



The Glendale Historical Society

TGHS QUARTERLY

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Summer 1996

1996 Community Heritage Awards Presented

by: *William Shepherd*

Long time TGHS Treasurer **Richard "Dick" Montgomery** was recognized as the President's Award honoree at the recent annual Community Preservation Heritage Awards. The event which took place on Saturday, September 7, 1996 also honored several others individuals and organizations.

In a show of the high esteem in which he is held, all of the living former TGHS Presidents (**Marie Luft, Carol Dougherty, Steve Preston, Bob Newcomb, Andrea Humberger and William Shepherd**) joined TGHS President **David Smith** in the ceremony presenting the President's Award to Dick. Dick was honored as "Mr. Historical Society" for his unending service as TGHS Treasurer, for his continuing support of all TGHS activities and for initiating the Historical Society's Endowment Fund at the Glendale Community Foundation. After the ceremonies, fifty of Dick's TGHS friends surprised him with lunch at the Tam O'Shanter Inn.

"Mr. Historical Society"



Dick Montgomery honored for his guardianship of the TGHS treasury received a special plaque that "cost nothing."

Awards Program (continued)

The morning's festivities began when Isabelle Meyer, Doctors' House Docent Coordinator, presented plaques naming **Mrs. Alan V. Andrews, Mrs. Frank White, and Mr. & Mrs. John Robert White IV** "Special Friends of the Doctors' House." They were honored for their generous contribution of the antique clothing and textiles, the Fell-White Collection, to the Doctors' House. **Bonnie Dunlap** was also honored as a "Special Friend of the Doctors' House" for her long time volunteer services in appraising the various donations given to the Doctors' House.

The immediate past TGHS President, William Shepherd, presented Certificates of Appreciation to **Isabelle Meyer** and **Nancie Pike** for their efforts in ensuring the Fell-White Collection was properly catalogued, photographed and stored. **Glenn and Marie Luft** were honored for their service to the Doctors' House as maintenance coordinators and for working with the City when the House was recently painted. **Sid Gordon** was recognized as "TGHS Sound Engineer" for his services in providing a sound system to numerous TGHS events over the years. **Daphne Lindstrom** was awarded honors for her volunteer efforts in the handling of TGHS bulk mailings. Plaques were awarded to two retiring members of the Board of Directors. **Doyle Kutch** who served on the Board from 1990 - 1995 and **Caroline Beniasians** who served from 1993 - 1996 were both lauded for their contributions and service.

David Smith, presented the immediate past President, **William Shepherd**, with a handsome wooden box in thanks for his service as President during the past two terms. Our Past President had not been told about the award before the day of the event and was taken completely by surprise.

The final group of awards were presented by Preservation Advocacy Committee Chair, Andrea Humberger. Recognition was given to the **Crippled Children's Society, Glendale Housing Authority, Madalyn Blake, Beth Stochl, David Ahern, Architaller, Khalsa & Associates,**

Walton Company and Winans Restoration Services for the restoration of the E.D. Goode House. **George Crittenden, Henry (Hank) Harrison, Dan Leimeter and Bob Miller** were recognized for restoring the film projectors at the historic Alex Theatre. Last, but not least, the **Alex Film Society** was recognized for its showing of classic films at the Alex Theatre.

Special TGHS thanks goes to each of the volunteers who worked on the event.

The Doctors' House Rejuvenated

by: Marie C. Luft

As the Doctors' House enters its second century, it has been given a new lease on life. Recently repainted, the House is once again vibrant and fresh.

Many thanks are due to City of Glendale Parks, Recreation, and Community Services under the direction of Nello Iacono and his staff, James Kurkowski, Parks Service Administrator and William McKinley, Administrative Analyst. The repair and repainting of both the exterior and interior was contracted to the L. D. Johnson Company. As with the original restoration, L.D.'s crew did a fine job, utilizing a generous donation of exterior materials by ICI Sinclair Paints. According to Gordon Rushforth, Sinclair Manager Architectural Consultant, the Doctors' House will be featured in the company's advertising campaigns. So, watch for those ads!

Thanks are also due to those TGHS members listed in our last newsletter who expedited the contract by clearing the House of its antiques and the City for supplying a container to house the furnishings.

The House is once again "put to rights." A revisit to the House is well worthwhile!

On the Soap Box

President's Message

By: David L. Smith

Looking Forward or Backwards?

One of things that attracted me to this organization, besides my own interests in local history and the preservation of buildings, was the people that make up the historical society. What a great group of people! Look at what they accomplished with the restoration of the Doctors' House, the operation of a house museum for over ten years, and the efforts that brought about the restoration of the Alex Theatre. All done by volunteers.

Some years ago a former member of city council referred to historical members as "people who stand still and look backwards." What this individual failed to understand was that our interest and concern about the history and heritage of our community is really part of the process of moving forward. The process of moving into the future requires that you review what you have, and then determine what must be kept and what can be disposed of. To move forward with confidence, you must have a vision of what the future will be.

