



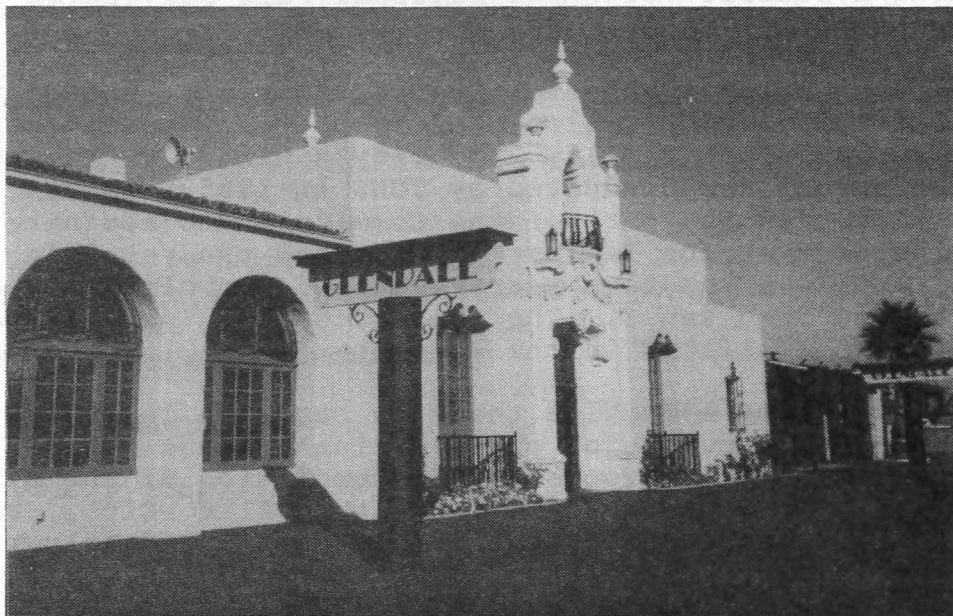
## The Glendale Historical Society

VOL. 11, NO. 1, 1990

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### CITY OF GLENDALE BUYS 1924 AMTRAK DEPOT

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The 1924 Southern Pacific (Amtrak) Depot became the third major historic site to be purchased by the City of Glendale in 1989. The picturesque Spanish-Colonial Revival style station at 400 W. Cerritos and its 2.5 acre site were bought from the Southern Pacific Transportation Company with the intention of maintaining and possibly expanding its use as the Amtrak depot. The building's exterior and interior, which have been carefully kept up by Amtrak Ticket Agent Bruce Gaughan over the past several years, are an acknowledged asset. Their preservation will be included in any plans for the site.

The City was able to buy the property using \$3,535,000 of its share of L.A. County transportation fund money. The site could eventually serve as a major intermodal transportation center for rail and bus, commuter and long-distance travel.

In 1988 Bruce Gaughan received an award from The Glendale Historical Society for his unflagging attention to the upkeep of the interior and exterior of the station. The Amtrak "Coast Starlight" (Los Angeles-Seattle) brochure now draws train passengers' attention to the station's architecture. TGHS is pleased that this depot, which has served Glendale continuously for nearly 60 years, will remain as a vibrant and colorful link to our city's past.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT: HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

In 1985 the Glendale City Council passed an ordinance establishing the Historic Preservation Commission. Among the stated reasons for the ordinance were to "safeguard the heritage of the city by preserving improvements and features which reflect elements of the city's history" and to "deter the demolition, destruction, alteration, misuse or neglect of designated historically significant buildings."

As we approach the fifth anniversary of the passage of the ordinance it is time to consider how successful the City has been in carrying out its objectives.

On the positive side, the Commission has been responsible for the placing of plaques on buildings listed in the 1977 Historic Preservation Element. Construction plans involving historic buildings are reviewed by the Commission. The City has further indicated its commitment to preservation by signing a contract with the National Park Service to be a Certified Local Government.

