



The Glendale Historical Society

TGHS QUARTERLY

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It's Official!! Alex Theatre Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

Long-time TGHS goal realized

By: Andrea Humberger

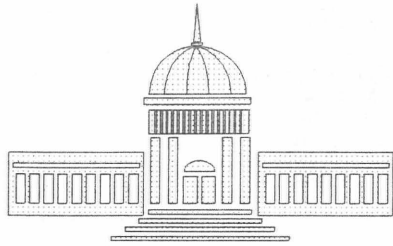
Last year the Glendale Redevelopment Agency hired Peyton Hall, preservation architect on the Alex rehabilitation, to complete a nomination for the Alex Theatre for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination was heard and approved on November 17, 1995 by the State Historical Resources Commission. On February 16, 1996, the Alex was listed in the National Register, joining the ranks of Glendale's Main Post Office, Verdugo Adobe, Derby House, YMCA, and the Glendale Hotel.

For TGHS, this is both an accomplishment and a dream come true as we have actively advocated since 1988 for a preserved and rehabilitated Alex Theatre which is both a multi-use performing arts center and a historic landmark listed in the National Register of Historic Places. We commend the Glendale City Council and Redevelopment Agency for following through!

TGHS BOOK SALE COMING JULY 27 - SEE PAGE 13 FOR DETAILS

Highlights	
Preservation update	2
Preservation Commission	3
Matching Contributions	4
Archive Additions	5
Doctors' House Report	4
Hot Victorian Romance	5
Doctors' House Chronicles	6
Calendar of Events	8
Glendale City Bus Lines	9
Goode House	12
Membership update	12
Directors Elected	12
TGHS Book Sale	13
TGHS sponsors	14
Membership information	15

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Preservation Update

By Andrea Humberger

San Fernando Road Corridor: In June 1991 TGHS began advocating to the Glendale Redevelopment Agency the need for a cultural resources survey of the new redevelopment area in order to identify potential historic resources early in the process to allow their incorporation into plans for the area. TGHS continued to advocate this position throughout the preparation of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) process in 1992. As part of the mitigation measures adopted when the Final EIR was certified in late 1992, a reconnaissance survey of historic resources was required within one year and a complete survey was required within five years to document potentially significant cultural resources in the area. In early 1996 TGHS representatives learned that a historic resources survey has been underway for the new redevelopment area for nearly a year without any participation or input from TGHS or any other member of the public. A TGHS representative contacted Project Manager Angela Moreno as well as Director Jeanne Armstrong of the Agency staff to ask when TGHS and other interested parties would have an opportunity for input. The answer: when the survey is complete. TGHS disagrees with this approach and plans to discuss this issue soon with the City Manager and members of the Redevelopment Agency. Meanwhile, vintage buildings on San Fernando Road continue to be demolished, particularly those in the Tropico area which TGHS pointed out in their comments on the EIR to be of potential significance.

Preservation Ordinance: The recently-adopted revisions to Glendale's Historic Preservation Ordinance are the result of over a year's work by the City's Planning Division in response to ideas expressed by City Council and the Historic Preservation Commission in a joint study session in November of 1994. The revisions incorporated the input of various City departments, City

commissions, and the public, including TGHS. Adopted on March 7, of this year, the revisions enhance preservation policy in Glendale by streamlining the review process for projects affecting landmark properties; provide incentives to the owners of landmarks such as expanded land uses and parking exceptions; make it easier to list and de-list landmark properties; and create penalties for demolishing a landmark. While TGHS regrets the weakening of the ordinance by City Council's introduction of several measures, including the requirement for owner's consent for landmark designation, we are overall pleased with the resulting ordinance. TGHS commends the Glendale Planning Division and Historic Preservation Commission for their comprehensive revamping of Glendale's Historic Preservation Ordinance.

Exemption of Churches from Glendale's Historic Preservation Ordinance: As we have previously reported, St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church, a designated local landmark, (formerly the First Church of Christ, Scientist located at 500 S. Central) filed for a General Plan Amendment in 1994 to be removed from the landmark list. The Environmental and Planning Board voted in April 1995 that an Environmental Impact Report was required for the action. Not wanting to pay for the EIR, St. Mary's began lobbying in late 1995 for a revision to Glendale's Historic Preservation Ordinance which would exempt churches, and recruited support from Holy Family Roman Catholic and First Baptist, the other two designated churches. In response, in December 1995 City Council instructed the City staff to prepare such an amendment to the Historic Preservation Ordinance. The same month the Environmental and Planning Board voted to require an EIR for the proposed revision. Since that time, the City has voted to pay approximately \$50,000 for preparation of the EIR and has hired EIP Associates of Pasadena to prepare the EIR. TGHS strongly opposes the exemption of churches from Glendale's Historic Preservation Ordinance and will continue to participate in the public process on this issue.

Richardson House (1281 Mariposa Street): The bank recently foreclosed on this designated local landmark and it is currently for sale. Built by Glendale pioneer W.C.B Richardson in 1873, the residence was relocated to its current site between 1910 and 1915. Anyone interested in this landmark property should contact Ralph Suarez at Keeler Dilbeck Realtors at 818-790-6774.