Over the next few months, TGHS will be taking a look at itself to determine what our future should be. We have received a commitment for funds so that we can retain an expert to help us develop a vision statement (what we want the organization to be), a mission statement (our purpose for existing) and an action plan that will help us move forward to so that the vision becomes reality.

What is the future of TGHS and its role in the community? That will be determined during this extensive evaluation. This will be an inclusive project, our members and others in the community will be asked to participate. We will want your ideas on how to shape the historical society for the next ten to fifteen years. Please join us in this process.

There are many ways TGHS can help the community. The following is a list of some areas where TGHS could make an impact to the benefit of Glendale. This list is offered this as something to think about as we start the process to identify the future. Please feel free to add the items that you believe should be addressed by TGHS.

1. Glendale does not have a history museum
2. Only a relative small section of the city has been surveyed to determine what historic resources exist.
3. The landmark list is very short and no new buildings have been added.
4. Glendale youth have limited exposure to our community's heritage
5. Many Glendale residents are new to city and have not been exposed to our heritage.
6. "Redevelopment" always starts with the assumption that an area is vacant land rather than part of a city.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.

Docent Confesses!!!

Reveals secrets...says we

"Do 'Touchy-Feely' Things!"

(Nancie Pike, a lead docent shares her Doctors' House experiences)

I have a confession to make. I like being a docent at the Doctors' House. but, what I really love to do goes on behind the scenes...

Up front, I must tell you that I am among a group of volunteers who do "touchy-feely" things at the Doctors' House. Things that are normally taboo!

We have several sub-committees. One in particular stands out, in my mind, because these people really like to get down and dirty. As a matter of fact, their's happens to be the largest group. On certain Saturdays you can see them "doing it" all over the Doctors' House. Some are on ladders, others are down on their knees, while a few are brazen enough to do it outside! Their acts take many forms, yet they all do it and do it throughout the day, till faint from exhaustion they collapse on the lawn, out of breath, their bones creaking. What drives these preservation-loving volunteers to such excess? Is there any logical explanation for their behavior? Maybe not, but who among us could honestly say that we do not benefit from their activities? After all, the Doctors' House would not be as bright a jewel if it were not for the dedicated efforts of the Cleaning Committee.

Another lesser-known and considerably smaller group exists at the Doctors' House. This sub-committee has no name and meets at no regular interval. The members are ignited by a single passion. They love to break the rules. Their favorite rule to break is "thou shalt not touch the collection." They snicker at this admonition, and with joyous abandon fling open the drawers, toss the wigs off the mannequins, and rip out their arms and legs! Not only do they delight in dismembering them, but they leave the shades

open so all can see. What fiendish acts! The indignity! Sometimes, just for fun, the mannequins are put together backwards, so that a left hand is hideously sticking out of a right arm. How outrageous! The horror! I tell you this is definitely something that the public should not see...but would the Doctors' House be the same without its changing exhibits and displays?

Now really! Do I expect you to believe all this nonsense? Could it be true that maintaining the Doctors' House and its collections is this much fun? If you would like to know, I recommend that you come see for yourselves. To become involved in a behind the scenes committee, contact Isabelle Meyer, Docent Coordinator, at (818) 242-4290.

TGHS Used Book Sale

by: William Shepherd

On Saturday, July 20, 1996 a group of TGHS volunteers conducted our annual used book sale. Gathering early in the morning on one of the **hottest** days of the year, TGHS workers set out thousands of books to entice bibliophiles. The sale was a great success and raised over \$400 to help support future TGHS programs.

Special thanks goes to Sid Gordon who secured and donated the majority of the books for the event and who also worked on the day of the event. Thanks also to the following volunteers who worked hard to make the sale a success: Carol Eckert, Margaret Hammond, Glenn Luft, Marie Luft, Isabelle Meyer, Craig Montgomery, Richard Montgomery, Robert Newcomb, Ann Oliphant, William Shepherd and David Smith. Finally, a thank you also goes to Daphne Lindstrum for handling the bulk mailing of the publicity flyers.

Members Attend USC Program on Historic Preservation

"Historic Site Curatorship"

*by: Isabelle Meyer, Robert Newcomb
and Nancie Pike*

What follows is a report to the Society of the insights which were gained from our attendance at the USC 1996 "Program of Short Courses in Historic Preservation." We had selected the day-long session dealing with historic site curatorship. In pursuit of this offering, we were privileged to spend the entire day, with time out for lunch in Old Town Pasadena, in the Gamble House, that famous California Bungalow designed and build by the Brothers Greene.

Our class was small, only 19 students, and was ably led by Jeff Chusid, Program Director and Director of the Freeman House, Ted Bosley, Gamble House Director, and Barnes Riznick, Director of the Grove Farm Homestead, Kauai, Hawaii.

