



The Glendale Historical Society

NEWSLETTER VOL. 8, NO. 1, 1987

TGHS TASK FORCE PRESENTS ALEX THEATRE REPORT

Following more than six months of research on the preservation, revitalization, and economic issues relating to the future of the Alex Theatre, the TGHS Preservation Action Task Force presented Position Paper 86-1, "Preservation of the Alex Theatre", to members of the Glendale City Council.



Details such as this archer helped establish the original Greco-Egyptian theme of the Alex Theatre. *(photo by Joni Atkinson)*

The report was produced in response to "The Glendale Cultural Facility Study" commissioned by the Glendale Redevelopment Agency to ascertain the present and future viability of a live theatre in Glendale and the possibility of the Alex being able to meet such a need. The City's consultants, Mitze Productions, concluded that the city could support a live theatre and offered three different suggestions for the Alex property: minimal refurbishment, refurbishment and extension, and major reconstruction (possibly involving demolition).

The Task Force Report included a history of the Alex, general and specific comments and recommendations on the Mitze Study, and conclusions reached. It presented additional alternatives for the future of the Alex, taking into consideration the renewed popularity of large theatres, the evolution of Brand Boulevard into a thriving movie theatre district, and the link to our past which the Alex movie theatre provides.

In addressing all options, the Task Force stressed the importance of following preservation guidelines. Refurbishment as a state-of-the art movie theatre was the preferred option.

The City has taken no action on the matter of the Alex, although it is located in the Redevelopment area. It is owned by the Mann Theatres Corporation, and shows first-run feature films. According to Mann president Jim Sheehan, attendance has remained steady for several years but operating costs are quite high. The spacious theatre has 1,117 ground-level seats plus several hundred in the now-closed balcony.

City redevelopment plans include a proposed six-plex theatre in the block bounded by Broadway, Wilson, Maryland and Louise. Total seating capacity for these six theatres would be 1,600 to 2,000, roughly the present capacity of the Alex.

Participants in the TGHS Preservation Action Task Force study were Susan Allison, Catriona Bryan, Georgie Kajer-Weis, Margaret Hammond, Steve Preston, and Greta Reed. The Glendale Historical Society will continue to monitor the status of the Alex, one of our city's most famous, visible, and heavily used historic resources.

Suzanne McKay

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DEVELOPERS PROPOSE REHABILITATION OF MASONIC TEMPLE

The 1929 Masonic Temple on Brand Boulevard has been the main focus of the TGHS Preservation Action Task Force's attention recently. Frank De Pietro and Sons, the Hollywood-based design and development firm which owns the Masonic, remain serious in their efforts to get City approval for their plans for adaptive reuse of this landmark building.

Chairman Ginger Bremberg and the Redevelopment Agency heard the De Pietro presentation at a special meeting on March 10. At the meeting a staff report was also presented. It was not supportive of the De Pietro concept for the block.

Several TGHS members attended the meeting, and a letter responding to the staff report was sent from the task force to Agency members and staff. Since the staff report was not a studied document based on serious dialogue among the DePietros, ELS design consultants, and Redevelopment staff, the Agency directed that the needed and long-awaited meetings take place within 30 days and that they include all parties concerned. The The Agency received the resulting report at their April 14 meeting, at which time it was agreed between the developers and the Agency that the Masonic Temple rehabilitation could now proceed.

The Agency stated that it was premature to develop the entire block at this time. It also does not wish to commit present Agency resources to alleviate the parking shortage on the block. With the Agency report completed, Frank De Pietro and Sons will now proceed with their plans to rehabilitate the Masonic Temple without Agency involvement and will utilize the lot at the northeast corner of Brand and Colorado for surface parking for the building. The developers' list of specific alterations being proposed for the building is now under study by the TGHS Preservation Action Task Force.

The Task Force will continue to promote the adaptive re-use of the Masonic Temple, and will provide whatever assistance is needed to achieve this end.

Sue Lazara

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The facade of the Masonic Temple remains as striking today as it was when it was built in 1929.

THE DOCTORS' HOUSE: THREE SPECIAL ACQUISITIONS

Have you seen the newest additions at The Doctors' House? The recently obtained china cabinet has been placed in the dining room, and it looks quite "at home" with its shelves covered with doilies and displaying our beautiful Staffordshire china tea set. This tea set is a Warwick vase pattern and is based on a vase from the James River plantation in Virginia. The china cabinet is oak wood which was stained to a dark finish, with a curved front made of old cylinder glass. It has a bevelled mirror across the top with a small face carved in the wood. The face represents the north wind, a popular motif of the time. The cabinet was found with its original finish at "Oak It Is" in La Crescenta.

