



## The Glendale Historical Society

NEWSLETTER VOL. 9, NO. 3, 1988

### PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT: 1987-1988

At the occasion of the Society's June Business Meeting it is customary for your President to provide a "State of the Society Address". After this past busy year of activities, I am much helped by access to the working summaries of your Board Members and special activities chairs. To them in recognition of this past year's ready and cheerful support I say, on behalf of all the Society members, "Thank You".

Our general monthly public meetings continued as before in the hospitable Carrillon Room of Glendale Federal Savings. These rooms are currently undergoing renovation, and we look forward to returning to newly decorated surroundings this coming Fall. Our on-going business meetings succeeded in keeping the membership of the Society well informed regarding the finances and working committee projects which are the backbone of our TGHS. In addition, we were favored by a succession of guest lectures on various topics of interest. The trials and tribulations of the Los Angeles Central Library and the start-up of historical studies of fire fighting in Glendale were shared with us last Fall. The spring lecture season of 1988 brought to us insights about the challenges of restoring old theaters, the marvelous history of the Mount Lowe Railway, Part Two of the history of public schools in Glendale, and a celebration of 70 years of the American Red Cross in Glendale and La Crescenta. Special celebrations by the Society took place in September 1987 at "Villa Montgomery" when our Awards Presentations took place, and in December 1987 when the proprietors of "The Network" at the Masonic Building opened facilities so that we could celebrate the Festive Season in style.

Our financial status over the past bookkeeping year indicates that we are still on the positive side of the ledger even if the assessments for our insurance tend to dampen our fiscal enthusiasm. Sales and dues are of the utmost importance on the income side, and I personally feel that those making disbursements on behalf of TGHS do so with great responsibility and outstanding prudence. So, if we are not a wealthy society, we continue to pay our way and to be self-financing. Particular thanks are due to Treasurer Dick Montgomery, without whose eagle-eyed examination of our finances we would be much the poorer.

In terms of our public outreach efforts, the Doctors' House docents, the Speakers' Bureau, and our presence at preservation activities such as Carroll Avenue open house assure that our banner is displayed.

When we turn to the working groups of the Society there is a great deal to report for this past year. The 30 Docents at the Doctors' House hosted 3,424 visitors during our normal Sunday hours and special tours. This most enjoyable and highly visible expression of TGHS in Glendale and the favorable publicity which it garners is a thrill for us personally and a great contribution to our community. During the course of this past year

our TGHS Preservation Action Task Force has labored 'mightily and brought forth the Alex Theatre Report which is proving to be so influential in gaining support in our community for the rehabilitation of this handsome structure. The Task Force has also worked with those attempting adaptive re-use of the former Masonic Temple building and of the Goode House. The Task Force folk maintain a lookout in support of the interests of several other structures on the City's Historic Preservation Element and, in addition, serve as a most effective liaison with planning and preservation groups in Glendale, within Southern California, and in Sacramento.

Publications have had a banner year for the Society with the creation of How to Research Buildings in Glendale, The Early Glendale Fun Book for children, and the centennial poster featuring The Doctors' House. These items are in addition to our on-going sales of other relevant publications and books and stationery. We await with great interest the completion of our map of Glendale's historic sites, which will serve to really put historic Glendale before the touring and resident public. The four issues of our well-wrought Newsletter which were published within the past year continued the tradition of providing information about our organization's activities and outreach efforts as well as giving advance notice of preservation events around our community. The introduction of flyers which announce our monthly meetings has proven to be a welcome assist to those attempting to keep their respective activities on schedule.

Our Society Historian has continued to work with scissors and glue to assemble a lasting record of historic preservation and the efforts of TGHS in our town. Membership affairs, an obvious essential to the livelihood of a group such as ours, reminds us annually of dues and works the year around to recapture to our fold strayed members currently in arrears.

In closing I may say that our Society continues to develop a place for itself within the community as a voice in support of the preservation of the past and in providing expert information and advice on such matters. Each of us contributes to this image and each of us can gain from its public projection. It is in the community of association, however, that we truly experience our Society and its works.

Dr. Robert Newcomb,  
President TGHS

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#### ALEX THEATRE UPDATE

Since the April publication of their 65-page report Preservation of the Alex Theatre, members of the TGHS Preservation Action Task Force have been meeting with community leaders to discuss the preservation of the Alex and its possible conversion to a live performing arts center. These discussions, which have included the cultural committee of the Glendale Partners and the Glendale Regional Arts Council, are providing opportunities to study other successful examples of historic theatre preservation and to explore the means and approaches for converting the Alex. Our meetings, like the public forum held at the Alex in March, indicate that we share the goals of groups such as the Partners and the Arts Council, which are committed to actively fostering a high quality of life in Glendale.