The three of us who attended this course, Isabelle Meyer, Robert Newcomb, and Nancie Pike, have selected for discussion three major theses which have particular relevance to TGHS' Doctors' House and to related support activities of the Society. We shall look at the Doctors' House as a functioning house museum and what this means as well as what opportunities are presented. Next, the whole matter of our docent staff will be examined with regard to defining their mission and to the types of training required in order to fulfill this mission. Our third topic will concern the major issues of networking among historical groups and the means whereby our particular message can be brought before a wider audience.

The Doctors' House as a Functioning House Museum

by Robert Newcomb

An historic house is one type of historic site. As such, it shares attention with national battlefields, with places where important political decisions were achieved, and with settlements, which today may be represented by mature towns and cities, but which historically loom large in the history of settlement and development of our national territory.

In our course, we were presented with the information that as many as 5,000 house museums exist today in the United States. Their numbers are concentrated in the eastern half of the country with, for example, some 500 sites situated in New York State alone!

The numbers of these mostly locally-based museums have been augmented greatly since 1960 as a reaction, in part, to threats from urban growth, city planning projects, changes in public tastes, and the impact of our National Bicentennial celebrations in 1976. At the more local level, a heightened appreciation for craftsmen's work, a re-discovery of the arts and crafts movement, and a greater interest in local public history have all contributed to this growth process.

The houses have as a group, passed through three potential and general phases of interpretation. There are some which have been the homes of famous persons, as in Mount Vernon. The house may be an outstanding example of craftsmanship, interior design, and/or furnishings, as the Gamble House. A third potential phase, and one which is increasingly popular, is the historic house which represents what life was like at a particular period in our history. Here in Los Angeles, the Avila Adobe on Olvera Street at the heart of El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Monument is a good example.

USC Program (continued)

Our Doctors' House has been developed and has grown to represent two of these three roles. It is identified with a number of locally famous persons during the early years of Glendale's history. Secondly, its physical restoration as an example of craftsmanship plus the quality of its interior period furnishings together well represent the second phase on interpretation. On this basis the Doctors' House can be termed an "outstanding period example."

It is with the third possibility of its cultural history relevance what we three envisaged a potential for further growth and development of our Doctors' House. What can the House tell us about the social and economic conditions existing in Glendale ca. 1900? What narratives can it relate to our visiting public regarding the activities and concerns of the Doctors, their wives and children, the domestic servants, and the tradespeople who inhabited and supported the House.? Can we, as a Society, illustrate the world of the Doctors' practices, the technical and professional impacts on their practices of new developments in contemporary medicine, the concerns and lives of their patients?

If these cultural history aspects of the Doctors' House are pursued, we as a Society will no doubt encounter a further challenge when issues concerning the focus and relative importance given to such interpretations are questioned or even contested. This third area of historic house interpretation is today a challenging and demanding undertaking, given the cultural and historical pluralities which mark our nation today.

The next aspect of the historic house museum which I should like to address concerns the perennial problem of financial support and fund-raising as these are essential elements in the maintenance and continuing use of such a house. Our seminar indicated that economic concerns are a standard and abiding aspect of house museums in the U.S. regardless of whether they have a salaried staff and endowments or, as most of them do, are dependent upon the free labor of society members and upon periodic, labor-intensive fund

raising undertakings.

Fundraisers as such depend upon novelty of items and very effective publicity outreach. The range of such events stretches from bake sales to rummage sales, and further to for-fee educational programs. One good idea for historic houses is to establish adequate "revenue-generating space" either within the House itself or adjacent thereto. The most frequent form taken by such space is the bookshop, but a more elaborate store and a broader range of saleable items may be possible if space and staffing permit. The excellent and elegant bookstore in a separate structure adjacent to the Gamble House is a good example of the optimum installation. Within such a space and with adequate staffing, which the Gamble House can call upon, it comes as no surprise that this bookstore is a major revenue producer.

With regard to our Doctors' House, our paved forecourt is a space which can be adapted for fund-raising activities, and so it has functioned on past occasions. If our Gazebo Project is realized, this would provide an excellent venue for fund-raising activities.

Upon further discussion, our group developed a clear feeling that, as much as possible, fund-raising should be the result of concentrated effort which is expended perhaps no more than twice a year. We also felt that our Society should offer less formal, free fun events as a balance, with less labor input, and with the expectation that the image of the House in the community would be further strengthened.

Proposed Changes to the Doctors' House Program *by Isabelle Meyer*

As a result of the workshop, I have developed a twelve point proposal to enhance the Doctors' House Program.