Byram House (227 North Everett Street): The City recently made an offer to purchase this historic property which is also for sale. Built in 1884, this farmhouse is historically significant as the homestead of Ellis T. Byram, one of the founders of the Town of Glendale. Designation of the house as a local landmark was approved by the Historic Preservation Commission in 1990 pending conformance with some minor conditions which have not yet been met. If the City's purchase offer is accepted, the City will work with a nonprofit organization to develop the residence for affordable housing use for a special needs population. The proposed plan for the house would include a partial restoration, an addition, and completion of landmark status.

Openings on the Glendale Historic Preservation Commission

By Andrea Humberger

The second terms of Commissioners Marlene Roth and Georgia Abelmann will expire this year (July and October respectively). City Council is currently accepting applications for the first vacancy. Anyone interested in serving on this important commission should apply at the City Clerk's office in Room 110 of City Hall. According to the City's Historic Preservation Ordinance, potential commissioners must demonstrate interest, competence, and knowledge in historic preservation. Individuals with experience in the disciplines of architecture, history, architectural history, planning, archeology, or other related fields are encouraged to apply. All potential commissioners must reside in Glendale. Each commissioner is appointed by City Council for a three-year term.

Historical Note

The nickname "Jewel City" was coined by Edward Emery around 1910. He was so impressed by the view of Glendale and the Verdugo Hills that he said "it sparkled liked a jewel in the sun." (From *Glendale Area History*.)

Matching Contributions

Many companies have a matching gift program which enable their employees to help their favorite organizations. One TGHS member takes advantage of his employer's matching gift program each year when he renews his family's membership. If such a program exists at your company, ask for a matching gift form. Follow the instructions and return it to: The Glendale Historical Society, P.O. Box 4173, Glendale, CA 91202.

The extra funds help us operate a large number of TGHS' programs. If you have any questions regarding donations of this type, please call TGHS at (818) 242-7447.

Archive Additions

Recent additions to the TGHS archives include several high school yearbooks from Glendale Union High and Hoover High School and Glendale College. Other donations included several volumes of the local League of Women Voter's scrapbooks and smaller miscellaneous items.

We are looking for additional school yearbooks. We have found them to be a great resource. Not only do they give us a glimpse of Glendale's youth over the years, but they also give us an insight of Glendale area businesses over the years, as they are filled with advertisements from local businesses. We would also appreciate receiving other relevant memorabilia from Glendale's past. Items such as menus from Glendale restaurants, programs from local theaters and area clubs would also greatly enrich our files.

Special thanks to Suzanne Bitterman, Bob Newcomb, Cheryl Witzig, Vi Long and Doris Biggs who have been sorting and cataloguing our archives. Additional help could be used.

If you would like to donate relevant items to our archives or help work on the archives, please contact William Shepherd at (818) 242-7447.

News Flash from the Doctors' House

By: Isabelle Meyer

The Doctors' House Docent Guild started the year with our third annual Valentine's Day Dinner Raffle. This fundraiser has been a very successful one for our group, thanks mainly to the support of the many TGHS members who purchase raffle tickets in the hopes of being the lucky winner of a uniquely romantic dining experience. This year's dinner was once again lovingly prepared by La Fontana Restaurant on Brand Blvd. and much appreciated by the winners, City of Glendale Treasurer Betty Evans and her husband. Nancie Pike, Terry Richman and Isabelle Meyer were the hostesses who gladly gave the lucky couple a private tour of the museum between courses. Many thanks to all our supporters and La Fontana. Please show your appreciation of their support by patronizing this excellent dining facility.

From mid-February to the end of March, the Doctors' House joined in the festivities around Glendale's 90th Birthday by staging a special exhibit highlighting life in and around the Doctors' House in the year 1906. Each room was decorated with props and visual display boards about various aspects of life in Glendale, and our visitors enjoyed this novel perspective to the museum's history.

On April 29th we had to face reality. Moving just about every piece out of the museum to enable the painters to repaint all the ceilings, window sashes and upstairs walls. Thanks to an outstanding volunteer crew, we managed to stage a day-long effort of dismantling, wrapping and boxing most items and moving them into a huge trailer placed by the City outside the house. Nobody would have guessed from its dilapidated exterior that such treasures were tucked in-side. Meanwhile, the museum had to be closed. Of course, the docents did not complain about this first respite from their touring duties in twelve

years! Finally, on May 3rd, a mere eight days before our next scheduled fundraiser, our crew reassembled and gave another full day to clean the house, move everything back into place and collapse after a job well-done. Many thanks to our volunteers: Marie and Glenn Luft, Wally and Lorraine Forestall, Lorraine and "Zaby" Zabaro, Dick and Craig Montgomery, Merry Franzen, Nancie Pike, Robert Newcomb, Bill Shepherd, Carole Dougherty and Isabelle Meyer. Lorraine and Isabelle washed all the draperies and linens and Glenn restored various signs to their formerly pristine shape. Our cozy lunch under the nearby trees reminded everyone of the "good old days" when the Doctors' House was first restored.