The Task Force report, which gives detailed statistics and examples of historic theatre restoration, has attracted the attention of other preservationists, one from as far away as Minnesota. We are hopeful that the expertise and dedication of our Task Force will continue to be effective in helping to maintain the life of this unique and treasured theatre.

TGHS APPEALS CITY DECISION ON GOODE HOUSE PLANS

Out of concern for the possible detrimental effects of a developer's plans for the century-old E. D. Goode House and its surroundings, our organization has invoked a provision of a State law, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in order to ensure that the historic integrity of the site is maintained. On June 2 the TGHS Preservation Action Task Force filed an appeal to the Glendale Environmental and Planning Board, pointing out that CEQA requires that an environmental impact report be prepared for any project which could have an adverse impact on a site of historic or aesthetic significance. The Board had stated that no environmental impact report was required for the project.

Following the appeal, Board hearings have been held at which Task Force representatives, community members, and attorneys Bill Delvac and Jack Rubens have explained the significance of the Goode House and its potential for listing on the National Register of Historic Sites. The Environmental and Planning Board has now stipulated that changes to the interior and exterior of the house must conform to the Secretary of the Interior's standards for historic preservation. However, we are urging them to also require that the proposed additional buildings not disqualify the property from National Register eligibility -- that is, that they do not hide, distract from, clash with, crowd, or otherwise abuse the house or contribute to the loss of its historic setting.

The Task Force will continue to work with the developers and the City toward finding a creative and practical way to preserve this Queen Anne-Eastlake gem.

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CALIFORNIA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

TGHS representatives David Smith, Dr. Robert Newcomb, and Suzanne McKay joined over 300 other registrants at the 13th Annual California State Historic Preservation Conference held May 19-22 in Palo Alto and on the Stanford University campus. The conference, hosted this year by the California Preservation Foundation and Palo Alto-Stanford Heritage, consisted of presentations, tours, and social events providing the participants with information, inspiration, and the opportunity to form or renew contacts with professional and volunteer preservationists from throughout California.

Robert attended workshops on preservation and politics, rehabilitation in downtown Palo Alto, history and preservation education, neighborhood protection, and preservation and cultural diversity. David chose sessions about preservation and the law, good design decisions, and historic theatre preservation. Suzanne selected presentations dealing with the services of the State Office of Historic Preservation, historic resource surveys, seismic retrofitting of historic buildings, and computers for non-profit organizations.

We particularly enjoyed learning of our statewide counterparts' adventures and experiences in historic preservation, and discovering the many human, organizational, and published resources available to us. We hope more TGHS members will take advantage of such conferences in the future, in particular at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles in spring 1989. In the meantime, we are already starting to apply some of the things we learned to help our organization in its various projects.

Dr. Robert Newcomb  
David Smith  
Suzanne McKay



REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY APPROVES REHAB PLANS FOR MASONIC BUILDING

The future appears bright for Glendale's landmark 1929 Masonic Temple building at 234 South Brand, following the June 7 approval by the Glendale Redevelopment Agency of Phase I (conceptual plan) of the firm Frank De Pietro and Sons. Evolving from the De Pietros' many months of careful design work and discussions with the TGHS Preservation Action Task Force and the State Office of Historic Preservation, the plans are based on the developers' desire to create a successful commercial building which will be eligible for National Register listing.

The owners propose maintaining the ground floor as a theatre and modifying the upper floors to suit commercial tenants. The west (Brand Boulevard) facade will retain its essential elements, but such features as an elevator tower attached to the southwest corner and additional windows in the north and south walls will be added to satisfy modern occupancy needs. Our Task Force will continue to provide assistance to Robert and Dennis De Pietro as they proceed in their project, a "first" for our downtown.

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AWARDS NOMINATIONS OPEN

The time has come again for us to honor those individuals and groups who have served our organization or our city by their service or achievement in promoting Glendale's history and architectural heritage. This achievement may be through a publication, an education project, a historic restoration, or any other outstanding accomplishment in the field; or it may simply be consistent and effective service to our organization. Please submit your nominations in writing to The Glendale Historical Society at P.O. Box 4173, Glendale, Ca. 91202. Remember to include your own name and a telephone number or address where we may contact you. Then, join us at the Awards and Installation Ceremonies at Casa Adobe de San Rafael, 1330 Dorothy Drive, from 2 pm - 5 pm on Sunday, September 18.