Despite these accomplishments, many important objectives are not being met. As of today only 50 blocks of the city have been subject to a comprehensive survey to identify the city's historic and architectural resources. That survey was conducted by TGHS in 1985. In addition, there has been no effort on the part of the Commission to nominate structures identified in that survey for landmark status and the resulting protection under the ordinance. After five years, some of the historic buildings in the survey have been demolished. The protected list of landmarks still consists of only the 34 listed in the Element.

In evaluating how effective the City has been in protecting listed landmarks we can examine two major preservation issues which have gone before the Commission: the proposed 1985 demolition of the Elks Club and the two proposals for the Goode House. For the Elks Club, the Commission's recommendation was to sidestep the ordinance by simply removing the building from the landmarks list. No longer being a landmark, a historic building could be demolished.

The 1987 proposal to move the Goode House would have, in the opinion of preservation professionals such as the State Office of Historic Preservation, seriously compromised the historic integrity of the building. In the approval process, emphasis was placed on the deteriorated condition of the house. Suggesting that further deterioration would cause irreparable damage to the house, the Commission often cited this consideration in public hearings to justify its approval of an otherwise disliked plan.

However, we would like to point out that the ordinance, in particular Glendale Municipal Code section 2106, states that every owner of a designated historic building "shall maintain and keep in good repair such premises." Good repair is defined "as that level of maintenance and repair which clearly insures the continued availability of such premises for lawful and reasonable uses, and which prevents deterioration, dilapidation and decay of any exterior portion of such place or structure."

Certainly the Goode House had suffered significant deterioration prior to the passage of the ordinance, and we are not suggesting that the ordinance compelled the owner to restore the house to some former grandeur. However, the ordinance would seem to require some minimal maintenance to prevent further deterioration.

What actions did the City take to seek compliance with this section of its ordinance? From 1985 to early 1989 the answer is simple -- nothing. Only after all project approvals were obtained in 1989 did the City compel the owner to take steps to protect the building. Certainly the Commission and City staff were aware of the provisions of the ordinance. Why wasn't the law enforced? Instead, the deteriorating condition was once again used as an argument supporting prompt approval of the developer's project. Members of the Historic Preservation Commission actually attended a Design Review Board meeting and objected to further delays caused by the Board's desire to carry out its responsibility--to improve the design.

Were these concerns for the Goode House justified? Eighteen months have passed since we heard that "termites holding hands" were the only things holding the house together. Time has taken its toll on the house; however, despite these dire warnings it still stands.

In light of the owner's maintenance responsibilities established by the ordinance, we believe the subjective evaluation of the deterioration of a building should not be considered as the principal argument for approving a plan. This causes the focus of attention to be drawn away from the central issue: good preservation design. The provisions of the ordinance should be sufficient to maintain a building in its current state while a considered and rational preservation project is developed. We suggest that seeking quality is more important than making unnecessary hasty decisions.

For the future, we hope that the Historic Preservation Commission will be a more positive influence for preservation in Glendale. We suggest that it seriously attempt to tackle some of the critical preservation objectives cited in the ordinance.

David Smith  
President, TGHS

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CITY PLANS USES FOR ADOBE, RANCH/WINERY

The City of Glendale is proceeding through the planning stages in order to determine the future of two major historic sites which it purchased last year.

The 702-acre Intervalley Ranch/Winery property in the northern, foothill section of Glendale was renamed "Governor George Deukmejian Wilderness Park" and dedicated at a December 9 ceremony. The Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services will now be advertising for consultants' services to draw up a Master Plan, which will include historical and cultural analyses. The Master Plan Phase I will include basic improvements such as roads, parking, interim repair work and possibly seismic work on the stone winery building. Because there will eventually be an educational/interpretive display about the history, flora and fauna of the area, the consultants will be directed to consult the community and obtain public comment on the plans. There are undoubtedly many residents in the area who could contribute their knowledge of local history and nature to this project, and they should watch for further developments of the plan. For the present time, the property continues to be rented to the Circle J Ranch horse stables.