Last, but not least, on May 11th, we staged our Mother's Day event which combined a reprise of our Victorian Romance play performed by docents and members (Robert Newcomb, Doris McKently, Emily Wargo, Bill Shepherd, Nancie Pike, Denise and Leslie Tari, Anna Rundle, Carlos Cabrera, Shannon Pedlow and Craig Montgomery, narrator Judy Sackson and directors Merry Franzen and Isabelle Meyer). with a baked goods buffet and lemonade and a silent auction with 15 prizes donated by merchants from Kenneth Village and Brand Blvd. Those who attended enjoyed themselves in spite of the heat.

We would like to thank all the donors for their generosity in these lean times and hope that you will take your future business to the following supporters of our fundraiser: Donor businesses are listed on page 14.

On May 19th, the Doctors' House opened for Sunday tours once more. We hope you will bring some of your friends to visit during the summer months and view the **Fell-White Textile Collection** on display throughout the house. By the end of June the exterior painting of the house will be finished.

Two future events to keep in mind when planning your calendar are our first-ever "**Mid-Summer Madness**", a late afternoon

in the park on **August 4th** with a picnic, all kinds of old-fashioned games, a patriotic raffle (please donate any red-white-and-blue items suitable!), ice-cream, popcorn and lemonade as well as musical entertainment, if we can get it. The event will be free and we hope to attract not only our faithful longtime supporters but many members of our community who have never participated in our events. Please spread the word to make this a fun event! Sometime in October we plan to have an exhibit of old and new quilts at the house with the help of the **Glendale Quilt Guild**. More detailed information on these events will follow. We would appreciate your ideas and/or questions. You can reach docent coordinator Isabelle Meyer at 242-4290.

Oops! We inadvertently omitted, in the last newsletter's Doctors' House report, Paul Shearer from our list of volunteers who helped us clean the museum last October for the holiday event. Our apologies and thanks for your help, Paul!

A Hot Victorian Romance

The showbiz tradition that the "show must go on" was honored by the Doctors' House Players, the dedicated group that stages the Victorian Romance. These hardy individuals braved 100 plus temperatures to bring the show before an audience that nearly suffered meltdown.

Judy Cabrera, a member of the cast who was unable to participate, was kind enough to share with us a letter that she received from Dr. Victor Patterson, (better known to us as Bob Newcomb). We present this eyewitness account of events behind the "curtain."

Dear Mrs. Cabrera,

In light of your schedule conflict such that you were unable to join us at the Doctors' House on the 11 of May, I am taking the liberty of imposing upon your time to give you a brief summary of the events at that locale with regard to our Victorian Romance produced by the Glendale Historical Society.

Your son, Carlos, was a star performer in both contests, "Newspaper tossing" and "Running whilst sucking upon a piece of ice"! I am of the opinion that his performances in both of these events will set new records for TGHS! Congratulations to you and to Mr. Dan Cabrera.

Our original narrator was unable to attend, so Judy Sackson did the duty. She was first-rate, although, she later revealed, she nearly roasted in her Victorian costume.

We also had a new Ice Man, Craig Montgomery, and a new (old) Milkman, Shannon Pedlow. His pace with the milk bottles was just perfect for the role!

My "difficult" patient and her husband were both in top form, and neither had a word of complaint to utter regarding the warmth of their costumes!

With regard to "Logistics", one of those new-fangled words, we worked like Beavers to get set-up and ready for our Audience. One could tell that we are not Equity Folk, since tasks of all manner of specialties were carried forth by both skilled and unskilled locals. As an example, Dr. P and the Ice Man were in charge of the electronics, that is, of the speaker system. Even trying to find a live outlet to connect with was a challenge. And my Gibb Door was once again painted shut, but the enterprising Ice Man cleared up that problem so that I was able to take the morning sunshine on my accustomed porch.

Thankfully, we had umbrellas and the Montgomery tent, all of which provided shade for the 45 guests who assembled for our Production. Tables beneath the nearby trees were popular. And, oh yes, Able-bodied Dick Montgomery saw to it that the Stars and Stripes were bravely flying.

And we had finger food and cookies for a least 300 folk. Could have supplied the wedding reception down by the Japanese Teahouse! And scenery struck and all squared away by quarter-to-five in the warm afternoon! A job Well Done says the Patterson Household, tradespeople and Helpers.

Yours truly,

Dr. Victor Patterson



The Doctors' House Chronicles

The continuing series on the people who were important to the Doctors' House.

Nell Shipman

Nell (Barham) Shipman was born in 1892 to British parents in Victoria, British Columbia. Though physically petite, she was tough, determined, and obsessed with acting. When Nell Shipman left her middle-class family at age 13 and set off on her first great adventure, acting in traveling theater and vaudeville, the film business was little more than a cottage industry. By the time Shipman moved to Southern California in 1911, motion pictures had grown from a novelty into a highly lucrative new form of mass entertainment. Films were being produced at an unprecedented rate, and opportunities abounded for film companies, large and small.

