos by Carole Dougherty)



David Urquidez and his daughter Anne Marie research their family history in the Special Collections Room at the Glendale Central Library.

GOODE HOUSE TASK FORCE PRESENTS REPORT

After several months of intensive work the Goode House Task Force has completed its study on the feasibility of saving this 97 year old Victorian house. The Task Force has compiled a report which recommends three possible courses of action. The first, and most profitable, is to preserve the house as offices and to tear down the bungalows and replace them with a new two-story office structure. This would require City approval of a zone change from multifamily residential to commercial use; but since the property is next door to existing commercial property, this probably would not be too great a problem. Evergreen Development Company of Glendale, who volunteered their expertise, did a computerized study and found this use of the property to be the most lucrative for a prospective buyer. The second suggestion is to convert both the house and bungalows to office use. Since there is limited parking available, the businesses in such offices could not require a great deal of parking. This limits the type of buyer interested in such an arrangement. The third, and most intriguing, idea is to convert the house to a bed and breakfast inn. This is becoming a popular way of saving many historic buildings all across the country, and is a project which has become very interesting to potential investors.

The Goode House Task Force feels very strongly that an investor will be found to follow through with our suggestions and that the house will be saved for future generations to enjoy while still making a profit for the owner. The Glendale Historical Society has copies of the Task Force Report available for review by any interested persons.

I would like to thank Steve Preston, Greta Reed, Georgie Kajer-Weis, and the late Zee Blanton Woodring for their many hours of work and dedication to this project.

Judy Johnson, Chair
Goode House Task Force

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SECOND HISTORIC SURVEY PROPOSED

The Glendale Historical Society has once again filed a request with the State's Office of Historic Preservation for funds to conduct a comprehensive survey of historical sites.

TGHS was last awarded a survey grant in 1983, when it began a year-long inventory of historic properties in central Glendale. This year's proposal continues the survey process by recommending a city-wide windshield survey of historic properties and a focused survey for the area between Wilson Avenue and the Ventura Freeway.

Don Napoli of the State Office, the individual responsible for reviewing grant applications, met with Historical Society and City staff on January 23 to tour the survey area. State officials will now compare notes from this and many other proposals submitted state-wide.

TGHS wishes to thank the Glendale City Council, City Manager James Rez, and the City staff for agreeing to act as co-sponsor of the application. Thanks also go to Vonnie Rossman, Chair, and the Historic Preservation Commission for their interest; and to TGHS members Greta Reed, Georgie Kajer-Weis and Margaret Hammond, who contributed through their work on the TGHS Preservation Task Force.

Steve Preston

IN MEMORY OF ZELIA BLANTON WOODRING

Zelia Blanton Woodring, president of The Glendale Historical Society in 1983 and 1984, died at her home on December 17.

With skill and grace, Zee led the society during a critical period in its growth. Because the Doctors' House restoration had been completed, the society needed to establish policies for its furnishing and operation. A contract had to be negotiated between the society and the consultants who were conducting an architectural and historic resource survey in Glendale's original town site. The artifacts rescued from the Egyptian Village Cafe needed a permanent home. The removal of original street lamps, the potential demolition of the Goode House, and the future of the Alex Theatre needed to be addressed. The organization was definitely changing its focus.

As president Zee listened to all sides, drew out the reluctant, paid attention to details, tried to anticipate problems and made sure the board had what it needed to make informed decisions. As a result, meetings were often lengthy. In self-reproach, she would say, "I know these board meetings are long, but there is so much that is so important to work out." In tribute to Zee one board member has said, "I've never sat on a board that has been handled with such skill as the historical society's."

We will all remember how she conducted the general meetings with poise and grace; how she often baked and brought cookies to the meetings; how she worked at every historical society event; how one month before her death she conducted tours through The Doctors' House.

We'll remember, too, her love affair with flowers; the beautiful floral arrangements that she brought to meetings and gave as gifts; the corsages she made to give on special occasions; the rooted plants she gave when someone admired her growing plants.

We are all going to miss Zee, but her devoted husband Bob Woodring will miss her the most. To him we extend our deepest sympathy.

Carole Dougherty

TGHS HONORS THREE SPECIAL PEOPLE

In recognition of their contributions to our organization and to furthering our goals, The Glendale Historical Society presented certificates of appreciation to Frances Grigsby, Carole Dougherty, and George Restor at our holiday party on December 8.

Frances, our nominee for the Ellen Award given by the News-Press, has given unstintingly of her time and energy to the older people in our community through the Meals on Wheels program. She has brought a similar generosity and enthusiasm to our organization.

Carole, our nominee for and semi-finalist in the News-Press Woman of Achievement award program, has since the inception of our organization utilized her leadership talents as President and Board member from 1981 through 1983. Under her guidance TGHS developed from a small group of people interested in saving The Doctors' House into a visible, vital community force. Her presence and skills continue to add immeasurably to our activities.

George, Director of Architectural Design and Production at W.E.D. Enterprises, is the person into whose care the Egyptian Village Cafe artifacts finally passed. His staff carefully packed and transported the artifacts so that they can be used in some future Disney interior.

