

The Glendale Historical Society

Preserving and Celebrating Glendale's History and Architectural Heritage

Summer 2010

Explore the darker side of the Jewel City with *Glendale Noir*

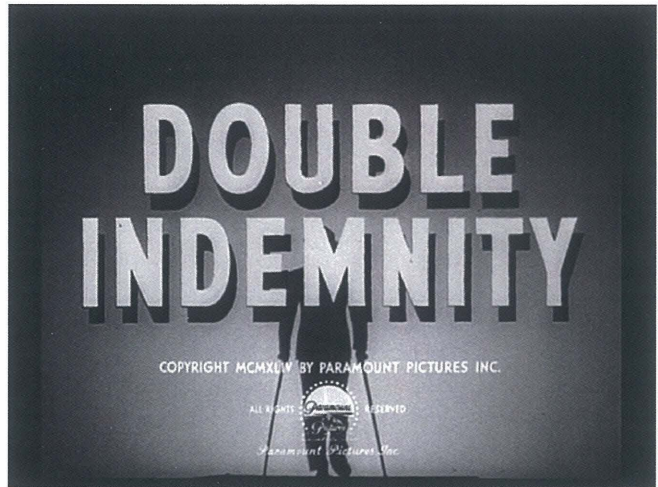
By Scott Lowe

This summer TGHS presents *Glendale Noir*—an outdoor film series featuring crime dramas filmed in Glendale. In collaboration with the Parks & Recreation Department, all screenings are free and will take place on the lawn in front of the Doctors House museum. We begin our series on Sunday, June 27th with “Mildred Pierce,” a sordid crime drama largely set in working class, pre-war Glendale. On Sunday, July 25th, our film is “Double Indemnity,” Billy Wilder’s adaptation of James M. Cain’s novel, which features Glendale’s historic Southern Pacific rail depot in a supporting role as a departure point for murder and madness. Our series concludes on Sunday, August 22nd with “Gun Crazy,” a lesser known but wildly entertaining thriller that includes a lengthy robbery sequence shot in 1950s downtown Montrose.

Before each screening there will be a brief presentation highlighting the Glendale locations shown in the film. Arrive early and tour the Doctors House museum before the show,

The poster, right, advertised “Gun Crazy,” a noir film that includes a lengthy robbery sequence shot in 1950s downtown Montrose.

Right top to bottom: The opening of “Double Indemnity,” a scene at the Southern Pacific depot in Glendale, Barbara Stanwyck and Fred MacMurray in the lead roles



More NOIR on page 4

President's Message

Last year we celebrated, with a series of special events, the 30th anniversary of the founding of The Glendale Historical Society. This year marks another 30-year milestone: the anniversary of the relocation of the Doctors House, one of Glendale's last two remaining Queen Anne Victorian structures, from its original site downtown to its current location in Brand Park.

To celebrate the anniversary of the move—the cause that led to the Society's formation, the first and undoubtedly the most dramatic of our historic preservation successes—we will launch three new permanent

House, the support committee formed two years ago to encourage wider member participation in the House's mission and management. As in its preservation and restoration, the continued success of the Doctors House Museum and TGHS is dependent upon a team of dedicated and hard-working volunteers.

The Doctors House will also serve as the backdrop for this summer's *Glendale Noir* film series. Last year's screening of "Crime Wave" was such a success that this year we're showing three films with Glendale themes and scenes: "Mildred Pierce," "Double Indemnity" and "Gun Crazy" will be screened on the lawn in front of

To celebrate the anniversary of the [Doctors House] move, we will launch three new permanent exhibits at the Doctors House Museum. One focuses on the four physicians who successively inhabited the house during its first two decades. Another will spotlight the multi-talented silent screen actress, writer, director and producer Nell Shipman, who lived in the house from 1917 to 1920. And the third will chronicle the house move and [its] restoration.

exhibits at the Doctors House Museum. One exhibit will focus on the four physicians who successively inhabited the house during its first two decades and after whom the house is named; each played a significant role in the City's early civic life. Another exhibit will spotlight the multi-talented silent screen actress, writer, director and producer Nell Shipman, who lived in the house from 1917 to 1920. And the third exhibit, scheduled to open at our annual members' meeting in September, will chronicle the house's move and the painstaking four-year restoration effort that returned it to its original 1890s appearance.