USC Program (continued)

- 1 Acquisition of four books for the docent library:

Historic House Museums: A Practical Handbook for Their Care by Butcher-Youghans

American Home Life by Jessica H. Foy and Thomas J. Schereth

Recreating the Historic House Tour Interior by William Seale

The Good Guide: A Sourcebook for Interpreters, Docents and Tour Guides by Alison Grinder and Sue McCoy

2. Push ahead with plans for the gazebo, which could serve as an important revenue generating area for book sales, teas and other social events and educational programs.
3. Limit fundraisers to two per year and consider other events for publicity reasons only. E.g., Valentine's Day Dinner Raffle and Christmas time Candlelight Tours as fund raisers; Victorian Romance play, Midsummer Madness and Mother's Day events for publicity.
4. Develop a program for continuing education for the docents, both to familiarize them with changing exhibits on-site, as well as with related themes off-site.
5. Mail out questionnaires periodically to gauge preferences of the docents, any suggestions for improving the program and voicing areas of dissatisfaction or concern.
6. Videotape any future special exhibits for use both by docents and to facilitate repeating exhibits.
7. Pursue endowment opportunities, e.g., with medical institutions such as hospitals, doctors' associations, etc. This would aid in

maintaining the museum as well as acting as sponsors for future events.

8. Reach out to other museums in order to arrange for joint exhibits, visitor exchange, new ideas, etc.
9. Arrange for an annual meeting on site with representatives of the Glendale Fire Department to discuss procedures and access to minimize damage to the House in an emergency.
10. Provide basic training to docents of procedures to follow in an emergency, e.g., calling for help, evacuation plan for all rooms, first aid, etc.
11. Approach high school and middle school students to be trained to give tours to elementary school students and/or to become docents.
12. Post a six-month schedule on the gate and have ¼ page size schedules available to publicize upcoming events.

Effective Networking

by Nancie Pike

The workshop proved to be an excellent example of effective networking. The class was filled with people of diverse backgrounds who had traveled from various parts of the world to that one room, to hear and share the same information. I wondered what could possibly have drawn us all together?

I spoke with several of my classmates, eager to learn more about them. One was a student from Germany, studying Urban Planning back home. He had heard of the USC Program from an American friend. Another gentleman was a contractor from Fiji, who was preparing a restoration survey for a Dutch Colonial waterfront village. His contact was an architect from

USC Program (Continued)

Pasadena who was working with him overseas. Each person I met had been referred to the workshop by someone else, a process we commonly call "net-working." The information they had received was compelling enough to cause them to take time off from what they were doing, to incur the expense to travel, book accommodations, and to pay for the entire course, which cost over \$1,000. (Note: the three TGHS representatives attended only one session of a multi-series course).

One of our teachers, a museum house director, reinforced the importance of networking during the workshop. His organization had faced many problems in fund raising. Although he had an excellent Board of Directors and a dedicated volunteer staff, he was unable to get the results he desired when it came to raising money. Like many museums, they had planned various special events throughout the year. Each one took months to plan, used capital to advertise and produce, and burdened the docents with long hours in addition to their regular schedules. The profits derived from these fund raisers were usually slim. It seemed clear to the Director that his was not the best way to raise money. He decided to try a completely different approach, and contacted other museum homes in order to develop a group event. The result was the workshop that we attended, which has been profitable every year it has been offered.

This made me realize that opportunities for networking are just waiting to be explored. TGHS can conduct group exhibits with other historical societies and raise public awareness for each of the participating groups as well as to increase attendance to our museums through this linkage. We welcome your comments and suggestions for future networking projects.

Conclusion

As the three part report indicates, we three TGHS members who attended the Historic Site Curatorship course came away with many new insights and suggestions for the better development of our Doctors' House programs. We hope that, in sharing these insights with other members of the Society, we will move toward a more effective and more enjoyable presentation

of this sector of Glendale's past.

TGHS received a grant from The Waterman Foundation to improve the Doctors' House program by providing specialized training for the docents. Funds from this grant paid the attendance fees for two of the participants.

Doctors' House Report

By: Isabelle Meyer

For the past three months, visitors to the Doctors' House have been able to admire the Fell-White collection throughout the museum. We especially enjoyed the opportunity to show off our display to the ladies whose family so generously donated this unique collection. On June 14, 1996, we served tea in the dining room to Mrs. Betty Andrews (nee White), Mrs. Marilyn White and Mrs. Connie White. This was also a great opportunity to exchange relevant family information about the Fells and Whites and get to know each other better. Since then, two daughters of Mrs. Andrews from Oregon and Virginia have also had a chance to see the exhibit.

Usually, the summer months are fairly slow and easy-going at the Doctors' House. But, this year's summer doze was interrupted by our first Midsummer Madness event on August 4 during the late afternoon hours. Vintage cars, old-fashioned victrola recordings, a performance by a quartet of the Sweet Adelines - the Swing Sisters, outdoor games, refreshments and a patriotic raffle all helped to attract new visitors and contributed to an unexpected rush for house tours which challenged our docent crew. Many thanks to all who helped with these activities or by donating prizes.

We welcome two new docents to our program, Bonnie Fitzgerald and Gerald Petrone. We know they will soon feel at home in the Doctors' House and at various TGHS events.