In addition to the china cabinet, the Acquisitions Committee has obtained two dishes of "The Doctors' House" Haviland china. The pattern chosen was based on the recollections of Dorothy Gilson Jackson, a surviving neighbor of onetime resident Dr. Hunt and playmate of his daughter Dorothy Hunt. The pattern is a lovely delicate green vine with leaves on the white ware with a contoured edge. It is style "Porcelaine" #834A and blank #117 and #118. We would like to find any pieces -- cups, plates, serving platters, etc. Your one lonely saucer would have a home! Please contact Audrey Hales, 243-6320 or Mary Sheppard, 244-7646, if you have or find any pieces for the set.

Mary Sheppard

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WELCOME TO NEW DOCTORS' HOUSE DOCENTS

About one hundred people have toured the Doctors' House each Sunday since the beginning of the year. Fortunately, we have six new docents to help us accommodate all these visitors.

When you read about our new members of the Historical Society Docent Guild, you'll see at once that we are highly selective. It doesn't serve our purposes to send press-gangs out to conscript people on the streets! We need capable, committed members who are comfortable speaking to groups and who are well-informed about Glendale's history in general and the Doctors' House in particular.

So how do we get our new docents? Some of our new members are already affiliated with the Historical Society; others are friends of people who have the interests and abilities that would make them good docents.

When Docent Billie Knox went to serve as a poll-watcher at the last election, she met ALMETTA HAMES, who was working as an inspector for the election board. One short conversation later, Billie had convinced Almetta that she should become a docent. Almetta grew up in Burbank and has lived in Glendale for twelve years. She loves crafts, knitting, sewing, traveling, and gardening. The eldest of her four children has muscular dystrophy and so Almetta has also been active in the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

RITA STAFFORD attended Glendale schools and has two grown children. She was intrigued with the Doctors' House because of her interests in interior design and architecture, and at the present time she is building a Victorian doll house. For twelve years she worked as personnel administrator at the USC School of Cinema and Television. Her artistic and creative talents are so outstanding that she has worked professionally as a seasonal decorator and hopes to someday open her own shop that will provide Christmas and other seasonal decorations.

MICHAEL KOURI is the owner of Michael Kouri's Miniature Mansions, and you can also meet him if you visit the Antique Guild in the Galleria. When he toured the Doctors' House one Sunday a few months ago, he was obviously so knowledgeable and so interested that Docent Karen Lynn seized upon him at once, and he agreed to become a docent. He designed and sewed his own turn-of-the-century costume, and some of the furniture miniatures he is working on currently are reproductions of Doctors' House furniture. He also teaches religion at St. Francis Xavier in Burbank and is soloist at that church. We wish him good luck in his forthcoming auditions for the San Francisco Opera.

Even though she is new as a docent, ANNA RUNDLE feels that she has a long-standing acquaintance with the Doctors' House. She was one of the "manual labor" volunteers who worked on the restoration of the house, and so she has a first-hand appreciation of the achievement the Doctors' House represents. Now she is enjoying showing off the results of all that hard work. She is on the board of both the League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women, and she has worked for many years for IBM, mostly in a teaching capacity. She is from Toronto, but she reports that by now she feels like a dyed-in-the-wool Glendale native.

BETTY ZILMER, already known to many Historical Society members because of her work as a docent for Casa Adobe for Glendale Beautiful, also



New Doctors' House docents Judy Sackson and Betty Zilmer with the recently acquired Victorian china cabinet.

is serving as Second Vice President of the League of Women Voters. She is a member of PEO and enjoys golf, tennis, and travel. She has two married sons and a granddaughter, and her concern for this granddaughter's future is one of the reasons she is committed to Glendale's heritage. Betty is one of the founders of the Greater Glendale Child Care Council.

JUDY SACKSON is a long-time resident of this area, and her father, Rabbi Meyer Simon, was Rabbi of Temple Sinai in Glendale for twenty years. Born in Chicago, she is a graduate of Hoover High School and UCLA, where she majored in English and minored in history. She lives in La Crescenta with her husband and two stepdaughters, and she works at Mt. Sinai Mortuary.

Now you have an idea of the kinds of people who make a contribution to our group. We are already compiling a list for our next training session, so if you are interested in becoming a docent, or if you would like to suggest someone else's name, please contact Karen Lynn (248-4506) or Judy Cabrera (241-5302).

To quote the embroidered motto on the sofa pillow in the Doctors' House parlor, "Leaf by leaf the roses fall", and we must bid farewell to two of our outstanding docents. Lee Sale will be moving to Dallas, and Ruth Ogden will be moving to La Jolla. The Glendale Historical Society owes a great debt of gratitude to both these women, and we wish them well.