These new exhibits will expand the focus of the House and better illustrate its historical context, its significance in Glendale's early development and its unique importance as the flash point of the City's fledgling historic preservation movement. The exhibits are being researched and assembled by the Friends of the Doctors

the Doctors House, which will be open for tours just prior to the films. We owe a debt of gratitude to our indefatigable immediate past president Arlene Vidor and current board member Scott Lowe for securing the rights to the films, arranging the screenings with the Parks Department and publicizing the events via the Communications Committee.

I encourage you to visit the Museum as our new exhibits open over the next several months; to join us for a film on a warm summer night; and to participate as a volunteer in our ongoing efforts to preserve and celebrate Glendale's heritage.

John LaCascio

Summer 2010

The Glendale
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Officers &
Board of Directors

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Visit us on the web at:
www.glendalehistorical.org

The Glendale Historical
Society quarterly newsletter
is the official publication
of the Society

Preservation Advocacy Hot Topics

HPC Approves Masonic Temple Adaptive Reuse

By John LoCascio

On March 22, the Historic Preservation Commission unanimously approved a proposal to rehabilitate the old Masonic Temple on Brand Boulevard. The building will be adapted for office use on its upper floors and retail space on the ground floor.

The nine-story Art Deco building is listed on the Glendale Register of Historic Resources and is eligible for listing on both the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources. It was designed by architect Arthur G. Lindley who, with his partner Charles R. Selkirk, also designed the Alex Theatre and the Hotel Glendale. Completed in 1928, the Temple represents one of the most ambitious building endeavors in the City's history. It was designed to accommodate six different Masonic organizations in a series of stacked two-story auditoriums surrounded by mezzanines. After the Masonic groups moved out in 1952, the building's idiosyncratic design was difficult to adapt to commercial use and it sat empty for 40 years. Partially occupied since 1992 by the renowned local repertory theater company A Noise Within, the Temple will once again sit empty when ANW moves to its new permanent venue in Pasadena.

The goal of the proposed rehabilitation is to bring life back to this unique building while maintaining its historic integrity and architectural character. The project will include the addition of new windows at the side and rear facades to light the large windowless rooms on the upper floors, making them easier to lease as commercial space; the repair and restoration of the main façade on Brand Boulevard as well as the public lobby on the ground floor; and a seismic upgrade that will primarily affect the interior but will require the closure of some existing windows on the side and rear facades to create necessary shear walls.

Secretary Elaine Wilkerson represented TGHS at the hearing and expressed the Society's support for the project. The Commission agreed and found that the proposal is appropriate to the historic and architectural character of the building and its ongoing status as a listed property on the Glendale Register of Historic Resources. The Temple's owner, Frank DePietro & Sons, plans to begin work as soon as A Noise Within vacates the building.

Rossmoyne Historic District

By Lorna Vartanian

In April of this year, residents of the Rossmoyne neighborhood filed an application with the City of Glendale nominating 504 single-family homes in the area for designation as an historic district. At a public hearing later that month, the Historic Preservation Commission unanimously voted to allow the historic district application process to begin.

During the first week of June, the nomination and designation process timeline were expertly presented to a number of people from the community at a public meeting organized by our City's Historic Preservation Planner Jay Platt, and Planning Department members Tim Foy, Alan Loomis, Stephanie Reich, and Rathar Duong. The presentation focused on the petition currently being circulated, requesting that the City undertake a historic resources survey of the proposed district. The survey will formally evaluate the area's eligibility for historic district status using professionally established standards. As an added benefit of this process, each homeowner within the proposed district will have access to documentation providing the style and age of their home, as well as an historic context statement explaining how each home fits into the development history of the area.