During her first year in California (South Pasadena), Shipman (who had married Ernest Shipman), became pregnant and was considered "unfit" for acting roles. She began writing scripts which she sold to some of the more established movie companies like Selig, Universal and Vitagraph. After giving birth in 1912 to her first child Barry, Shipman secured acting roles as well. Quite often these parts called for feats of movie heroism, like swimming in raging rivers to rescue drowning heroines, "stunts" which were, in fact, quite real. And Shipman eagerly performed them. Like so many early film actors, Shipman often served as her own stunt double.

Then came fame as the lead actress, as well as the script writer, for Vitagraph's 1915 wilderness adventure film hit *God's Country and the Woman*. The picture's commercial success led to substantial contracts with Vitagraph, Fox and Lasky. And Shipman was offered a prime seven-year acting contract with Sam Goldwyn.

Her career in Hollywood was taking off. Yet during the making of *God's Country and the Woman*, Shipman became hooked making adventure films in the great outdoors. When the opportunity arose for her to make another such feature film, Shipman turned down offers of prominent stardom and headed toward the Arctic circle for an independent production of *Back to God's Country* (1919), the earliest surviving silent feature shot in Canada.

In 1917 Shipman had brought her parents to live with her and her husband and son "to the little white house on Wilson Street in Glendale." According to Barry Shipman, his mother chose the Victorian home to please her parents, who were "very British -- descendants from an upper-middle-class family who couldn't get used to Hollywood. The house and town were more appropriate for their lifestyle."

Many important professional and personal events occurred during Nell Shipman's 3-year stay in the house. Soon after moving in, she was struck with the flu during the 1918 influenza epidemic. Barry Shipman remembered waiting with his grandparents in the formal Victorian style dining room for his mother to come downstairs to dinner. She fainted on the stairs, and lapsed into a coma; she eventually lost most of her hair. When Nell came out of her coma, she was told her 55 year old mother had passed away from double pneumonia, complications from the flu.

In March 1919, while Nell was in Canada making *Back to God's Country*, her father died after a "fit of apoplexy," which caused him to fall on the sidewalk near the house. In her autobiography Nell tells in an open-letter form about the three family dogs that loved and followed her father everywhere. "The trio used to string out ahead of you as you limped down the Glendale (Street), shopping of a morning. Remember? The store where they'd form a ring in front of the door into which their Man-God had vanished? The grocer said, 'Mr. Barham, we like to have your trade but do wish you'd leave the dogs home. The other customers are scared to pass them.'"

"Remember the man on the motorcycle who fell off when the terrible trio came yapping at his ankles? He shouted from the dust of unpaved Wilson Street that he knew to whom these animals belonged and would bring to suit and you answered in your priceless ultra-pinched-nosed British speech: 'Look here, my good man, it is you should be sued for riding that beastly machine when you don't know how to stay on it!'"

Nell and Ernie's marriage came to "the trails end" soon after. On May 12, 1920, the *Los Angeles Evening Herald's* front-page headlines read: "Nell Shipman, Actress, Wins Divorce." The divorce was granted on grounds of desertion; Ernest had left Nell, in April of 1919 after expropriating Nell's salary and was said to be living in New York City.



Nell Shipman. Photo courtesy of Barry Shipman

Some of Nell's descriptions of the house are as follows: a "little, white, fancifully-fretted, balconied and gee-gawed house on a tree lined, narrow, dirt road in Glendale known as Wilson." There was a "geranium-lined walk to the old-fashioned, colored-glass front door." The house "was crammed, mid-Victorian fashion" with pictures, ornaments, books, and a "dinner table set with the oversized wedding silver, the willow plates, the great white square of Irish linen rolled into silver napkin rings." "Father and I planted vegetables between the rows of orange trees."

It was at the Wilson Street house where Nell first met and hired Joseph Walker as a cameraman for *Back to God's Country* (he later filmed many of Frank Capra films and in 1982 received an Oscar for Scientific and Technical Achievement). In Walker's autobiography, *The Light on Her Face*, he tells of meeting Nell at the Glendale house and making photographic tests of her in the garden.

Back to God's Country became one of the 1919's biggest international hits: the film backers enjoyed over 300% on their investment. For Shipman, the movie was a lesson in how to produce and promote her own

distinctively styled independent films. She also learned how to elicit extraordinary performances from her animal co-stars without any of the standard cruel devices animal trainers utilized in Hollywood to make their animals "act."

With the success of *Back to God's Country*, Shipman went on to make three films in Southern California under her own independent production company. But as her career blossomed and the film industry prospered, power was shifting out of the hands of relatively small entrepreneurial companies and into the hands of larger studios. Despite increasing frustrations as an independent film maker, Shipman dreamed of building an isolated refuge where she could retain creative control of her projects. Shipman turned her back on Hollywood and left Southern California, moving her production company, with over seventy wild animal co-stars, deep into the beautiful wilds of Idaho. It was on the shores of Priest Lake, twenty-one miles from the nearest road and fifty miles from a railway line, that Shipman and her crew lived in modest log cabins and worked in sub-zero weather to make her dream come true.