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The second newly purchased property, the Verdugo Adobe, is the subject of ongoing monthly meetings by an 8-member committee composed of City staff and members of the Historic Preservation and Park, Recreation and Community Services commissions. The Committee is doing planning and assessment work to determine the range of uses the Adobe and its grounds will have, and is drawing up a policy for the acceptance of artifacts. According to Scott Reese, Assistant Director of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services, this policy will probably be like that used for Doctors' House Acquisitions. The Site is now protected by a security system, and a full-time gardener is employed to maintain the large garden in which the home is situated. The committee has completed the draft of a management plan, including a short list of capital improvement items. Access to the Verdugo Adobe has not been determined, but the limited availability of curbside parking will be a factor in this.

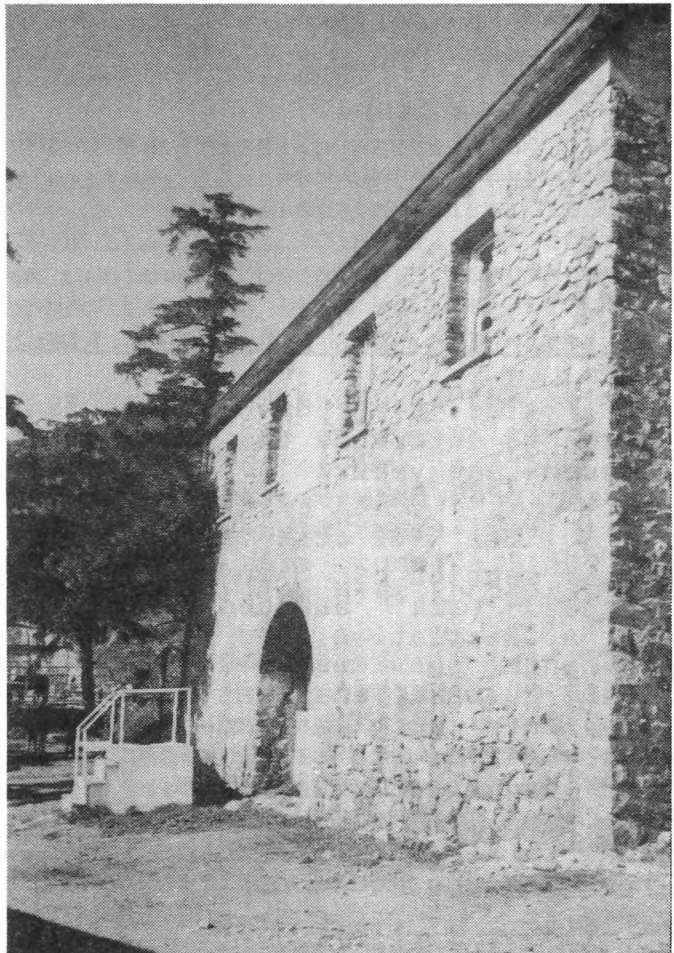
Both the Ranch/Winery and the Verdugo Adobe are welcome additions to Glendale's collection of publicly-maintained and accessible historic sites. This newsletter will continue to monitor the progress of their development.

Suzanne McKay

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The Verdugo Adóbe, in its rustic garden setting.



The former InterValley Ranch winery, with its massive stone walls.

(photos by S. McKay)

THE GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Calendar of Events for Spring, 1990

MARCH 5, 12  
19  
Mondays

Doctors' House Docent training class. Join the TGHS Docent Guild and give public tours of the house. For information contact Doris McKently, 243-0977.

MARCH 7  
Wednesday

General Meeting of TGHS. Our guest speaker will be announced.

MARCH 13, 20,  
27; APRIL 10  
Tuesdays

Pasadena Heritage Lecture Series on a variety of topics including Craftsman farms and the Riverside Mission Inn. 7:30pm. Free. Held in the Donald Wright Auditorium of the Pasadena Public Library, 285 E. Walnut. Reservations recommended. Telephone 793-0617.

APRIL 1  
Sunday

Garden Open House at the Lummis House, 200 E. Avenue 43, Highland Park. 10am - 4pm. Free. Tours of the historic residence, now home to the Historical Society of Southern California, and the specially designed drought-tolerant garden; exhibits, demonstrations, and sales of plants and books (both historical and botanical). For further information, telephone (213) 222-0546.