Karen Lynn

IN MEMORIAM - RAY WEST; IN TRIBUTE - DOROTHY WEST

Ray and Dorothy, both in their early 80's, worked for 3½ years on the restoration of the Doctors' House as Saturday volunteers and became known, affectionately, as Papa and Mama Bear. They both had a generosity of spirit and a joy for living which made the rest of us feel that the process of aging could be positive, meaningful, and fun-filled. Ray was an unassuming person with the marvelous gift of humor - a punster. He willingly tackled whatever job was given him, from pulling nails from lumber that was to be reused ("I've worked on so many nails, I could be a manicurist"), to removing all window and door hardware, stripping and wire-brushing it down, lacquering it and reinstalling it (on putting hinges on doors: "Today everything hinges on me and I'm becoming unhinged." And, after a short break: "Now, back to those 'a-door-able' doors.") Dorothy handled much of the intricate stripping - the thousand and one spools, the finials and later, with Ray, the fine sanding and oiling of the antique furnishings (upon returning from a vacation, Dorothy to Ray: "Well, my dear, back to our regular routine of cooking and stripping."). Together they taught us that after 60+ years a good marriage could take on a loving, bantering mellowness (Ray to Dorothy, acknowledging an anniversary celebration by the volunteers: "All this for broken-down old strippers like us?").

And so it was fitting that when Ray was told he had cancer and he had examined the alternatives open to him that he checked himself out of the hospital and went home to spend his remaining time with his best friend and life-long companion, telling Dorothy that he didn't want a fancy funeral or coffin but just a sturdy pine box. Forest Lawn thought otherwise, but they hadn't reckoned on Dorothy; when they told her they didn't even carry a pine box and that she'd have to settle for one of their other models, she calmly replied, "Ray requested a pine box and a pine box is what he'll get. I'll locate one and have it sent here." And so she did, purchasing one from Mt. Sinai next door. She then returned to Forest Lawn. "Now then, my son would like to stain the coffin. Is there a workroom here he can use or should I make other arrangements?" Upon inquiry, a workroom was quickly made available, and so Ray was buried in a simple pine box, lovingly sanded, stained, and burnished to a mellow glow with a sheaf of wheat laid on top. It was a graveside ceremony on a wintry, blowy, high-stepping sun-filled day with a multitude of their friends attending--a fine send-off to a fine individual. I personally will miss that breezy greeting of his: "Hello, Pixie, how's my girl?" All of us will miss his humor and his spirit.

Marie Luft
Project Coordinator
Doctors' House Restoration
1979-84

Editor's note: In memory of Ray, a Ray West Memorial Fund has been established and will be used to make a purchase for the Doctors' House. Donations may be sent to the Glendale Historical Society, designated to the fund.

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

THE GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Calendar of Events for Spring, 1987

- APRIL 26 - Annual Pasadena Showcase House of Design. Tour of the 1916
MAY 24 Mission Revival style estate of Senator Frank Flint in La
Canada Flintridge plus entertainment, refreshments, art and
craft sales. Wednesdays and Fridays 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.,
Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tickets
\$8 in advance, \$10 the day of the tour. Phone 792-4661 for
further details.
- MAY 6 General meeting of TGHS. After our regular business meet-
Wednesday ing we will join with the Model A Car Club (which meets in
the adjacent room) for a social hour including three classic
comic films shown by Joe Rinaudo.
- MAY 9 "L.A. Lost and Found". Talk by L.A. Times Urban Design
Saturday Critic Sam Hall Kaplan and slide presentation by architect-
ural photographer Julius Shulman, who have just published a
book of the same title. 3 p.m., Variety Arts Center, 940 S.
Figueroa, Los Angeles. L.A. Conservancy members \$7, others
\$10. For information telephone the Conservancy at (213)
623-CITY.
- MAY 16 "The City Beautiful". Docent-guided walking tours of Pasa-
Saturday dena's National Register-listed Civic Center. Tours begin
in City Hall, 100 N. Garfield, at 9, 9:30, 10, and 10:30
a.m. \$4 for Pasadena Heritage members, \$5 general public.
For further information phone (818) 793-0617.
- MAY 16, 17 Carroll Avenue centennial celebration. Tours of 10 Victorian
Saturday, homes, music, restoration exhibits, vintage cars. 10 a.m. -
Sunday 4 p.m. Admission \$8, \$4 for senior citizens and children
under 12. For further details phone the Carroll Avenue
Restoration Foundation (Echo Park), (213) 482-0581.
- JUNE 3 General meeting of TGHS. Business meeting and election of
Wednesday new Directors to fill three positions on the TGHS Board.
- JUNE 4-7 Twelfth Annual State Preservation Conference, Hotel del
Thursday- Coronado, San Diego. Workshops, tours, special events and
Sunday presentations on archeology, downtown revitalization, pres-
ervation methods and financing. For information and reser-
vations write to 1987 Preservation Conference, Sales Depart-
ment, Hotel del Coronado, 1500 Orange Ave., Coronado CA
92118.
- Continuing-----
- Sundays The Doctors' House, Brand Park. Open free to the public
from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Docent-guided tours of the restored
Queen Anne-Eastlake style 1890 home.

