



The Glendale Historical Society

## TGHS QUARTERLY

Volume 23, Number 1

Winter 1/02

### A Glimpse of Historic Glendale....from the Glendale Central Library, Special Collections....

*by Arlene Vidor*



Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow [Brand Library in the snow, 1949]

In 1949, snow blanketed the Rossmoyne, Verdugo Woodlands, and Crescenta Valley areas in record breaking style. One of the bizarrely enchanting sights during that three day interlude was, El Miradero, aka The Brand Library. The striking white structure was cloaked in an overcoat of fluffy white. Snowfall was recorded in the Glendale area, in 1915, 1950, and no less than five times in the 1960s. Many of you must remember these events. Anyone remember the snow of 1915?? On December 8, 2001, the historic Brand Library and Art Center played host to it's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Arts Festival. It didn't snow, but wouldn't it have been nice!

*Find TGHS at [www.glendalehistorical.org](http://www.glendalehistorical.org)*

# The President's Report

By David Smith

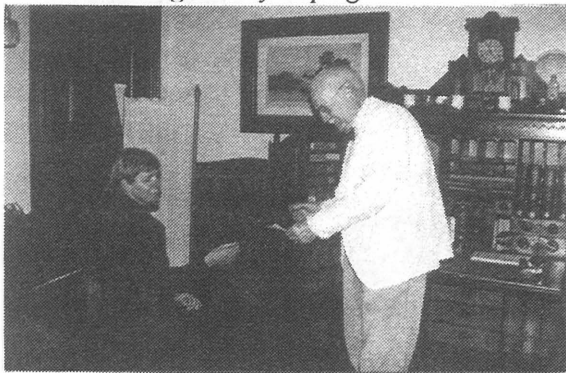
Annually, the Glendale Historical Society (TGHS) recognizes the volunteers that give their time to make our organization a success. TGHS has a special award called the President's Award that is that not presented every year and is given to recognize extraordinary service to our organization over long periods of time. The award is unique in that the certificate or plaque is always different and is customized for each recipient. For example, our long time treasurer, Richard Montgomery, who always reminded us that we were spending too much money, received a certificate mounted on cardboard with thumbtacks. The Montgomery plaque included a piece of heavy twine for hanging and was accompanied by gift certificates to Glendale businesses that no longer existed. This was all we could afford to draw from our "thrifty" treasury.

This year the Board of Directors chose Dr. Robert M. Newcomb to receive the President's Award for his over twenty years of service to our organization.

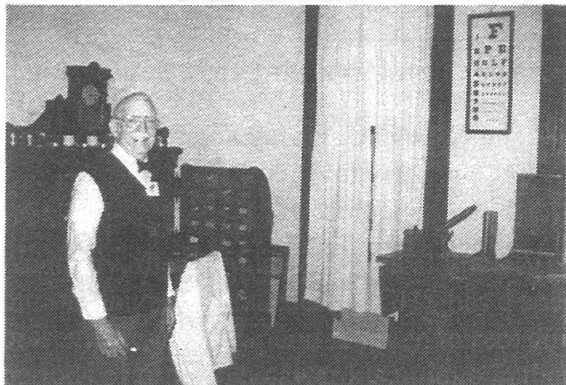
A few notes might help explain the award. A few years ago, the Doctors' House presented the Victorian Romance, which featured Dr. Newcomb playing the part of Dr. Patterson, a typical small town doctor at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was also noted that back in the days when Glendale was a town of a few hundred, that one of the Doctors' House doctors must have needed to moonlight, as he was listed in the Glendale City Directory was "physician and postmaster." In old Glendale the original location of the Doctors' House was 3<sup>rd</sup> and B Streets. (Today's Wilson and Belmont.). During the Holiday Candlelight Tours, Bob Newcomb can be found in the Doctor's office handing out a prescription for "three grams of good cheer."

The Awards Committee, using the TGHS time machine, called on Dr. Patterson for help and he was kind enough to provide us with the following "prescription" for one President's Award." (see next page for the text of the award)

*During the last year, Bob Newcomb's volunteer service has included serving on as Secretary and member of the Board of Directors, Program Committee, Glendale Clean Committee representative, Docent at the Doctors House and is generally helping when TGHS does anything. Thank you Bob!*