For a while, Shipman's company thrived and a number of artistically and technically excellent films were produced. But this was the time of industrialization and standardization in American cinema. Regional film makers stood in stark contrast to the increasing more powerful studio system. Their independent movies, and production methods which stressed collaboration and location filming, became characteristic of an approach to film-making which was perceived as irrelevant. As the film industry consolidated, and as studios became "vertically integrated" (from financing to production to marketing and distribution), Shipman, like hundred of other independent producers, became locked out of financial and distribution channels. Three years after her move to Idaho, Shipman was bankrupt at the age of thirty-three.

After her recovery from the Idaho experience, Shipman remained active. She had twins (by artist Charles Ayers), and spent time in Spain, France, South Africa, New York, Florida and California. Bubbling with ideas until the last years of her life she produced several short films, published novels and magazine articles, and wrote film scripts, one of which was produced by Paramount, starring Cary Grant and Myrna Loy in 1935, called *Wings in the Dark*.

Although Shipman struggled to make a comeback, her career never regained the stature it had during the teens

and early twenties, Knowing that the mainstream of film history had passed her by, but never fully understanding why, Shipman chose the following words to end her autobiography:

*"There they go
Free from woe
Forgetting me
Aw, gee!"*

When Shipman died in 1970, she had spent the last decade of her life with sixteen cats in the desert of Cabazon, near Palm Springs, California. She was flat broke, supported by the kindness of her children and relatives. Though there is nothing left of her studio except a forested finger of land protruding into the blue waters off Priest's Lake, Shipman's films remain as a document of this early, determined film maker. They stand as a clear witness to a vision which was absolutely opposed to that offered by the developing image of twentieth-century industrialization. Her sensitivity toward the beauty of environment, her emphasis on the important of independent production, her humane treatment of animals and her vision of self-sufficient women were out of line with Hollywood's model of the future. Shipman and her films appeared to have been forgotten.

However, on December 6, 1992, Nell Shipman's contribution to woman's rights, the ecology and early-day film making was featured and applauded on the Leonard Maltin segment of TV's "Entertainment Tonight." Furthermore, Hightide Productions is considering making a feature film of Nell's life. The company is headed by Robert and Cindy Chenault. It was Cindy Chenault who saw a picture of the Doctors' House in *Westways Magazine* and recognized the former 921 E. Wilson address as the home Nell had lived in; she notified Barry Shipman about the Glendale Historical Society and Barry got in touch with this organization. After some research, we found we did have some information on the "famous movie star" who lived in the house. When the Doctors' House was being prepared to be moved, an elderly neighbor told Ellen Perry (Glendale historian and newspaper columnist) a delightful story about the little boy in the house and the actress who drove up in fancy touring cars, often accompanied by pet bears.

On May 12, 1993, Nell's great-granddaughter took a private tour through the house. Lani Shipman (Barry's granddaughter) is a drama major at USC. She said, "Everyone always talks about her (Nell). She was a real

strong presence in our family. It's very moving to see this house. It's strange because every time I walk into a room, I think, 'she walked here,' or 'he (her grandfather) slept here.'" Her visit was written up as a front-page story in the *Glendale News-Press* (May 13, 1993).

This is from the TGHS publications "Nell Shipman - Film Pioneer and Resident of the Doctors' House" and The "Docent Training Manual." The article was written by Terry Richman and compiled from press releases from Naked Eye Productions, Nell's autobiography, The Silent Screen and My Talking Heart, and conversations between her son Barry Shipman and Terry Richman.

Calendar of Events

Sundays -- 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Doctors' House Tours. Docent led tours of the Doctors' House. Last tour starts at 3:30 p.m. Admission free, however, \$1.00 donation per person is suggested.

Wednesday June 26 -- 8:00 p.m.

"Singing in the Rain," Gene Kelly's classic film presented by the Los Angeles Conservancy as part of its Last Remaining Seats series. Call LA Conservancy for information at (213)-623-2489.

Saturday July 13 -- 2:00 and 8:00 p.m.

"Some Like It Hot" presented by the Alex Film Society in the historic Alex Theatre. For info call (818)-243-ALEX.

Saturday July 20 -- 10:00 to 2:00 p.m.

TGHS Used Book Sale. 416 N. Glendale Avenue, Glendale. For information call (818)-242-7447.

Sunday August 4 -- 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Mid Summer Madness at the Doctors' House. Games, prizes, and more. Bring a picnic and join us! Free admission. \$.50 to \$1.00 for games; food, and raffle prize chances.

Sunday September 7, 1996 -- 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Annual TGHS Community Heritage Awards and Installation of 1996-97 Board of Directors. Doctors' House.

History of the Glendale City Bus Lines

Editor's Note (The following article was researched and written by Commodore C. C. Hutchinson, AFL for use in the *TGHS Quarterly* newsletter. The article was adapted by David Smith to fit our space constraints.

