



The Glendale Historical Society

TGHS QUARTERLY

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Autumn 2000

Glendale Federal Savings Building Determined Eligible for California Register

By: Suzanne McKay

The passage of time can give us a new perspective and appreciation of the unique and pioneering spirit of post-World War II architecture. Buildings of this period often hold personal significance for people who remember their actual construction and role in their lives and the life of the local community. In short, these modern buildings are now becoming historic landmarks.

One such building is the longtime headquarters of Glendale Federal Savings (later known as Glendale Federal Bank and then California Federal Savings) at 401 N. Brand Boulevard. This bold, colorful building with its two-tone blue solar louvers and projecting brick-red tower is built in the Corporate International style -- a clean, dramatic style expressing confidence in the present and the future. From the day it opened in 1959, it has been an eye-catching, signature building of downtown Glendale.

Glendale Federal Savings and Loan was started in Glendale in 1934 by Joe Hoeft. It grew to become, by 1959, the nation's 10th largest savings and loan company. Many Glendale children set up their first savings accounts there, and countless numbers of their parents bought their homes using Glendale Federal mortgages. Eventually other financial institutions joined Glendale Federal on North Brand, so that this area became known as Glendale's financial district.

Joe Hoeft and Glendale Savings and Loan were very involved in the community, adding prestige and financial assistance to many local causes. They supported the Glendale Symphony Orchestra, made their community room available for local organizations, and during Christmas seasons treated the public to carols from their carillon and a rooftop "tree" of lights (designed by the building's architect, W.A. Sarmiento) which could be seen for miles.

Glendale Federal created a sense of pride for Glendale residents as it expanded across the country, carrying our city's name. (Continued on Page 2)

Glendale Federal Savings Building (Continued from Page 1)

Mr. Hoeft commissioned the headquarters building after being inspired by several buildings he'd seen on a trip to Brazil. The buildings used louvers to lessen the influence of the hot sun. The architect, W. A. Sarmiento, designed the blue louvers to use solar power to pivot during the day, thus protecting the interior from direct sunlight at all times. The brick-red (painted) textured steel and concrete fire tower met new City building codes requiring that fire escape stairways be separate from the main building.

When the building sold in June of this year, The Glendale Historical Society, the Los Angeles Conservancy, and other local preservationists formed a coalition to work to preserve the building. Their first joint effort was to research and document the building in a nomination which was submitted to the State for listing the building in the California Register of Historical Resources. The nomination received the support of both the Glendale Historic Preservation Commission and the Glendale City Council in October before going to the State Historical Resources Commission in November. At their quarterly meeting on November 3, the State Historical Resources Commission formally determined the building eligible for listing in the California Register. The building was not actually listed in the Register, because the owners opposed the nomination. But if in the future they change their minds, the building will become officially listed.

In addition to submitting the nomination, the coalition has been meeting with the new owners of the building (Nicholson Vertex Limited Partnership) and their project architect (F&A Architects of Glendale) since September to come to a consensus on a design solution which will both preserve the architectural integrity of the building and serve the owners' financial needs by making the building appealing to quality tenants. The Glendale Historical Society is enjoying working with the Los Angeles Conservancy and other local preservationists to help the owners meet their goals while preserving the most significant architectural

features of this beloved landmark building.

Around the time of their vote, the City Council received numerous emails and 130 letters of support for the nomination, from TGHS members and others. This support was acknowledged by the council. We believe that these letters and emails helped convince Council members to vote as they did. Thank you to all of you who wrote to advance this landmark building's nomination to the California Register of Historic Places.



The Glendale Federal Building
401 N. Brand Blvd. in 1998,
before the title letters were removed
from the fire tower.



Escape from the Stress of Holiday Preparations

Treat Yourself and Your Family to

A Candlelight Tour

Through the Victorian Doctors' House Museum
The Museum will be decorated with greenery and antique ornaments
Live Yuletide Music and Refreshments

Presented by
The Glendale Historical Society

Brand Park
1601 W. Mountain Ave.
Glendale

Saturdays December 9th and 16th, 2000
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Continuous tours - no reservations needed

Bake Sale and Ornament Sale on Both Evenings

Admission - \$1 per person

The Doctors' House will also be open for regular tours on
December 3rd from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

The Museum will be **closed** on December 24th and 31st

For information call (818) 242-4290

DOCTORS' HOUSE HAPPENINGS

By: Isabelle Meyer

On Saturday, September 16, 2000, The Glendale Historical Society celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the relocation of the Doctors' House Museum to Brand Park. About 100 members and guests participated in an ice cream social. Thanks to Baskin-Robbins donation of their gourmet ice cream, we were able to keep the prices low and everyone enjoyed this chilly treat on a very hot September day.

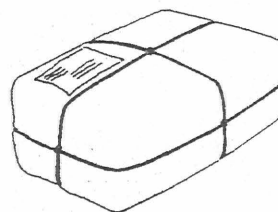
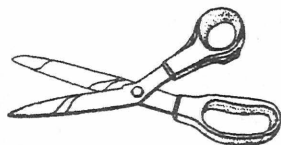
We also used this opportunity to unveil the donor plaques for those who contributed to the Gazebo project. The donors names are now permanently displayed either in the gazebo itself or on the fence adjacent to the entry gate. Our thanks go to the City of Glendale for installing these plaques and making a special effort to have the Doctors' House and the landscaping look spic-and-span.

Also on view was the newly completed volunteer recognition quilt created and donated by the Glendale Quilt Guild. Bari Phillips did a marvelous job combining transfers of restoration photographs and a list of 400 names into a beautiful piece of art. This quilt will be on permanent display in the exhibit room and you should find your name on it, if you have ever contributed directly to the museum or been a docent or volunteer.