THANKS FOR REFRESHMENTS

Helen Pedlow wishes to express her thanks for the kindness of the following people in helping her furnish refreshments for each monthly general meeting from September 1986 through June 1987: Betty Hutchings, Dorothy West, Sid Gordon, and Karen Newcomb.

The refreshments help make our meetings enjoyable and convivial. Please contact Helen at 242-7066 if you can bring homemade or purchased cookies for any meeting from September 1987 through June 1988.

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TGHS TELEPHONE NEEDS A NEW HOME

One of our most important links to the community is our TGHS telephone. For several years Isabelle and Larry Meyer have been the ones who answered the telephone or responded to messages left on its answering machine. Due to time commitments they are unable to continue to do this, so we need to find someone to carry on this service. Can you be that someone?

The Historical Society will reimburse you for the installation and billing charges for the telephone and its small (4"x10"x12") answering machine. We will also give you a list of persons to whom calls may be referred, and pertinent information needed to answer questions. The volume of calls is about 1 or 2 a day. If you would like to take on this job, phone Isabelle or Larry at 242-4290.

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COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

*****Be a part of the action! By joining our TGHS Preservation Action Task Force you can play a direct role in influencing current events involving the preservation of our city's historic resources. Members of this committee monitor, research, and present our position on matters pertaining to the use, alteration, preservation and possible destruction of Glendale's historic sites. Past achievements include the 1984 Historic Resources Survey and detailed reports to the City on the history and value of the Goode House, the Alex Theatre, and our old-style streetlights. The task force also has worked with, and continues to work with, owners and developers of historic properties in order to aid them in their preservation efforts. Members receive advance notice of City meetings relating to historic buildings, so that they can be present and participate in them.

If you are interested in joining the TGHS Preservation Action Task Force, phone Sue Lazara, 241-5597 or Judy Johnson, 244-4802.

*****You have an idea for promoting Glendale's history. Or, you like to write or draw. You enjoy typing. Or maybe you'd just like to do something creative, and do it with other creative people.

The TGHS Publications Committee is for you! This committee develops and produces our publications, including the monthly meeting flyers, the quarterly newsletter, Audrey Hales' historic cook book, and the upcoming children's coloring book. Presently the committee is working on a map of Glendale's historic sites, for which they need someone with graphics skills. They are also hoping to produce a Doctors' House poster.

To find out how you can become involved in this committee, telephone Suzanne McKay (244-9456) or Audrey Hales (243-6320).

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT, 11-27-85 TO 11-27-86

BALANCE IN BANK 11-27-85: \$12,243.86

INCOME

Membership dues	\$ 3,475.00	
Interest	639.86	
Doctors' House tours	1,116.21	
Pictorial history books	875.00	
Cook books	128.00	
Aviation books	60.00	
Post cards	93.75	
Survey book	5.00	
Miscellaneous merchandise	227.60	
Bus tour	900.00	
Christmas reception	247.00	
State refund	37.07	
Donations:		
Zee Blanton	350.00	
Kutch	20.00	370.00

** TOTAL INCOME	\$ 8,174.49
BALANCE IN BANK 11-27-85	+12,243.86
EXPENSES	-11,523.11
 BALANCE IN BANK 11-27-86	 <u>\$ 8,895.24</u>

EXPENSES

Preservation		\$ 1,492.01
Telephone: Doctors' House	98.51	
T.G.H.S.	145.79	244.30
Printing		185.08
Mailing		452.20
Post office box rent		22.00
Copies		93.97
Newsletters		823.87
Insurance		1,956.00
Receptions		341.46
Memorials (flowers)		207.15
Doctors' House expense		241.26
Miscellaneous		222.05
Merchandise:		
Pictorial history books	720.00	
Cook books	883.95	
Aviation books	237.92	
Buttons	255.60	
Doctors' House note cards	43.48	
		2,140.95
Docents		163.97
Treasurer's expense		40.30
Secretary's expense		50.00
Acquisitions		92.52
Bus tour		1,569.73
Public relations		120.82
Awards - Zee Blanton	200.00	
- Miscellaneous	206.77	406.77
Organization dues		178.00
Supplies		155.80
Donations		140.00
President's gift		100.00
Survey		77.90
Secretary of State		5.00
** TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>\$11,523.11</u>

NAME BADGES FOR SALE

Orders for our TGHS name badges, featuring our logo and the member's name, may be placed through Helen Pedlow, 242-7066. Priced at \$4.00, each badge is made of durable plastic and is ideal for wearing at any of our functions where we meet the public.

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MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to new members Marion Jo Ness, Almetta Hames, George McGinnis, Gil and Rita Stafford, Bill Boyd, Kathryn Ashet, and David Gentry.

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 area(s):

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

The Glendale Historical Society
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