The neighborhood known as Rossmoyne was originally subdivided and developed by the Haddock-Nibley Company in 1923. Almost ninety years later, the neighborhood still retains much of the elegance, charm, and character which were the basis for its creation when Glendale was known as one of the fastest growing cities in the country.

Petitioning for the historic resources survey is only the third step in the City's eleven-step historic district application and designation process. The road ahead may seem long, but the destination will be superb, just as Alex Nibley intended!



Mildred Pierce

A novel and a film with close connections to Glendale

By Arlene Vidor

James M. Cain wrote his hard-boiled fiction classic “Mildred Pierce” in 1941 and four years later it was immortalized on the big screen, starring Joan Crawford as Mildred. It is the story of a single Glendale mother’s struggle to claw her way—rung by rung—up the success ladder as a restaurateur while grappling with her poisonously manipulative daughter, a failed developer ex-husband and a decadent do-nothing lover from—gasp!—Pasadena. Glendale, characterized as the epitome of working class aspirations and disappointments in Depression era California, provides the vivid backdrop for Mildred’s saga. Cain sets the stage in the first line of the book... “In the spring of 1931, on a lawn in Glendale California, a man was bracing trees.....” and he peppers the entire story with astute observations about the city’s psyche and physical appearance

—the frenetic parceling of land, the explosive building boom resulting in rows of Spanish Revival bungalows and the “poor cousin” stigma suffered by Glendale, the “endless suburb” in relation to the monied elegance of neighboring Pasadena.

Many believe that Cain, who also penned “The Postman Always Rings Twice” and “Double Indemnity,” resided in Glendale. In fact, during his relatively short stint in California as a contract screenwriter in the 1940s, he lived in the shadow of the Hollywood sign. No matter. Glendale, for Cain, supplied the environment that informs most of the novel’s vividly flawed characters. Everyone who lives in Glendale should read this novel for a fascinating take on, well....us.

The screenplay adaption does not include as many specific references to Glendale as the novel, but it is clear that the filmmakers held true to the soul of the novel by selecting key location shoots in Glendale.

Joann Grimaldi was a 60+ year resident of Glendale in 2006 when she recalled walking one block over from her home on Isabel Street to watch filming in front of the Jackson Street house chosen to depict the Pierce residence. “Can you imagine what it was like for me—an eleven year old child recently moved from Ohio, watching a film shoot day after day? Having a film crew in Glendale was a very big deal in those days and it was quite awesome,” she exclaimed. That house—in fact, the entire block on Jackson—remains today very much as it was in 1945, when the film crew arrived.

Another film location, Henry’s Restaurant at Glendale and Colorado Avenues, served as the setting for Mildred’s first restaurant. Grimaldi recalled “almost all of Glendale showed up at Henry’s for Monday Night Chicken.” Henry’s Restaurant went on to later acclaim when it was remodeled

by famed modernist architect John Lautner two years after the Mildred Pierce film shoot. However, some of Glendale’s oldest residents might recognize the original in the movie.

The film garnered Academy Awards for Joan Crawford as Best Actress and Ranald MacDougall for Adapted Screenplay. Ann Blythe and Eve Arden were nominated for Best Supporting Actress and the movie was nominated for Best Picture (“The Lost Weekend” won). The late George Crittendon, a local film historian, was an usher at the Alex Theatre in the 1940s and had served on the board of The Alex Film Society in his retirement years. When he was interviewed in 2006, he recalled that Cain sent a note to Joan Crawford in 1946, complimenting her on bringing Mildred Pierce to life as he had always imagined her.

So, treat yourself to the film classic “Mildred Pierce” at our Glendale Noir film series on June 27 in Brand Park. You can catch a few glimpses of our town through Hollywood’s eyes.




Photo: Arlene Vidor


Except for the vinyl replacement windows, this Glendale house—in fact the entire block on Jackson—remains. It was used as Mildred Pierce’s home in the movie.

the glendale historical society
presents
Glendale Noir
*Three summer nights,
three screen classics*


Screenings are on the lawn in front of the Doctors House
Brand Park, 1601 W. Mountain St., Glendale 91201
Enter at Mountain and Grandview; parking and admission FREE.
Bring a flashlight, a blanket and a picnic!
Enjoy these Film Noir classics, all with scenes shot in the Jewel City.