Adding to the festive atmosphere were musical performances by a barbershop quartet (sponsored by our own Dr. Robert Newcomb) and a volunteer singer who generously donated her talents singing songs from the early part of the century.

The City lent us their lively vintage fire engine to display along the driveway to the house, and those wishing for a serene game of croquet were not disappointed. Sid Gordon brought four of his old-time photographs and regaled us with tunes from the past. A doll created by docent Michael Kouri was raffled off.

On Page 3 of this newsletter, you will find the information about this year's Candlelight Tours. The tours will take place on December 9 and December 16. We look forward to another successful event and would appreciate your donations of baked goods on either day. Please join us for this traditional celebration of the season and bring your family and friends.



**Take a break, put down the scissors, quit wrapping those packages....
and come take a Candlelight Tour of the Doctors' House Museum!
Saturday evenings, December 9 and 16!**

TGHS Continues to Monitor Disney Plan for 1929 Air Terminal

by: Suzanne McKay

The Glendale Historical Society is closely monitoring the progress of the Walt Disney Imagineering company's "Grand Central Creative Campus" project, because it impacts the 1929 Grand Central Air Terminal Building -- for whom the project is named -- and other old buildings at the site. The process is now focused on Environmental Impact Reports (EIR's), prepared for the Glendale Redevelopment Agency by PCR Services of Santa Monica. The draft EIR was released in July, and the final EIR was released in October.

In August several TGHS Board members and Suzanne McKay met with Disney Imagineering representatives to tour the outside of the Grand Central Air Terminal, review the company's current plans for the property, and discuss our concerns about some of the plans described in the draft EIR

The company plans to rehabilitate the Terminal, adhering to the rehabilitation standards of the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. They plan to demolish two nearby hangars built in 1930. Their current plans call for using the Terminal as a visitors' center with a theme and displays about the spirit of adventure (including the flight history associated with the Terminal) to which Imagineering is heir. The rehabilitation is not scheduled to occur until a future phase, perhaps 15 years from now.

In August, within the public review period, our organization submitted written comments to the Redevelopment Agency regarding several aspects of the section of the draft EIR pertaining to historic resources. When the final EIR was released in October, several, but not all, of our suggestions had been incorporated into the affected sections. In early November we submitted a second letter to the Redevelopment Agency, recommending that they require Disney Imagineering to nominate the Terminal to the National Register of Historic Places.

We will continue to monitor the developments in the Grand Central Creative Campus ("GC3") project, and welcome the opportunity to communicate with Disney representatives about the Grand Central Air Terminal, which is such an important landmark in our city.



The Grand Central Air Terminal
1310 Air Way, Glendale

A Message from Outgoing President Deborah Dentler

I have been greatly honored to serve for this past year as our Society's President. It has been a year of many challenges and hard work for the board, and I am proud of our accomplishments.

It is time once again to "pass the baton" to a new group of officers for the coming year. David Smith has graciously agreed to re-assume the presidency temporarily because I suddenly had to step down as president because of my appointment to serve on the Historic Preservation Commission. I began my public service in this new capacity in October. I am sure TGHS members and friends can appreciate how important it is that I avoid any appearance of conflict of interest by refraining from participating in board discussions of buildings or other matters that may come before the Commission for decisions. I will continue to sit on the Board but will not participate, or vote on, such matters.

While I'm on the subject, I would like to make a plug for the Historic Preservation Commission. I hope all members of TGHS will be active participants in the matters that come before the Commission, which makes recommendations to City Council concerning historic resources. The Commission's proceedings are on television so it is easy to stay informed and vigilant. If you have concerns about the preservation of historic resources in Glendale, you should contact our organization's Preservation Liaison, Rosemarie Ibanez, at (213) 367-9070 or by e-mail at : ribanez@lahd.ci.la.ca.us.

There have been some other recent personnel changes at TGHS, too. We lost our hard-working part-time staffer, Mary Reed, when she passed the bar exam and was promptly hired as a deputy district attorney in Los Angeles. She will be missed. While we recruit candidates to fill the position, my son Jordan Segall, a high school senior, will help out temporarily.

Isabelle Meyer, a longstanding board member, is taking a much-deserved hiatus from regular board attendance in order to focus her energy full-time on the Doctors' House. We welcomed new board members Arlene Vidor and Merry Franzen this fall, and we anticipate having new board positions to fill in coming months. Won't you consider serving on the board, working on local preservation issues, and/or lending a helping hand at the Doctors' House? Let David Smith know you are interested in helping. See you at our annual holiday party on December 10!

TGHS Web Site Being Created

The Glendale Historical Society is developing a web site to publicize our current activities and past accomplishments. This is an exciting opportunity for us, and we would like your input on its development. If you have suggestions about content or have other ideas, please contact our webmaster, Suzanne McKay at The Glendale Historical Society, (818) 242-7447.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT NEEDED

TGHS is looking for an Administrative Assistant to help the President and other Board members with numerous activities that keep TGHS operating.

If interested in applying, call David Smith at (818) 242-7447.

AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Glendale Historical Society invites you to become a member. The Society is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. Membership is open to all.

- Jewel City Patron (\$500)
- Verdugo Patron (\$250)
- Tropico Patron (\$100)
- Corporate (\$100)
- Sustaining (\$50)
- Small Business (\$35)
- Family/Dual (\$30)
- Non-Profit Organization (\$25)
- Individual (\$20)
- Individual Senior or Student (\$10)

Name: _____ Telephone: _____
Address: _____ E-Mail: _____

Please return this form to: The Glendale Historical Society
 P.O. Box 4173
 Glendale, CA 91202

For additional information call: (818) 242-7447.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

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