Our congratulations and thanks to these three very special people.

TGHS REPRESENTATIVES ATTEND NATIONAL TRUST CONFERENCE

The 39th Annual Conference of The National Trust for Historic Preservation was held October 9 - 13 in Seattle, Washington. The theme was "Preservation in the West", highlighting the achievements and issues characterizing the historic preservation movement in this part of the country. Seattle was a good choice, as it has a growing reputation as a preservation sensitive community with an entire downtown full of landmark quality buildings. This is so in spite of an active urban renewal program.

The conference was organized around a 3-day series of sessions, workshops and meetings touching relevant preservation issues. Besides the sessions, regional and local tours were offered highlighting Seattle and King County. There was also offered, in conjunction, a trade show called "Rehabitat", where exhibitors displayed products and services for restoration and preservation.

The conference sessions were organized around seven general issues, among which were maritime preservation, interior design, preservation in the community and the old house. These broad issues covered a wide range of discussion topics that were the sessions. Session topics included protecting the natural beauty of the Columbia River Gorge, preserving the interiors of American homes, financing for local non-profit preservation groups, the identification and dating of old houses, and the reproduction and marketing of historic wallpapers.

With Greta's interest in preservation financing, she attended sessions which dealt with applying to the National Trust for financing and creating revenue sources on a local level. One particularly interesting session pertained to establishing a revolving fund that would provide a pool of money to enable an organization such as TGHS to purchase historic properties, to give low interest loans to owners of historic properties for restoration purposes, and to establish a facade easement program.

With Georgie's background in architecture, she took part in sessions related to restoration and renovation techniques. One session which was very interesting involved several northwest architects who presented their own work, showing some very good examples of sensitive and well crafted restoration projects.

In addition to these workshops we also attended a few local walking and bus tours which were offered during the course of the conference. Greta visited the campus of the University of Washington, which provided a great way to sense the history and development of Seattle. Georgie was able to get inside some of the landmark Art Deco office buildings in the heart of the downtown area. Another tour she attended featured the industrial development of Seattle as seen in the city's historic shipbuilding and aviation factory buildings.

In all, we felt that our participation in the conference was a valuable experience. We were able to gain and expand on our knowledge of the many different aspects of preservation, which we have already applied in our joint work on the TGHS Preservation Action Task Force. We will continue to utilize our knowledge to promote an active preservation program in Glendale.

Greta Reed and Georgie Kajer-Weis

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Newsletter Editor: Suzanne McKay Assistant Editor: Dr. Robert Newcomb
Thanks to Susan Read for typing the newsletter, and to Daphne Lindstrum, Karen Newcomb, and Bob Woodring for their help in the bulk mailing.



TGHS President Steve Preston presents certificates of appreciation to Frances Grigsby and Carole Dougherty, and Greta Reed serves as hostess.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ENJOY CHRISTMAS PARTY

It was great to see so many happy faces at our holiday party on December 8 at the Glendale Civic Auditorium. The food was delicious, and the entertainment very enjoyable.

Our thanks go to Georgie Kajer-Weis, for all her hard work designing and getting printed our special invitations; to Meredith Quenon, for organizing the refreshments so marvelously; to all our members who contributed their delicious food; to Doyle Kutch, for providing the wine; to Wally Forstall and his talented friends, Max Horton and Eli Berardino, who entertained us with their music; to Carole Dougherty, who gave us the decorations for the lovely tree; to Dick and Natalie Montgomery, who mailed the invitations and helped with the decorations; to Steve Preston, Lynn DuVal, Greta Reed and all the others who contributed to the success of the evening. A big thank you also to my patient husband, Fred, for all his backup efforts during my organizing work.

Margaret Hammond, Chair
Holiday Party Committee



TGHS member and lead musician Wally Forstall takes a break while party-goers enjoy refreshments.

(Photos by Robert Newcomb and Carole Dougherty)

THE GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Calendar of Events for Late Winter and Spring, 1986

- FEBRUARY 5
Wednesday General Meeting of TGHS. Hal Hemmingsen, Glendale Postmaster, will present a program about the Postal System's preservation projects, particularly our main Post Office, which is on the National Register of Historic Sites.
- FEBRUARY 16
Sunday Glendale's 80th birthday celebration. Join the festivities at the Civic Auditorium. Watch local papers for further details.
- FEBRUARY 27
Thursday Glendale Redevelopment Agency public hearing. Updates and discussion of issues pertaining to redevelopment in downtown Glendale. 8 p.m. Main Library Auditorium, 222 E. Harvard.
- MARCH 4
Tuesday Arbor Day celebration, sponsored by the City and Glendale Beautiful. Annual event includes the opportunity to purchase and donate a tree for our city. 10 a.m., Casa Adobe de San Rafael, 1330 Dorothy Drive. For further information call 956-2000.
- MARCH 5
Wednesday Open House and reception marking the historic rehabilitation of the Security Pacific Bank Building, 100 N. Brand. Hosted by Howard/Platz Development. 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. TGHS members will receive invitations.