Our next exhibit at the Doctors' House has drawn an unexpected amount of interest among not just our docents, but also among other interested individuals. During the months of October and November, we will show a room-by-room display

of objects and information related to Victorian mourning customs, a captivating and sentimental subject dear to the hearts of turn-of-the-century people. We hope you will come and enjoy this exhibit with your family and friends. If you have any relevant materials that could be used for this exhibit, please contact Isabelle Meyer at (818) 242-4290.

Last, but not least, we have scheduled this year's Christmas Candlelight tours for Saturdays, December 14 and 21, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. As usual, we will have a bake sale both nights. Donations for the sale will be appreciated. Also, extra help will be needed to supplement the docent corps. Call Isabelle for further information or to volunteer.

TGHS Gets Requests For Info

TGHS received two recent requests from individuals wanting info about places that once existed or persons who once lived in Glendale. Do you know about the Woods Hotel or Mr. Niesom's Drug Store? Perhaps you have knowledge of the Frank E. Normandy or Harriet "Henrietta" DuFresne Normandy. Frank and Harriet lived in Glendale circa 1911-17.

Anyone willing to share information about these places or individuals can call TGHS (818) 242-7447 and leave a message for Bill Shepherd. Bill will then forward the information onto the persons who requested TGHS' help.

TGHS Archives Update

Thanks to TGHS member, Paul Ayers for contributing several photographs of the last Union Pacific Train out of Glendale. The pictures were taken by Paul's uncle, Loren Ayers. The last train left June 9, 1956.

TGHS member Suzanne Bitterman has been working long hours on organizing our archives. Now she gets to help box them for the anticipated move to the new office. Want to help? Please call TGHS at (818) 242-7447.

To make a donation to TGHS' archives, please call TGHS at the above number.

Calendar of Events

The TGHS calendar of events is a listing of events sponsored by TGHS and other nearby organizations dedicated to the preservation of local heritage.

Sundays, October 6 - November 24, 1996

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

TGHS presents "Death and Grieving Customs in Victorian Times," special exhibit at the Doctors' House Museum located in Brand Park, 1601 W. Mountain Ave., Glendale. Last tour begins at 3:40 p.m. Free admission, but a \$1 per person donation is recommended.

Continuing through January 28, 1997

"Houses of Worship in Sunland-Tujunga" special exhibit at the Bolton Hall Museum. Little Landers Historical Society. Call (818) 352-3420 for details.

Wednesday, October 9, 1996, 7:30 p.m.

TGHS Educational Meeting. Dr. James Allen will speak on the "History of Multi-cultural Communities in Southern California." GlenFed Bank, 401 N. Brand Blvd. Free.

Thursday, October 17, 1996, 8:00 p.m.

The Alex Film Society with the Fuller Theological Seminary presents "*It's a Wonderful Life.*" Contact Alex Film Society at (818) 242-4870 for details.

Wednesday, November 13, 1996, 7:30 p.m.

TGHS Educational Meeting. Topic to be announced. Glendale Federal Bank, 401 N. Brand Blvd. Free.

Saturdays December 14 and 21, 1996

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

TGHS presents The Doctors' House 4th Annual Christmas Candlelight Tours. The Doctors' House will be decorated with an authentic Victorian Christmas Tree and decorations. The museum is located in Brand Park, 1601 W. Mountain Ave., Glendale. Free admission, but a \$1 per person donation is recommended. A Holiday Bake Sale will also take place both nights.

Sundays December 1, 8, 29, 1996

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

Regular Sunday tours of the Doctors' House.

Sunday, December 8, 1996 (early evening).

TGHS Christmas Party. Details to be mailed to TGHS members.



The Doctors' House Chronicles

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

**Katie and Joseph Dzaich,
Mary and Peter Kordich**

The Final Owners (1922-1980)

Mary and Katie were sisters who, with their husbands, were the final owners of the house. Members of the families lived in the house and in other buildings on their property for six decades, up until the house was moved. Their long-term residency accounts for the survival of the house in the post-World War II period when so many Victorian houses across the nation were destroyed. Their stories of life in Glendale can be said to have begun in 1908 when Mary and Katie's father, John Ribarich, came to the United States from Kujgana, a very poor village in Croatia. He left his wife and four children to find work and search for a better life for them in this country. But before he could send for them, he was killed in a cave-in, in a West Virginia coal mine.

In 1914, the older sister Mary came to the United States; she met Peter Kordich, who had come here in 1906 from another village in Croatia. They married July 29, 1914, bought a home in Los Angeles near Bunker Hill, and became parents to three girls: Lucille (b.1915), Margaret (b.1917), and Ann (b.1919). In the Kordich's Los Angeles home, immigrants from their home country, found a welcome place to board as they too tried to fulfill their dreams in America. Joseph Dzaich, who had come in 1906 from the same village as Peter, was one of the young men boarding with the Kordichs.