Glendale City Lines, Inc. (GCL) was formed in the summer of 1940 by Pacific City Lines, Inc. (PCL) of Oakland, California, a transit holding company and bus operator. The Glendale company was organized to purchase the assets of the Pacific Electric Railways (PE) local motor bus service lines operating within the greater Glendale area.

Pacific Electric, after watching its fortunes sink in local bus operations in the 1930's, sought to sell certain lines. During the 1930's, PE had begun systematically changing routes, and schedules, soon followed by cutbacks. It was utter chaos for the traveling public and the cities that regulated PE operations. No doubt the drivers suffered as they took one street on Monday and by Tuesday the route was changed! Thus, PE had created opportunities for independent operators.

Pacific City Lines, Inc. was affiliated with National City Lines, Inc. (NCL) of Chicago. The parent Company was formed in 1933 by the five Fitzgerald brothers of Minnesota who operated a small bus service. With the backing of Yellow Truck and Coach, Firestone Tires, Standard Oil and Greyhound Lines, the newly formed company began purchasing streetcar systems throughout the Midwest and South. They replaced the streetcars with bus lines using equipment manufactured by Yellow Truck & Coach. Of course, both Firestone Tires and Standard Oil also provided their respective products to the new bus lines.

All bus lines owned by National City Lines shared common fleet colors, logos, and drivers' uniforms and cap badges. (The NCL badge featured the NCL bar crowned with an eagle's spread wings).

In 1938, National City Lines was eager to expand to the west coast. Pacific City Lines, Inc. was incorporated in Wilmington Delaware with an initial capitalization of \$900,000. The new company was owned 37% by National City Lines, 37% by City Coach Lines (another bus holding company with operations in the Midwest and South), 12.5% by Yellow Truck and Coach and 12% by San Francisco based Bush and Co, a subsidiary of Anglo-California National Bank. Eventually, National City Lines acquired 100% ownership of PCL and by 1948 the two operations were merged

The stated mission of Pacific City Lines, Inc. was to purchase the existing Southern Pacific Railway streetcar systems. After purchasing the Southern Pacific streetcar lines in San Jose, Stockton and Fresno, PCL followed NCL lead and soon replaced the streetcars with buses. PCL would eventually own bus operations in many West Coast cities.



Logo used by Pacific Cities Lines. Art work courtesy of C.C. Hutchinson.

In 1940 Pacific City Lines entered negotiations with the Pacific Electric Railway to purchase their local lines in the cities of Glendale, Pasadena and San Bernardino. The purchase price for the Glendale operation was reported to be \$45,000 which included the routes, garage property at Broadway and Chevy Chase and 29 buses.

Pacific Electric had recently received permission from the California State Railroad Commission to restore streetcar service between Burbank-Glendale and Los Angeles via Brand Blvd and Glenoaks Blvd and permission to add an additional local bus line to the three lines it already operated. After the proposed transfer, PE would retain the streetcar lines and the Los Angeles to Montrose - Verdugo City bus line that ran on Glendale Avenue and Verdugo.

To complete the transfer, it was necessary for PCL to obtain approval from both the local cities and the California State Railroad Commission. This process required several public hearings.

On September 3, 1940, R. D. Moore, the manager of the proposed Glendale City Lines, appeared before the Glendale City Council seeking a franchise. In the plan that Moore presented, it was intended for GCL to take over all buses, garages, fares, schedules, and routes.

History of the Glendale City Bus Lines (Continued)

PE drivers could elect to come to the new company on a seniority basis. The only planned change in service was to replace the old PE equipment with new buses. Glendale City Lines would provide local service only, however, Los Angeles commuters could continue to use PE transfers. City Council was also told that Pacific Electric would continue to operate rush hour streetcar service on the line that ran east on Broadway to the PE garage at Chevy Chase.

Glendale Mayor W. J. Gross was concerned about PE's policy of having their local buses take layovers in the downtown area. Mr. Moore assured the Council, that the buses under GCL operation would do their layovers in outlying areas.

City attorney Aubrey Irwin pointed out that the Sparr Heights area had a long standing transportation problem. In response to this, Timothy J. Mannings, President of PCL, promised that the new company would begin a campaign to make the Glendale system user-friendly. The proposed campaign was similar to those used by PCL in Everett and Bellingham Washington and Fresno. Neatly attired young ladies were hired to act as hostesses. They canvassed the neighborhoods and business districts passing out free bus passes and information to introduce the public to the new bus service. This program worked and was continued until World War II when the hostesses became bus drivers replacing male drivers that went into the military.