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ENJOY NOSTALGIC "SUNDAY IN THE PARK" SEPTEMBER 11

Relive those simple, old fashioned summer days in the park when TGHS continues its Doctors' House Centennial celebrations with "Sunday in the Park" from 1 - 5 pm on September 11 (Sunday, of course) at The Doctors' House. Enjoy a display of vintage cars, tour The Doctors' House, and stop by the lemonade and popcorn stands for a relaxed family afternoon. The summer won't last forever -- so bring your children, your grandfather, your sweetheart, your friends to this nostalgic event. Then someday you can look back and say wistfully, "Ah, I remember that gorgeous summer afternoon in '88 . . ."

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Our financial year 1988-1989 began July 1, and membership renewals are now due. If you have not received your renewal notice, you may use the membership form on the back of this newsletter. Remember to keep us informed of any address changes during the year, so that you receive all mailings. We plan to publish a membership roster for our members, and your prompt renewal will ensure that your name appears in the roster.

# Doctors' House Centennial Celebrations



Docents Lorraine Zabaro and Almetta Hames prepare to greet visitors at "A Victorian Wedding".

The Doctors' House parlor was an elegant setting for LuAnn Sauter's presentation about antique dolls.

(photos courtesy Almetta Hames)



The Doctors' House has been the site of several special events lately in celebration of its centennial. The many and varied talents of the Docent Guild, under the leadership of Mary Sheppard, have provided much enjoyment and education for the public and have helped raise funds to ensure the high quality of the operation of the house.

On Saturday, May 7, docent Lu Ann Sauter gave a delightful talk and exhibition about dolls from the 1700s until the 1940s to both morning and afternoon audiences in the parlor of the house. Guests also enjoyed open house and tea breads made from traditional recipes.

"A Victorian Wedding" atmosphere prevailed on the afternoon of Sunday, June 5 as visitors viewed wedding gowns and other fine Victorian fashions and savored wedding cake, champagne, and lemonade. This event prompted TGHS member Joanne Sargeant to donate to us her grandmother's 1904 wedding gown, a lovely and welcome addition to our ever-growing clothing collection.

At the Verdugo Swing Society's "Concert in the Park" on Sunday afternoon July 17, held on the lawn outside The Doctors' House, docents staffed a lemonade stand and hosted open house for the concert-goers. We were pleased to provide a focal point for this community event.

Thanks to Mary Sheppard and to all our generous and talented docents for their work on the centennial events. Special recognition to Merry Franzen, Almetta Hames, Zab and Lorraine Zabaro, Billie Knox, Lu Ann Sauter, and Karen Cline for their planning and organization work.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS FOR 1988-1989

At our June general membership meeting David Smith, Dan Leimeter, and Jamee Harasick were elected to three-year terms on the TGHS Board of Directors. Jamee is a continuing Director, and David and Dan replace retiring Directors Larry Meyer and Suzanne McKay.

Both David and Dan have served, and continue to serve, as very active members of the TGHS Preservation Action Task force. David, a lifelong resident of the Glendale/Eagle Rock area, is a Certified Public Accountant in Glendale. He joined TGHS after visiting The Doctors' House and being impressed at how well it was run. As newly elected President he would like to focus on building our membership, increasing our fundraising, and strengthening our preservation efforts.

Dan Leimeter's interest in Glendale's old-style streetlights led him to The Glendale Historical Society. He brings to the Board 27 years of experience in technical theatre at the professional, educational, and community levels. His graduate work in theatre history and his job as Supervisor of Motion Picture and Video Projection at Todd-AO have given him expertise which is proving very valuable in our efforts to promote the preservation of the Alex Theatre.

A warm welcome to Dan and David as they join our Board. Many thanks to Larry for his nine years of service as Director, and to Suzanne for her three.