In 1921, Katie Ribarich (b.1899) followed her older sister to America and came to live with her. Introduced by a godmother who knew both Joseph's and Katie's families, the young couple fell in love and married in 1922. Their neighborhood consisted primarily of Croatian natives, with the heart of the community being St. Anthony's Catholic Church (Alpine and Grand), where the two couples married.

Joseph and Peter first found work in Los Angeles digging ditches for gas lines. A large tent was erected to feed the workers and it was this contact with a food commissary which eventually led both men into the restaurant business. Peter eventually became a head chef, and Joseph, at age 19, established his first restaurant near Pershing Square. Joe's Cafe was elegant, with white tablecloths and properly attired waiters. (At that site now is the Oviatt Building.) Later Dzaich established restaurants throughout the area. Before his death in 1959, he owned the Bohemian Grill near the Ambassador Hotel.

Joseph Dzaich heard from a friend about the Victorian home with a finished "little house" (the carriage house) and barn/workshop on the property at 921 E. Wilson in Glendale. The Dzaichs and Kordichs pooled their financial resources and purchased the three 50' X 150' lots along with the buildings. There is some conflict as to the exact date. Our chain of title records indicates the date was January 24, 1921, while Ann Kordich Bobo (who has all the family's official documents) found November, 1922 as the date of the original deed. A "Sales Agreement" is noted on our records and Martha Dzaich McDaniel recalls hearing that payments were made prior to the actual purchase.

Probably at the end of 1922, the Kordichs with their three girls and the Dzaichs moved into the house. Soon after, Katie gave birth to the first of their six children (five boys and one girl) who were born in the then front bedroom (the original parlor). Dr. Laura Brown attended Katie at every birth and was one of the relatively few women doctors in the country at the time.

The children's birth dates were as follows: John-1923, Martha-1924, Joe Jr.-1926, Mike-1928,

The Doctors' House Chronicles

Richard-1930, and Paul-1933. Martha says that her aunt, Mary Kordich, gave birth to her fourth daughter (Mary) in the back bedroom (the Doctors' Office) just two days before Martha was born in the front bedroom.

Martha describes the early Wilson neighborhood as "a real melting pot", where recent immigrants from Mexico, Germany and Ireland (especially a Mr. Murphy who owned a grocery store nearby on Broadway) lived together peacefully and helped each other during hard times.

She and her family have always been proud of how their father was determined to adapt to the ways of his new country. He was "way ahead of his times" and among the first to explore beyond the safety and familiarity of the Croatian section in Los Angeles, learn the English language and enter the mainstream of typical middle-class America. He did not allow his native language to be spoken in the house. When he got his citizenship papers, he hung them on the wall along with the American flag and a portrait of George Washington.

Martha Dzaich and Margaret and Ann Kordich all describe Mary Kordich as the matriarchal head of the family. She was the "big sister" who took care of everyone. Ann was 14 years old when the youngest Dzaich boy was born. She remembers her mother having to help deliver Paul, because the doctor was late and the delivery was a difficult one. Mary's generosity extended to the neighborhood: she took chicken soup to sick people or other food to people having a hard time during the Depression.

Around 1925, the two families built a 4-family apartment on the northeastern section of the property (directly behind the house) and rented it out. Various members of both families also lived in some of the apartments at various times.

In the early 1930s, the Dzaichs moved into the carriage house (915 E. Wilson) on the southwest corner of the lot and never lived in the Doctors' House after that time. Martha described the "little house" as having a windowed porch on two sides,

two bedrooms, a living room, kitchen, bathroom and pantry on the bottom floor. By all accounts it was a pretty little building with historic markings. Members of the Glendale Historical Society regretted that it could not be preserved along with the house and it was torn down in 1980. Upstairs was an open area which Martha believes was once for storage of hay. Her parents converted the room into a dormitory for the five boys. Her parents and she slept in the downstairs bedrooms. Her aunt and uncle and four cousins stayed in what the Dzaichs called "the big house" or "Papa's house" long before it was ever named the Doctors' House.

Other details Martha remembers about the property are that the barn was used as a workroom and storage for wine-making barrels and was torn down, or actually "pushed over" by a car around 1960. She also describes cement steps out on the front curb and facing the street which seemed to step up to nowhere. The steps would have been installed to assist ladies getting out of a buggy. This feature from the past was destroyed when Wilson Street was widened.

Ann Kordich remembers that after the Dzaichs moved to the carriage house, her mother still often cooked both families' dinners; another cousin's family was also often there. The dining room (our display kitchen) was full at dinnertime! It is interesting that neither Joseph nor Peter did much cooking at home. Peter said the correct utensils were missing, but he did make a cheese omelet that Margaret loved. Martha Dzaich remembers the homemade potato chips her father made, and that he did sometimes cook for company, but that neither her father nor uncle were home for dinners very often - they were at work in their respective restaurants.