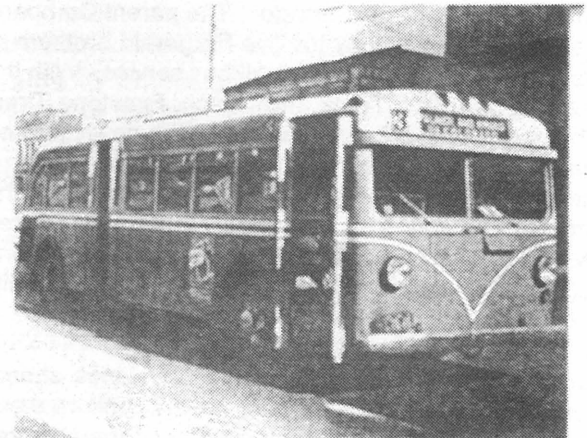
On November 14, 1940, the State Railroad Commission held a hearing in the Glendale Justice Court to take testimony on the pending transfer of the PE's bus operations in Glendale. During the hearing Glendale City Lines announced that it intended to replace all the existing PE buses with new Twin Coach or Yellow Truck & Coach buses as soon as they could be delivered, the present seven cent PE fare would be cut to five cents and a study of all bus routes and service would commence after assumption of service. The commission was apparently satisfied as the transfer was approved.

On January 7, 1941, the Glendale City Council approved the transfer and franchise. The approval required that each bus operated by PCL be issued a license and pay an annual \$40 fee. At this meeting, it was announced that new buses from Yellow Coast had

been ordered for \$75,000 and would be placed in service on the east-west route along Glenoaks to Rossmoyne with stops in downtown Glendale.

Pacific City Lines had relatively smooth sailing in obtaining approvals for the purchase of the bus lines in Glendale and Pasadena. It had a more difficult time in San Bernardino, where PCL planned to reduce service. PCL eventually pulled out of the option to purchase the San Bernardino lines.

Glendale City Lines began operations on Sunday, December 12, 1941. The new company delivered on its promises. Ten Yellow Truck and Coach 36 seat buses went into service in 1941. Four Twin Coach 41 seat buses were acquired in 1943 followed by fourteen General Motors 36 seat coaches in 1944 (Yellow Truck and Coach became a division of General Motors). The fares were reduced from 7 cents to 5 cents with intra-system transfer privileges. The shops and garage complex located at Broadway and Chevy Chase was painted in the Pacific City Lines colors. The old PE buses were repainted yellow with a "V" stripe in the front.



A Glendale City Lines bus from the 1940's. Photo courtesy of C.C. Hutchinson

Ridership on the Glendale City Lines skyrocketed during the war years due to gas rationing and the addition of a line to the Lockheed plant in Burbank. By 1946, six General Motors coaches were added to the system followed by 5 General Motors 36 seat buses in 1951. Both National City Lines and Pacific City Lines had the practice of reassigning buses within their systems and, by 1951 the Glendale fleet was entirely

History of Glendale City Bus Lines (Continued)

gasoline powered. This was unusual as the industry standard used diesel motors. The Glendale City lines was unique and became legendary for those interested in transit operations.

During the war years, the Federal Office of Defense Transportation inaugurated a "skip-stop" system to save gasoline and diesel fuel. Glendale City Lines responded by reducing the number of stops on its lines from 377 to 236.

After the war, the Pacific Electric began cutting back its rail services in anticipation of the end of streetcar service. The Broadway rush hour line ended in 1946. In 1947-48 PE began single tracking its line on North Brand and made plans for further service reductions. By 1953, PE left the passenger business by selling its remaining rail and bus lines to San Diego based Western Transit Systems, Inc.

The 5 buses received by GCL in 1951 were the last to be added to the fleet as ridership started to decline. During 1951 GCL reported to the California Public Utility Commission that it carried 3,425,149 passengers and earned \$290,862 in revenues. Average fares in 1951 had increased to ten cents. GCL operated 30 buses, and had 41 employees including 32 drivers. During the period 1951 to 1962, ridership was reported to have declined by 20%. The decline of ridership was not unique to Glendale and National City Lines had began to reassess its operations. In 1955, its Sacramento operations were sold, followed by the 1958 sale of its Los Angeles Transit Lines to the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority. The Glendale, Pasadena and Long Beach lines were reported to be barely profitable. In 1960, the Long Beach operation was sold to the City of Long Beach and the Pasadena operation was sold for \$240,000 to a private operator. The new buyers operated the Pasadena Lines at a loss until it was sold to the Southern California Rapid Transit District in 1967.

The Glendale City Lines published its last route schedule and system map in October 1958. At that time, there were four lines operating on a thirty minute base schedule. A branch line was operated out to Lockheed during rush hours. There was no service after 7:30 p.m or on Sundays and holidays. For the next four years, the operation limped along with a worn-out fleet of gasoline powered buses and declining ridership.

The end for the Glendale City Lines came in November 1962 when the drivers struck for higher wages. GCL

drivers were paid \$2.21 an hour compared to \$2.48 paid by Pasadena and \$2.72 paid by the MTA. In 1962 the minimum wage was \$1.05. The Brotherhood of Railroad Tradesmen attempted to negotiate with GCL for 22 days without results. The strike shut down all local service in Glendale. The Glendale News-Press reported on November 22, 1962 that Glendale Mayor William Howard Peters was unsuccessful in attempting to bargain with GCL to end the strike. Glendale then asked the California Public Utilities Commission to revoke GCL's franchise and requests were made to the MTA to either take over the GCL lines or to offer alternative service. The MTA responded in December 1962, by announcing it would start two new routes that would criss-cross portions of Glendale City Line's routes.