Isabelle Meyer & Dr. Bob Newcomb at the Doctors' House



Dr. Bob Newcomb at the Doctors' House

## **TGHS QUARTERLY**

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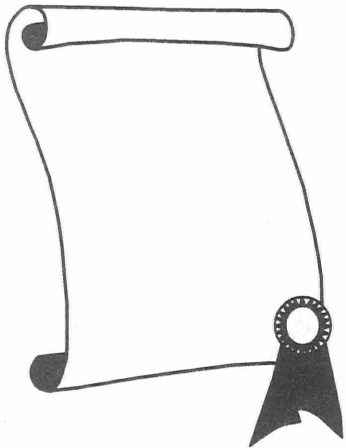
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*To receive TGHS announcements through e-mail, please  
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**Dr. Robert Patterson**  
**Physician & Postmaster**  
**215 E. Third Street**  
**Third & B Street**  
**Glendale, Cal.**

September 5, 1901

To whom it may concern:

Regarding my colleague, Dr. Robert M. Newcomb, I have diagnosed his condition as an over indulgent interest in things geographic, historic and human. His symptoms have included chronic volunteerism as exhibited by his many positions with the Glendale Historical Society including President, Secretary, Member of the Board of Directors, Program Chair and/or Vice-Chair, Glendale Clean Committee Representative, Doctors' House Docent and every other conceivable volunteer position known to man. Dr. Newcomb also has a condition known as socio-hypo-condro-activism, which in lay terms means that he has good spirit, is a over all good guy and an inspiration of us all.

I have recommended the following treatment for Dr. Newcomb aka Bob.

**First** that he should receive the President's Award, the highest honor presented by the Glendale Historical Society for his over twenty years of dedicated service.

**Second,** I have prescribed three grams of good cheer.

**Third,** that a tree will be planted in Brand Park in his honor.

**Fourth,** Dr. Bob has been known to play doctor in my office during the Candlelight Tours and to impersonate me while handling out prescriptions to the public. Because of this, I have decided that one new artifact, of his choice, should be added to the permanent collection in that office in his honor.

# TGHS Awards Ceremony

On September 5, 2001 the TGHS welcomed new members and held our annual awards ceremony. During the ceremony, it was announced that a plaque would be installed in the Doctors' House gift shop in honor of longtime TGHS preservationists Shannon and Helen Pedlow. Helen sent the following touching acknowledgement of the plaque:

September 05, 2001

## *A Message for The Glendale Historical Society*

On behalf of Shannon and myself, I sincerely thank you for making us recipients of the plaque dedicated in our honor. The Glendale Historical Society has been such a special part of our lives. It is a wonder to think this all began with one phone call in September 1981. Now, today, we are, gathered in the sight of our beloved Doctor's House ... a testament to your dedication, perseverance and hard work.

The house, grounds, gazebo and special flagpole all represent hours of planning and volunteer work by very special people. All the hands and hearts that came together to create this wonderful piece of living history can be proud to know it will be enjoyed for years to come. That is your true reward.

The Doctor's House will go on for generations to come and it will honor the past, stimulate a thirst for historical knowledge and encourage others to accept challenges.

This has been an extraordinary journey. From hopes and dreams to plans: from a move to the final drop of paint ... so many wonderful times. I remember the 100 Volunteer Hours Award for Shannon. His square nail had a red head. Do you remember why? Great memories and friendships have been made and kept.

Shannon and I loved every aspect. I encourage all of you to enjoy every thing and every one, each and every day. Thanks you for this plaque. We are honored.

*Helen A. B. Pedlow*

# Preservation News

By Rosemarie Ibañez and Arlene Vidor



This is the apartment complex that will be demolished.



The Glendale Millennium Tower project requires the demolition of a 25-unit apartment building and two businesses.

Source: Glendale News Press

## Millennium Tower

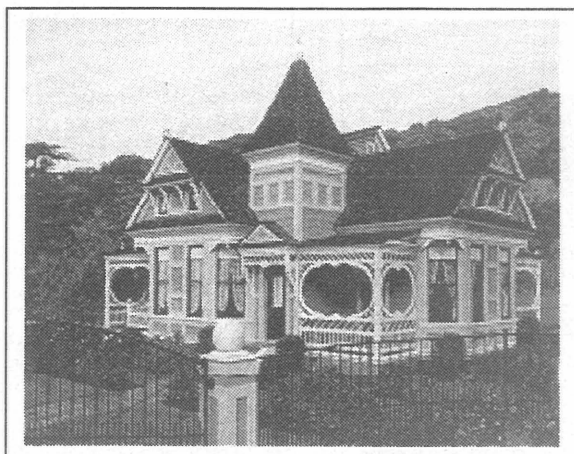
Once again, Glendale Redevelopment has ignored due process in its quest for new business development. The proposed Millennium Tower would entail the demolition of an apartment building built in 1923. While the age of the apartment does not necessarily deem it to be historic, it does warrant historic review and analysis of the building. The developer met the basic California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements with an environmental analysis (which included a very cursory historic review of the site) and Redevelopment staff recommended approval of the project. Good thing Councilman Weaver read the environmental review and noticed its lack of thorough and complete analysis of the building's historic status. In fact the review was lacking in a number of areas aside from its discounting of the building's possible historic significance: its meager relocation assistance proposal for the tenants to be displaced, and the insufficient traffic mitigations proposed. The item was continued at the Redevelopment Agency meeting, and TGHS provided comment at the following meeting. TGHS proposed that all future proposals planning to demolish possible historic buildings be required to go through local City review before approval. The Redevelopment Agency approved the project at its following meeting with additional required mitigation measures (the apartment building was not deemed to be historic). However, our specific issues were not addressed.