The Board of Directors elected the following officers at their June Board meeting:

- President: David Smith
- Vice President: Dr. Robert Newcomb
- Treasurer: Dick Montgomery
- Secretary: Audrey Hales
- Historian: Jamee Harasick

Appointed positions and committee chairmen for the year 1988-1989 are as follows:

- Fundraising and Tours: Margaret Hammond
- Public Relations, Publications: Dan Leimeter
- Doctors' House City Liaison/Docent Chairman: Mary Sheppard
- Telephone and Computer Services: Bob Woodring
- Membership: Doyle Al Kutch
- Sales and Merchandise: Shannon and Helen Pedlow
- Speakers' Bureau: Judy Cabrera
- Newsletter Editor: Suzanne McKay
- Monthly Programs: Dr. Robert Newcomb
- Glendale Beautiful Liaison: Ruth Dodson
- Legal Advisor: Larry Meyer
- Parliamentarian: Gladys Walker

The new Board will be installed at our Awards and Installation Ceremonies to be held at Casa Adobe De San Rafael from 2 - 5 pm on Sunday, September 18.

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EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Do you enjoy working with children? We would like to develop ways to increase Glendale childrens' awareness of our city's history. If you are interested in becoming involved in this area, please contact Mary Sheppard at 244-7646.



INVENTORY IN PROGRESS

Historian Jamee Harasick is currently compiling an inventory of all TGHS items. Please notify her (240-1444) of any materials in your possession, either in conjunction with a continuing project or as part of a past one. Having a record of the location of various articles and information will enable us to have more ready access to them should the need arise. Jamee is also actively seeking a location where we could store our materials, and would appreciate any offers or suggestions.

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SHARE YOUR ARTISTIC SKILLS

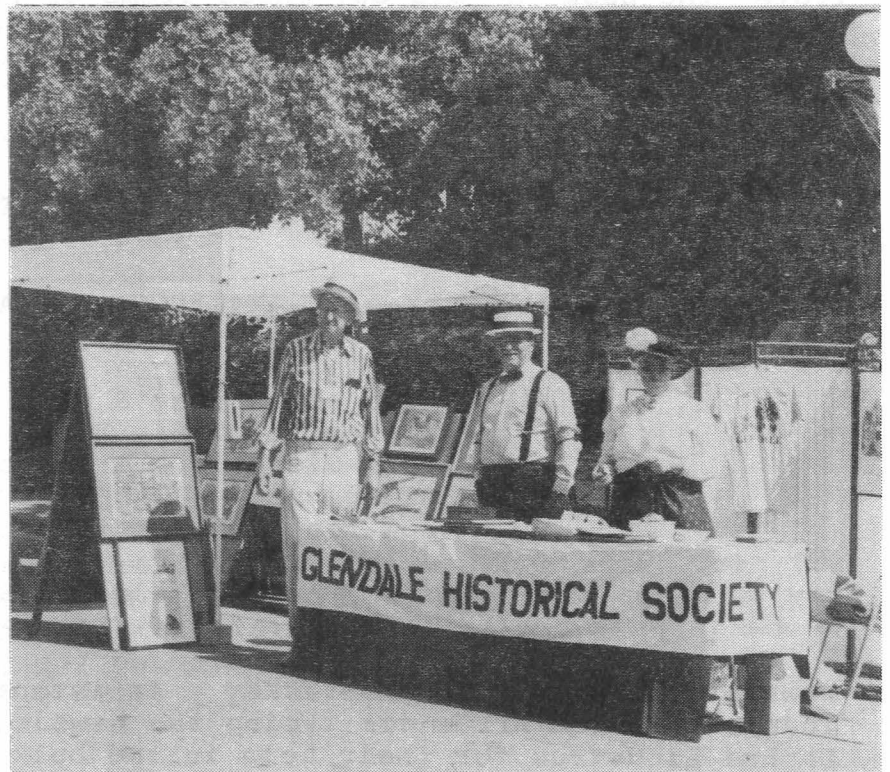
Our Publications Committee and special events committees frequently need flyers, brochures, and invitations for their projects. If you would like to help design and produce these materials, please contact Suzanne McKay (244-9456). We're not looking for a Michaelangelo--but if you have basic lettering, drawing, layout, graphics, or design skills or are familiar with printing procedures, you could be of great assistance to us.