The Glendale City Line buses were sold and its garage property sat vacant until replaced by the Alpha Beta market and shopping center in 1966.



Cover of the final schedule issued by Glendale City Lines in 1958. Courtesy of C.C. Hutchinson

About the author. Commodore C.C. Hutchinson, AFL is a former Glendale area resident and 1970 graduate of Eagle Rock High School. His working career has been in the field of transportation, retail sales, and as consultant to hobby and train stores. His publication credits include; Model Railroad Magazine, Toy Train Operating Society Magazine, Classic Toy Trains Magazines, The Collector, Brinnon Gazette and The Road Runner. He resides in San Francisco.

TGHS Members Feted at Goode House Reception

by: William Shepherd

On the beautiful, sunny afternoon of April 20, 1996, The Goode House Committee of the Crippled Children's Society hosted a reception for TGHS members. Over sixty members toured the newly restored home of Glendale pioneer E.D. Goode.

The Goode House Committee is composed of representatives from the Crippled Children's Society, The Glendale Historical Society and the community-at-large. The Committee is holding a series of open houses to promote the restored landmark as an educational tool and to publicize the Committee's goal of furnishing the House with period furnishings.

Goode House Committee member (also TGHS member and City of Glendale staff person), Dave Ahern set up numerous displays about the history and restoration of the historic site. Visitors chatted about the outstanding restoration work done to the home and about the Ivey Glen Apartments for which the Goode House is the community center. Refreshments included coffee, tea, punch, a lovely arrangement of fruit and a wide assortment of cookies.

TGHS thanks the Goode House Committee for the opportunity to be the first community group invited to tour the House. On April 23, the Board of Directors voted to donate \$100 to the "Goode House Acquisitions Project." The donation was made to the Committee at its April 26 meeting by TGHS President, William Shepherd.

The Goode House Committee is seeking additional members to assist it in its goals. Persons interested in joining the Committee or in making donations to the Goode House Acquisitions Project should contact either Kay Scholtzman, Crippled Children's Society, at (213) 874-3300 (x306) or William Shepherd,

TGHS, at (818) 242-7447.

Membership Update

A special welcome to the following new members who have recently joined our organization.

Individual and Family

Karen M. Dixon
Rosemary D. Ibanez

A special thanks to the following members who have recently renewed at the upper membership levels.

Tropico Patrons(\$100)

Stephen & Christy McAvoy
William Shepherd

Sustaining (\$50)

Evelyn Cecere
Mr. & Mrs. John Clauss, Jr.
John & Eileen Manus
Richard Montgomery
Robert Newcomb
Don & Bea Penniall

Small Business

David L. Smith & Company

Congratulations to the following members on their election to the TGHS Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting.

Carol Eckert
Richard Montgomery
Robert Newcomb

Editors' Thank you

Special thanks from the editors to the writers for submitting their articles and to Daphne Lindstrum for handling mailing of this issue of the *TGHS Quarterly*.

The Glendale Historical Society

presents its
second annual

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The Glendale Historical Society would like to thank the following businesses for sponsoring this issue of the *TGHS Quarterly*. For information on how to become a co-sponsor of the newsletter please contact David Smith at 818-507-1999 or call TGHS at 818-242-7447.




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An Invitation to Join the Glendale Historical Society

The Glendale Historical Society was formed in 1979 by a group of citizens who banded together to save the Doctors' House from demolition. The Society led the grass roots efforts of the 1980s to relocate the house to Brand Park and to authentically restore and furnish the house to its 19th century appearance. From this beginning, the organization quickly grew and initiated other programs related to the preservation of the heritage of Glendale.

The goals and objectives of the Glendale Historical Society are to:

- Advance the study and appreciation of local history.
- Promote the preservation of structures and sites that are culturally significant for their historical or architectural importance.
- To be an advocate for the preservation of historical resources.
- To insure the continued public access and enjoyment of the Doctors' House.

The Glendale Historical Society is a non-profit tax-exempt organization and membership is open to men and women of all ages. Members receive the *TGHS Quarterly* newsletter, announcements to all meetings and events, discounts on selected TGHS merchandise and tours. Special membership events include the annual Christmas party, Awards Program, Fall Picnic and Installation Ceremony. New members will receive an initiation to a special welcoming reception. Members joining at the sustaining and higher levels will receive special recognition in the *TGHS Quarterly*. All new members will receive a copy of the TGHS map *Historic Sites in Glendale, California*.

Membership Application

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Please return this form to:
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For Information Call 818-242-7447

Its our heritage...please join us in saving it

**The Glendale Historical Society
Officers and Directors**

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Richard Montgomery
William Shepherd
David L. Smith

TGHS Quarterly Editors

William Shepherd
David Smith

Editorial Deadlines

Summer Issue --- July 31
Winter issue --- October 15.

The editors welcome letters and articles relevant to Glendale heritage from members and other interested parties. Please mail to:

The Editors
The Glendale Historical Society
P.O. Box 4173
Glendale, CA 91202.

Office Address:

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