Mildred Pierce (1945)
Sunday, June 27th at 7:30 pm



Double Indemnity (1944)
Sunday, July 25th at 7:30 pm



Gun Crazy (1950)
Sunday, August 22nd at 7:30 pm

DOCTORS HOUSE news



Photos: Sonia Montejano

Mary Khachatryan and Steven Butros

Medical Students Are Newest Volunteers

by Sonia Montejano

Apple Valley resident Steven Butros and his fiancée Mary Khachatryan were hiking in Brand Park one day when by chance they stumbled across the Doctors House. The Victorian house nestled behind the Brand mansion captivated their imagination, and they were eager to learn more about it, especially since both are pursuing medical careers. They immediately volunteered to begin docent training and enjoy sharing the House's history with visitors.

Farewell to Two Volunteers

Two long-term Doctors House volunteers recently announced their retirement: Joan Doyle, a Lead Docent for the past ten years, and Helene Marnell, a docent of eight years. Each of them brought a special element to their respective duties. We will certainly miss their contributions, and we wish them the very best in their future endeavors.



Meet Dorothy Sundbye Exhibits Curator

by Sonia Montejano

The Board is pleased to welcome Dorothy Sundbye to her new position as Doctors House Museum Exhibits Curator. Dorothy has been a docent at the Doctors House since 2008 and demonstrated her creative talents in decorating the House for the annual Candlelight Tours this past December.

Dorothy is a native of Glendale and was raised a short distance from the Brand estate, attending the three public Glenwood Road schools from kindergarten through high school graduation. She graduated from the University of Southern California and began her teaching career in Oklahoma City, where she relocated with her husband Jack, a graduate of the University of Oklahoma.

The Sundbys returned to California in 1969 along with their two daughters. Dorothy taught kindergarten at Montrose School, then third grade at R.D. White Elementary and first grade at Thomas Edison Elementary until she retired. Upon retiring, Dorothy and Jack moved to their ten-acre country home in Templeton, California. They returned to La Crescenta in 2004 to be closer to their grandchildren. Jack passed away in 2006. Dorothy now lives near her children and keeps herself occupied at home tending to her garden, nourishing relations with her family, traveling, attending church and Ted Stern's music appreciation class. She is also a docent volunteer at the Sam Maloof Foundation and Museum in Alta Loma.

Dorothy is looking forward to preparing the Doctors House for its Sunday visitors and plans to remain a Lead Docent, as she enjoys guiding visitors through the house and watching their delight as they enjoy its furnishings and exhibits.

WELCOME

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS February 2010 – April 2010

VERDUGO PATRON (\$250)
Ray Podesta/IHOP#708 - R
Larry Tison (Tison & Assoc.
Landscape Architecture) - R

TROPICO PATRON (\$100)
Leanne Reynolds - R
Sally MacAller - R
Mary Kay Prather - U

SUSTAINING (\$50)
Bill & Sydney Bennett - R
Jane Brown & Gary Hart - R
Norm & Evelyn Cecere - R
Dorothy Knisley - U
Helene Marnell - R
Janet Peterson - N
Jeanette Stirdivant - R

FAMILY/DUAL (\$40)
Teri Deaver - N
Moir Delaney &
Julio Moline - R
Dana Doyle &
Eric van der Werff - R

Laura Friedman &
Guillaume Lemoine - R
Douglas & Cathy Green - R
Connie Humberger - R
Shanna & Scott Igoe - R
Donald McPoland - R
Carl & Gail Nelson - R
Ray & Virginia Newburn - R
Jolene Taylor - N
Sharon & William Weisman - R

INDIVIDUAL (\$25)
Aileen Babakhani - N
Joan Doyle - R
Kelly Haake - R
Armine Isakhanyan - N
Brit Trydal - R