## TGHS Joins Carroll Avenue Festivities

*Sid Gordon, Elaine Pease, Shannon Pedlow, and Fred and Margaret Hammond joined other area residents and preservation enthusiasts for the annual Victorian festival days in May on Carroll Avenue, Echo Park.*

*(photos courtesy Sid Gordon)*



WANTED: COMPUTER RESOURCES

As we approach our 10th year of existence since being re-activated as an organization, our membership and activities have expanded to a degree of which we can be very proud. Coincidentally, and fortunately, some very handy computer technology has also developed during this time. Our membership roster, mailing labels, newsletter and monthly meeting flyers are all done with the assistance of computers. If you would like to volunteer your computer, printer, software, or expertise for any of our ongoing or special projects, please contact Suzanne Mckay at 244-9456. She would like to know about and coordinate our resources.

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DOCTORS' HOUSE DOCENT TRAINING CLASSES

Attention all talkers! Put your talents to good use by becoming a docent at The Doctors' House. Becoming a docent enables you to learn about the history of Glendale, the architecture and life of the Victorian era, and the restoration of the house. You'll be joining a group of other talented and enthusiastic people, the Docent Guild. The next docent training course will be held on October 10, 17, and 24, Monday evenings. For further information phone The Glendale Historical Society, 242-7447.

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GPD'S "MOST WANTED" LIST

Have you seen these items? Glendale Police Department badges of past years; old GPD uniforms; photographs of police officers in earlier times; and police documents are items being sought for inclusion in a book currently being produced by the Glendale Police Department detailing the story of its first 80 years. TGHS member and GPD officer Mike Post is interested in any materials which could be photographed and used to illustrate the book. So dig out those items of family pride or infamy and help bring to life the history of the law in Glendale. Mike can be contacted at (818) 956-4048 or at the Glendale Police Department, 140 N. Isabel, Glendale 91206.

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/\      Low rental rates to TGHS members.    /\
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/\      Audrey Hales 243-6320                 /\
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Newsletter Editor: Suzanne McKay Assistant Editor: Dr. Robert Newcomb  
Thanks to Helen Wrede for typing the newsletter, and to Bob Woodring and Daphne Lindstrum for their help in the bulk mailing.



THE GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Calendar of Events for Summer and Early Fall, 1988

- AUGUST 17  
Wednesday "Footlight Parade", 1933 extravaganza starring Ruby Keeler, James Cagney and Joan Blondell, presented in the recently restored art deco Wiltern Theatre at Wilshire and Western. 8 pm. Sponsored by Los Angeles Conservancy. Tickets \$10 LAC members, \$12 non-members. For further details phone (213)623-CITY.
- SEPTEMBER 11  
Sunday "Sunday in the Park". Nostalgic afternoon on The Doctors' House grounds, Brand Park. 1 pm - 5 pm. Display of vintage cars, open house, summertime refreshments. Merchandise and refreshment sales to benefit Doctors' House operating expenses and insurance.
- SEPTEMBER 18  
Sunday Annual TGHS Awards and Installation Ceremonies. 2 pm - 5 pm, Casa Adobe de San Rafael, 1330 Dorothy Drive. Join us for celebration and refreshments as we launch our new year.
- OCTOBER 5  
Wednesday General Meeting of TGHS. Author Regina Phelan will present a program on "Gold in California".
- OCTOBER 10,  
17,24  
Mondays Evening training classes for prospective Doctors' House docents. For further details phone TGHS at 242-7447.
- OCTOBER 15,16  
Saturday,  
Sunday "Days of the Verdugos" annual community art festival and carnival in Verdugo Park. TGHS will staff a booth featuring information about our organization and offering our publications and merchandise for sale.
- OCTOBER 22  
Saturday "California Book Fair" at the Glendale Civic Auditorium. 10 am - 6 pm. TGHS will participate with a merchandise and information booth.
- OCTOBER 21-22,  
28-29  
weekends "Murder in the Mansion" audience participation adventure benefit at the Fenyes Mansion, 470 W. Walnut St., Pasadena. Presented by the Pasadena Historical Society. For details phone (818)577-1660.
- NOVEMBER 2  
Wednesday General Meeting of TGHS. Member Mike Post, Lieutenant in the Glendale Police Department, will be featured in a program about the history of law enforcement in Glendale.

---CONTINUING---

Sundays The Doctors' House, Brand Park, 1601 W. Mountain. Open free to the public from 2 pm to 4 pm. Docent-guided tours of the restored Queen Anne-Eastlake style home.

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to new members Andrea Humberger, Richard Penniall, George and Marian Young, Peggy Dawkins, Vesta Agnew, Mrs. Judy Hine, Sandra Lockhart, Eileen Rassmussen, and Ethel Shearer.

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.

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

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  
DOCENT GUILD

OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

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