## Historic Building Demolition Ordinance

The City's Preservation Commission recommended that City Council approve a historic building demolition ordinance to allow proper review of possible historic buildings before a demolition permit is issued. Currently, only formally listed buildings in the City's local register are "flagged" in redevelopment projects. TGHS strongly supports the recommendation for a demolition ordinance. This item was first scheduled for City Council review on December 18. TGHS, LA Conservancy and Glendale Preservation Commission members were on hand to provide public comment. However, the item was listed towards the end of the agenda, and since the meeting was running late, it was postponed until the January 8, 2002 meeting (but again listed towards the end of the agenda). TGHS was in attendance at both meetings to provide comment and support for the recommendation. The City Council unanimously approved the recommendation to send back the item to Planning for further study.

# Doctors' House Activities

*By Isabelle Meyer, Curator, Doctor's House Museum*



The month of December was a very busy one at our museum with our traditional Candlelight tours on two Saturdays. A total of 387 visitors enjoyed the festive atmosphere and efforts of all our volunteer docents. Thanks to them and the contributions of many of our members to our bake sale we took in over \$900 towards the maintenance of the museum. In addition to these special events, we shared our house with 155 Glendale third-graders who learned about old-fashioned Christmas traditions and also enjoyed our popular outdoor games. We have become a much-visited destination for school children's field trips.

Thanks to the City of Glendale, the museums' windows were coated with a protective coating which helps prevent sun damage to the interior and our collection. Solarart was also used on the Gable House and the Getty Museum and we are confident that the City's generosity will pay off in reduced fading and energy savings.

The house is so cozy around the holidays, that a few rodents decided to move in. The City's exterminator helped us remove everything from the attic, so that a thorough cleaning and reboxing could be done by Judy Cabrera and myself. Those of you who have seen its previous condition will appreciate the newly pristine condition of the attic space.

This year's Valentine's Day Dinner raffle tickets have just been mailed out and we look forward to another successful event this year. In the eight years since we have given one of our members a chance at a romantic candlelit dinner in our dining-room, we raised funds used for acquisitions and new exhibits in our museum. Your continued support is much appreciated!

## **Suzanne Mckay (see article on the next page)**

On December 10, 2001, Suzanne McKay passed away after a valiant battle against cancer. Suzanne was one of the earliest members of TGHS and she was involved in the restoration of the Doctors' House Museum from the beginning to its end. She was active in numerous preservation efforts and lent her energies and expertise to the well being of all of Glendale for the past 20 years. The Doctors' House is a lasting memorial to her and so many other volunteers who gave much of themselves to our community.

# Suzanne McKay— Remembered

*Photo & text contributors: Arlene Vidor, Andrea Humberger, Rosemarie Ibañez*



Suzanne McKay

We lost our good friend and one of TGHS' more active and dedicated members in December. Suzanne lived for the world of historic preservation and saw it as her avocation. She was born in Portland, Oregon, but spend her childhood and most of her adult life in Glendale. She may have worked as a teacher and technical writer but preservation work was her real passion. In fact, on the day she passed away, we received our last correspondence from her on information she thought would be useful to the TGHS website.

She was active in the restoration of the Doctor's House and was instrumental in raising funds for that project, which eventually became the popular Doctor's House Museum. She served as a TGHS Board Member and was our newsletter editor for many years. She also staffed the TGHS phone for the last several years. Suzanne spearheaded many efforts on behalf of the Society including tour coordination, mapping of historic sites, and her final project, launch of the TGHS website. Suzanne took a keen interest in the Adams Square area and worked closely with The Friends of Historic Adams Square to help preserve key landmarks in that part of town. She will be greatly missed by us all.



Suzanne with the members of Friends of Historic Adams Square