In 1946 the Dzaichs bought a house on Rossmoyne (where Martha now lives) and lived there for 13 years. In 1959, when Joseph's health was failing, they moved into one of the apartments behind the "big house", at 211 N. Belmont. Joseph died a few months later. Katie and two of her sons

The Doctors' House Chronicles

continued to live in the apartment until the property was sold and the building demolished.

Ann and Margaret remember that their mother loved the house and refused to sell it, although the Dzaichs encouraged her to do so at times. It had been her home for most of her married life and she didn't want to give it up, even after Peter died in 1975.

According to Ann, her father was "the most knowledgeable person about politics and what was happening in the world" that she's ever known. Her mother had more schooling and learned English sooner, but Peter Kordich was "very smart". He also loved the big vegetable garden between the two houses and got up every morning to work in it or the yard.

Joseph and Peter never learned to drive, so they rode the Red Car line back and forth to Los Angeles. Work began at 10 A.M., sometimes lasting until 2:30 the following morning. One occupational hazard that both the Dzaich and Kordich children remember was the wear and tear of Mr. Kordich's feet. He often sat out on the west porch in his rocking chair, soaking his tired feet, nodding pleasantly to passersby.

According to her daughters Mary Kordich was a private person. When the community learned of the historical importance of the Doctors' House neither she nor her family was interested in giving interviews about their lives. However, Katie Dzaich had many vivid memories that she shared with Ellen Perry which appeared in Ellen's articles in the *Glendale News-Press*. The following are excerpts from the articles: Katie often spoke of the wonderful flower gardens and large orchard of orange and lemon trees (38 in all) that were originally on the property. The family raised rabbits and chickens. Sauerkraut was made in quantity and stored in large oak barrels. Crates of grapes were pressed into wine and stored in a 6-foot-high wine vat. The large date palms in the front yard served as shade for the Sunday afternoon gatherings during warm summer months.

Oleander trees and yellow poinsettia surrounded the house. Later, fig trees were set out.

The children all attended Doran Street school (now R. D. White) and graduated from Glendale High. Katie remembered some of the boys' adventures with the street car line which ran along Wilson Avenue into Eagle Rock. Her sons flattened pennies on the steel rail. (Margaret Kordich says all the neighborhood kids got a thrill out of doing this, including herself and her sisters). One time Joe placed a large rock on the line and the conductor got out and gave chase. A young neighbor, George Newhouse, wanted to celebrate the Fourth of July with a loud bang and put a bit of gun powder on the tracks. He celebrated with a good tongue-lashing from the conductor.

Besides the pranks, the Dzaich boys also took part in industrious endeavors and a familiar sight on Sunday morning was seeing them pull the red and blue wagon of the *Times* and *Examiner*. Each boy also had a *Glendale News-Press* route. When they grew up, the five boys served in the armed services.

John was killed during WWII, and the loss of their first-born was a great and lasting sorrow to his parents.

During the Depression, food was never a problem for the two families because of the restaurant, but toys were a different problem. The boys would make trips to the police shooting range in Glenoaks Canyon, collect the spent bullets, melt them down and pour lead into a mold to produce their own soldiers. When the families purchased the first radio on the block, the neighborhood children gathered to listen to the "*Lone Ranger*".

Several times a year Katie would gather all the children and a few neighborhood youngsters for a ride by Red Car into Los Angeles and Joseph's restaurant. This was the time the children selected their favorite food and later a movie. As the Dzaich children grew, each took his place working at the restaurant.

The Doctors' House Chronicles

After their home was listed in Glendale's "Historic Preservation Element" and became known as an historical landmark, there were some difficult moments when the families' lives and long-time private residences were intruded upon. Mary Kordich, for example, was very ill and her daughter Ann had to turn down some of the many requests to see inside the house. Katie was not living in the house, but in the back apartment building with her two sons. The carriage house was being rented out. The Dziachs felt some of the sale agreements with the developer were less than fair; the Kordichs said they "got the asking price the families had agreed on for the property and buildings," and they were satisfied.

After the property was sold to the developer, Katie Dzaich bought a house in Glendale and lived there with Richard, until he died in 1989, and Joe, who still lives in Glendale. Katie died in October, 1992. Mary Kordich and Ann moved to a condo, Mary passed away in 1984.

In addition to Martha and Joe, Katie is survived by her other sons, Mike of Hood River, Oregon, and Paul of Kernville; eleven grandchildren and eighteen great-grandchildren. Mary is survived by her daughters, Margaret and Ann of Glendale, and Mary, who lives in New York; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

The members of the Glendale Historical Society wish to express their appreciation and gratitude to the Kordichs and Dziachs who preserved the house for future generations.

Editors Note

This articles is from The Glendale Historical Society's *Docent Training Manual* and was compiled by Terry Richman from *Glendale News-Press* articles by Ellen Perry and interviews with Martha Dzaich McDaniel, Margaret Kordich Huth and Ann Kordich Bobo by Terry Richman.