APRIL 4  
Wednesday

General Meeting of TGHS. Our own Gladys Walker, long time civic volunteer in local and regional activities ranging from Parliamentary Law to rose cultivation to veterans' affairs, will share her knowledge and experience with us.

APRIL 22  
Sunday

"Wentworth Tour", guided walking tour of stately homes in the Oak Knoll neighborhood of Pasadena. Several open houses will be included. Given by Pasadena Heritage. Members \$10, others \$12. For details telephone 793-0617

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Sundays

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

SPEAKERS' BUREAU BRINGS TGHS TO THE COMMUNITY

Reaching the people of Glendale and helping them appreciate our history and architectural heritage are the goals of our Glendale Historical Society Speakers' Bureau. Under the direction of Judy Cabrera, TGHS volunteers visit community groups, clubs, retirement homes and homeowners' associations to present our two slide shows: "Historic Sites in Glendale" and "The Restoration of the Doctors' House."

If you would like to become a presenter please contact Judy Cabrera at (818) 241-5302. If you can speak Spanish, Armenian, or Korean you would enable us to bring our presentations to these newly arrived population groups in Glendale.

We would also appreciate help in updating the scripts and slides, and in creating a new, third show about the history of Glendale.

Our Speakers' Bureau has been steadily, quietly active for a number of years, with presentations averaging about one a month. If you know of a group which would enjoy having one, please have them contact Judy at the above phone number.

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DOCTORS' HOUSE HOSTS VARIED ACTIVITIES

Our annual "Victorian Christmas" festivities at The Doctors' House featured a day full of activities on Saturday, December 9. In the morning, special children's tours were given, and young visitors had the opportunity to make their own old-fashioned Christmas ornaments under the supervision of Mary McVay and Carole Dougherty. Lorraine Zabaro played Mrs. Santa Claus, and with the help of her grandson Mark Zabaro gave cookies and gingerbread men to the visiting children. Judy Cabrera, Eileen Rasmussen, Billie Knox, Ethel Shearer, Vespa Agnew, Anna Rundle, Almetta Hames, Merry Franzen, Isabel Meyer, Cat Murray, Doris McKentley, and Judy Hines assisted in morning and afternoon shifts, guiding the children through the house and hosting walk-through tours for all afternoon visitors. Holiday music provided a background for the house's portrayal of a turn-of-the-century Christmas, including authentic decorations.

The coming months will feature timely displays in the upstairs exhibit room of The Doctors' House. Visitors will enjoy the February display of old time Valentines from a private collection, the March exhibit of turn-of-the-century lingerie, the April show "In Your Easter Bonnet", in conjunction with a unique collection of hatpins, and the May-June wedding display. Each presentation is to have a flyer explaining the traditions pertaining to the subject.

All are invited to stop by and renew their acquaintance with The Doctors' House while savoring the delights of the special exhibits. Hours are 2pm - 4pm Sunday afternoons. Special weekday tours for groups can be arranged by phoning the Parks and Recreation Department, 956-2000.

Merry Franzen

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Newsletter Editor: Suzanne McKay Assistant Editor: Dr. Robert Newcomb Thanks to Helen Wrede for typing the newsletter, and to Dan Leimeter, Karen Newcomb and Daphne Lindstrum for their help in the bulk mailing.

## TGHS CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAYS

The venerable 1900 Disabled American Veterans' Hall was the site of our annual holiday party on Sunday, December 10, 1989, as members and friends gathered to celebrate the joys of the season. Under the able chairmanship of Margaret and Fred Hammond, guests enjoyed potluck refreshments around a tree decorated with old-fashioned ornaments provided by Sue Lazara. Other decorating was done by Suzanne McKay, Wesley Lazara, and Dave Smith. Sid Gordon's nostalgic recorded music again added a special ambience, while Fred Hammond tended the bar. Many thanks to all who helped make our party a warm and convivial event for all who attended.

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## CHANGES ON TGHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In accordance with our by-laws, two new Directors were recently elected by the Board to fill seats vacated by resigning Directors. Bill Shepherd and Andrea Humberger are replacing Almetta Hames, who is moving to Santa Catalina Island, and Mary Shepphard, who is moving to Santa Fe, New Mexico. Bill and Andrea will fill the positions until our next regular Board elections, to be held at our June Annual General Membership meeting. At that time, they can continue in their positions if they are nominated and elected.