AND

- General Meeting of TGHS, 7:30 p.m. at Glendale Federal Savings. Dennis De Pietro, architect from Frank De Pietro and Sons (owners of the Masonic Temple Building) will present a program about the history and proposed future of this landmark building.
- MARCH 8
Saturday Walking tour of Greene & Greene Homes, given by Pasadena Heritage. For details phone 793-0617.
- APRIL 2
Wednesday General Meeting of TGHS. Tim Anderson, architect and restorer, will present a program on interpretive restoration.
- APRIL 5, 12,
19, 26
Saturdays Walking tours of Pasadena's noted Civic Center, by Pasadena Heritage. Phone 793-0617 for further information.
- MAY 7
Wednesday General Meeting of TGHS. Pasadena planner Linda Dishman will be presenting the story of Gartz Bungalow Court, Pasadena's successful project combining historic preservation with community development.
- MAY
TGHS "Celebrity Tour". See article in this newsletter.

---Continuing---

- Sundays The Doctors' House, Brand Park. Open free to the public 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Docent-guided tours of the restored Queen Anne-Eastlake style 1890 home.
- Tuesdays,
Thursdays,
First and
Last Sundays "Our Town 1886". Exhibition of memorabilia and quotations from Pasadena of the 1880s, in honor of Pasadena's centennial. Pasadena Historical Society Museum, 470 W. Walnut St., Pasadena. Hours 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For further information, phone 577-1660.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SPRING "CELEBRITY TOUR" OF GLENDALE

We are presently in the planning stage of a "Celebrity Tour" of Glendale sites associated with entertainment and sports celebrities down through the years. We are hoping to hold this tour in the late spring. As any of you who have been involved in our past tours know, it takes a lot of work and a lot of people to run one. This tour should be especially fun for not only the people who take it but also for those who work on it. We need research people to search out the locales, people to contact owners and get our publicity rolling, tour guides (if we use buses), docents for the interiors, ticket sellers, ticket takers, punch and coffee servers, and so on.

If you have any information about celebrity homes, old movie studios, or famous events pertaining to Glendale locations, or would like to help on the tour, phone Margaret Hammond at 242-7334.

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WANTED: HELPING HANDS, CREATIVE MINDS

Our Publications Committee is presently involved in three projects: expanding the Glendale Historical Cook Book into a second edition, creating a children's coloring book related to Glendale's history, and designing a map of Glendale's historic sites. Anyone with graphic, typing, writing, or creative skills is invited to join in these projects.

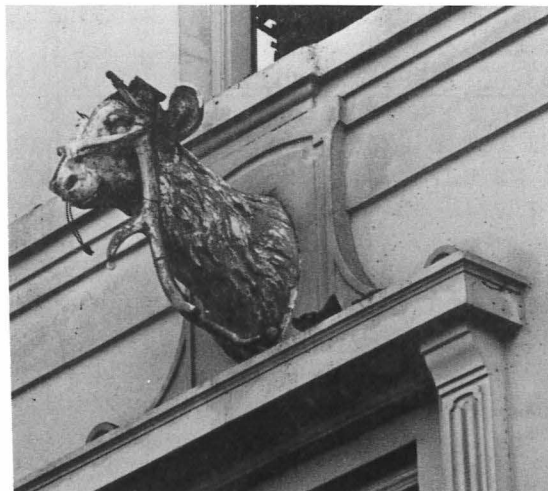
In addition, we can always use assistance in producing the newsletter and the meeting flyers. If you'd like to help, contact Suzanne McKay at 244-9456 or Audrey Hales at 243-6320.

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OTHER PRESERVATION ACTION TASK FORCES

We have recently discovered that the name we chose for our preservation oriented committee, Preservation Action Task Force, had also been chosen by the national citizens' historic preservation lobby organization, Preservation Action, for their local task forces. These local Preservation Action Task Forces, more than 40 in number nationwide, work "To inform and involve interested persons at the local level to preserve the present tax incentives for historic structures. Also, to provide information to members of Congress by community leaders and their constituents of the beneficial economic impact created by the present tax incentives in their district".

Although the TGHS Preservation Action Task Force is not affiliated with the national organization, we are pleased to have learned about their existence and goals. Any of our members wishing further information should contact Preservation Action, 1700 Connecticut Ave. N. W., Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20009.



MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to new members Julie Passos, Teresa Janics, John and Flora MacKay, Melinda Seger, Michael Post, CeCe Morgan, Catriona Bryan, Jamie Harasick, Joanne Ashton, Christina Fahad, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Knox, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Ron Shuck, Sue Ann Mohr, Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Floyd and Elizabeth Zilmer.

Membership in the Glendale Historical Society is open to all persons interested in learning about, promoting, and preserving aspects of Glendale's history. Members receive quarterly newsletters, announcements of events, discounts on TGHS tours, and the opportunity to work on a variety of projects. Annual dues are \$15 for single active, \$25 for family active, \$50 for sustaining, \$5 for student/senior, \$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 areas:

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

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

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

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