Membership Update

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

Yolanda Dasalla
Bonnie Fitzgerald
Gerard Petrone
Rose nepomuceno
Alan Bethanis
Yveta Petrosyan
Ann Ransford
Lucy and Burenll Yarick
Renee Kesler

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

Tropico Patron (\$100)
Michael & Carole Dougherty

Sustaining(\$50)
Jim & Libby Brown
Connie Humberger
John McKenna

Editor's Thank You

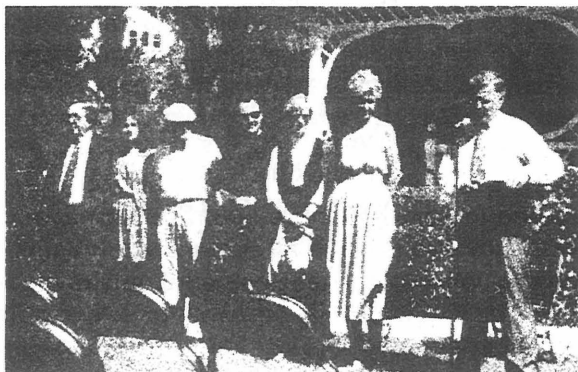
Special thanks from the editors to the writers for submitting their articles, to Sid Gordon for photographs of the Awards Program, and to Daphne Lindstrum for handling the mailing of this issue.

The Endowment Fund

In March 1993 Richard Montgomery started the Glendale Historical Endowment Fund with the Glendale Community Foundation. TGHS will receive the income from this fund **forever**. Tax deductible dondations can be made to the fund in any amount, For information contact Tom Miller at 818-241-8040.

The 1996 Community Heritage Awards

**A day of fun and festivities
at the Doctors' House.
And was it ever Hot!**



Would you trust your organization to this group? All living past presidents of TGHS were on hand to present the President's Award to Richard Montgomery. From left to right, William Shepherd (1994-1996), Andrea Humberger (1990-1993), Robert Newcomb (1986-88), Steve Preston (1984-1986), Carole Dougherty (1981-1983), Marie Luft (1980-1981) and current TGHS President David Smith.

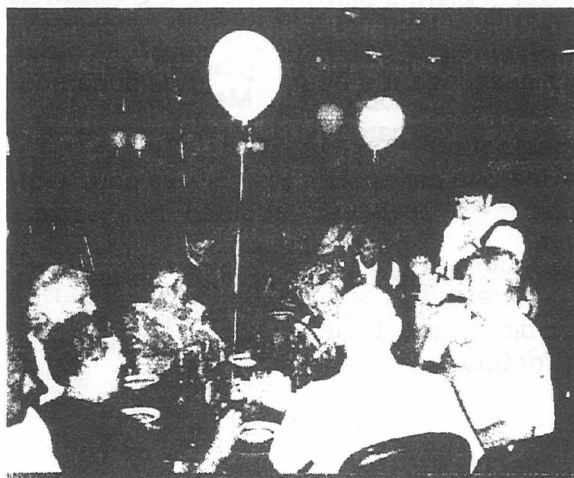


The City of Glendale was honored for the restoration of the Goode House. On hand to accept the award were Councilman Rick Reyes, Councilwoman Eileen Givens (Chair of the Glendale Housing Authority) and Mayor Sheldon Baker. Andrea Humberger, TGHS Preservation Advocacy Chair made the presentation.



Andrea Humberger presents a certificate of commendation to long-time TGHS member Dan Leimeter for his part in the restoration of the Alex projectors. Along with Dan, George Crittenden, Bob Miller and Hank Harrison were recognized. The work of these individuals made it possible for the Alex Film Society to present classic films in the Alex.

Party Time!



The partying really started as 50 TGHS members ran from the awards presentation to the Tam O'Shanter for a surprise party in honor of Dick Montgomery. Incredibly TGHS members managed to pull off the surprise. In keeping with the theme of little cost, Isabelle Meyer prepared special balloons that said "I'm a low budget center-piece." Special thanks to Glen & Marie Luft for managing to get Dick to the party on time and without spilling the beans!.

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

Annual Dues

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jewel City Patron (\$500) | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$20) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Verdugo Patron (\$250) | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Senior or Student (\$10) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tropico Patron (\$100) | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit Organization (\$25) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining (\$50) | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Business (\$35) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family/dual (\$30) | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate (\$100) |

Name

Telephone

Address

City, State & Zip

Please return this form to:
The Glendale Historical Society, P.O. Box 4173, Glendale, CA 91202
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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David L. Smith - *President*
Carol Eckert - *Vice-President*
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Richard Montgomery - *Treasurer*

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William Shepherd
David L. Smith

TGHS Quarterly Editor

William Shepherd

Editorial Deadlines

Fall issue --- October 15
Winter issue --- December 15.

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

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The Glendale Historical Society

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