SENIOR/STUDENT (\$15)
Ross Adams - R
Patricia L. Bates - R
Margaret Bickmore - R
Marguerite DeBey - R
Herbert Jennings - R

Irene Munafo - R
Michael Sharp - R
Elaine M. Williams - R
Virginia Young - R

NON-PROFIT (\$35)
Chevy Chase Estates HOA - R

PAST PRESIDENTS
LIFE MEMBERSHIP
Deborah Dentler
Carole Dougherty
Andrea Humberger
Marie Luft
Steve Preston
Bill Shepherd
David Smith
Arlene Vidor

N - New Member
R - Renewing Member
U - Upgrading Member

Please consider a membership upgrade the next time you renew.

Join The Glendale Historical Society and Support Historic Preservation in Our Community

THE SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT tax exempt organization and we encourage you to join and volunteer. Please complete this form and mail it with a check payable to
The Glendale Historical Society, PO Box 4173, Glendale CA 91202

Jewel City Patron (\$500)
Verdugo Patron (\$250)
Tropico Patron (\$100)
Sustaining (\$50)

Family/Dual (\$40)
Individual (\$25)
Individual Senior or Student (\$15)

Nonprofit (\$35)
*Nonprofit organizations are encouraged
to join TGHS as Associate Members
(No voting rights)*

Name _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____

City/Zip _____ Email Address _____

WANT TO GET INVOLVED? WHAT ARE YOUR INTERESTS?

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation advocacy | <input type="checkbox"/> Special events/Tours | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic research/Surveys |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Districting | <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach/Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Archiving/Organizing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Doctors House volunteers | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership/Outreach |

2010 EVENTS CALENDAR

The Glendale Historical Society
PO Box 4173
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www.glendalehistorical.org

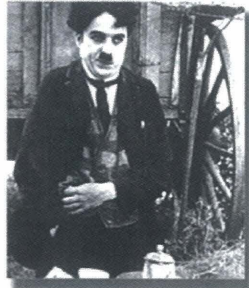
the glendale historical society
presents

Finding Chaplin, Keaton, and Lloyd In Glendale

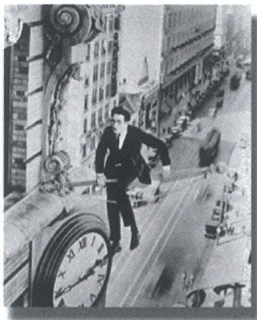
An entertaining presentation by
Paul Ayers
on three great silent screen legends
in Glendale.

Wednesday, June 23rd
7:00 pm

Glendale Public Library Auditorium
222 E. Harvard St.
Glendale, CA 91205



Admission is Free
Validated parking across
the street in
the Maryland/Harvard
parking structure.
You can also park on the street.



Time/Life images on Google



Plan to see a fascinating slide show by Paul Ayers on three silent screen legends and the movies they filmed in Glendale.

Glendale Noir Screenings

STARTING with ...

What: "Mildred Pierce" (1945)
Where: Brand Park
When: June 27, 2010
7:30 pm
Details: Free
Bring a flashlight, blanket,
and a picnic (optional)

MORE coming up ...

July 25 "Double Indemnity" (1944)
August 22 "Gun Crazy" (1950)

ANNUAL MEETING: DOCTORS HOUSE
Sunday, September 19 CANDLELIGHT TOURS
ANNUAL HOME TOUR: December 11
Sunday, October 3 December 18
HOLIDAY PARTY:
Sunday, December 5

THE GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ENDOWMENT FUND

The Community Foundation of the Verdugos maintains an endowment to benefit The Glendale Historical Society. The Endowment was initiated by former TGHS treasurer Richard Montgomery. Since his death, a number of contributions have been made to our endowment fund. An especially large one was made to it by bequest of former president Dr. Robert Newcomb. An anonymous donor contributes yearly.

Please consider making a bequest in your will to the Community Foundation to benefit TGHS or make donations at any time.

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Glendale, CA 91203

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Fax: (818) 241-8045
Email: info@communityfoundationoftheverdugos.org