Bill Shepherd has lived in Glendale most of his life. Being interested in history, he joined TGHS about two years ago. As a Director, he wants to help us achieve our goals in any way he can. He has a particular interest in getting high school and Glendale College students interested in and involved in local history. Bill works in Administration for the L.A. County Social Services Department, and in his spare time he enjoys travelling, reading, and the theatre.

Andrea brings to the Board two years of intensive involvement in our TGHS Preservation Action Task Force work on the Alex Theatre. She grew up in Glendale and is working as a Research Associate, doing research on historic properties for the Historic Resources Group in Hollywood. As a Board member she would like to develop a membership brochure, increase our membership, and make TGHS more of an active preservation force in Glendale.

A third Director's position is also open due to the recent passing of Bob Woodring. An announcement regarding his replacement will be made as soon as the Board makes its choice.

We welcome Bill and Andrea to the Board, and we thank Mary and Almetta for their service not only as Directors but as generous and enthusiastic members of the Doctors' House Docent Guild. Our best wishes go with them as they move to their new homes.

Suzanne McKay

BOB WOODRING: A REMEMBRANCE

The passing of Robert L. Woodring on December 14, 1989 after a long illness deprives our organization of a faithful and helpful member and a treasured friend. Before Bob came onto the TGHS Board of Directors in 1987 he had earned a place among us on the basis of his helpfulness and of his long support of his wife, Zee Blanton. Bob's visible contributions were his attendance at our meetings and his willingness to help out in whatever way possible at our special events. When he came onto the Board he took up the arduous tasks of caring for our telephone answering service and maintaining our computerized mailing lists and producing our mailing labels. Even as his health declined, he was still dependable in discharging these obligations for TGHS.

My personal interactions with Bob Woodring involved a great deal of Board work, getting address labels made for various mailings, and helping him field questions which the public asked us via the telephone, which he had at his home. He would appear astride his classic motorcycle with the labels or, clad in his famous jumpsuit, whiz past to make a label delivery. He was congenial and always helpful. Little did I realize the other admirable facets of his character.

Additional glimpses of Robert Woodring were provided to those of us who assembled December 20 at the Church of the Lighted Window to take part in a memorial sharing of recollections about him. Bob was a devoted family man, on the evidence of his sons Paul and James. He had a deft touch with things electrical and electronic. One now suspects that Bob's frequent complaints about the problems with modern computers were really a type of private joke! His abilities with the repair and maintenance of all types of machinery clarified his dedication to his fine motorcycle and classic automobiles. Many who were present spoke up, and whether we were family members, bridge partners, Barbershop Singers, or Historical Society members, we were all in agreement that we were the richer for having known Bob Woodring and for having shared in the pleasure of his company.

Robert M. Newcomb

FAREWELL TO MARY AND BILL SHEPPARD

The Glendale Historical Society, especially all those persons associated with The Doctors' House, bid farewell to Mary and Bill Sheppard. During the times of restoration, organization, and the administration of The House, this couple have been there to mend, plan, inspire, and guarantee success. No request was ever too small, no challenge too overwhelming, for Mary and Bill to tackle with a spirit of joy and adventure. We thank them, and we will miss them. It has been said that no one is irreplaceable; Mary and Bill are very likely the exception to this rule. Good luck to both of you; we all wish you the best in your new home in Santa Fe.

Mary Franzen

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DOCTOR'S HOUSE DOCENT TRAINING CLASS

Are you interested in serving your community in a unique way? The Docent Guild of The Doctors' House is taking applications for its spring training classes March 5, 12, and 19, three Monday evenings. Docents in period costume give guided tours on Sunday afternoons and educational tours during the week on request. To learn more about the docent program or to sign up for the classes, phone Doris McKently at (818)243-0977.



**MEMBERSHIP**

Welcome to new members Don Schilling, Lois Woods, Lovice Hinsdale, Joseph Brazen, and Jean Maluccio.

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 Bank, 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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