
The Glendale Historical Society

Conserving Glendale's Heritage Spring 2011



UPDATE

By Marty Bracciotti

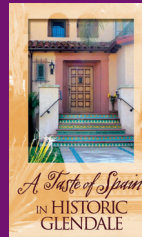
Glendale Courthouse Project

There has recently been conflicting information as to whether the County Courthouse in Glendale at 600 E. Broadway will be torn down and replaced, or incorporated into an expanded courthouse to accommodate its increased workload. On February 9, 2011, the Glendale News-Press published an article titled "Wrecking Ball Aimed at Courthouse," which gave the misleading impression that the decision had been finalized to demolish most of the courthouse to make way for a new, expanded facility. Following that article, Hassan Haghani, Director of the City of Glendale's Community Development Department, published a letter in the Glendale News-Press to advise that the "Wrecking Ball" article was "misleading and unnecessarily alarming." He noted that the City has been working closely with the State of California to: 1) keep the courthouse in its current location; 2) maintain courthouse operations at the current site; and 3) "meaningfully incorporate the 1959 courthouse into a newly expanded courthouse so that significant architectural characteristics of the building are highlighted and built into the project, while the interior of the courthouse is brought up to current standards."

The Glendale Historical Society is on record in its support of adaptive reuse and expansion of the existing building to maintain the court in its current location. Designed by prominent architect Arthur Wolfe, the courthouse is one of the most important and distinctive post-World War II buildings in downtown Glendale's civic corridor. It features the classic characteristics of mid-20th century Modern architecture and includes a unique, serpentine façade of multi-colored brick. The building has been determined to be eligible for listing on both the California Register of Historical Resources and the National Register of Historic Places.

TGHS will continue to work with the Community Development Department to closely monitor the status of the courthouse.

2011 EVENTS CALENDAR

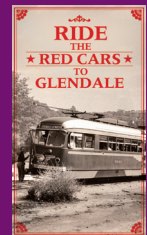


April 30
5-7 pm

A Taste of Spain in Historic Glendale
RSVP required
See flyer insert

May 12
7 pm

Ride the Red Cars to Glendale
Glendale Public Library Auditorium
FREE See flyer insert



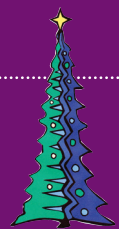
May 22
1-3 pm

Windows Restoration Workshop
Doctors House
See article on page 2

October 2 *Home Tour*

December 18

Holiday party in a private landmark home



Stay tuned for information on Historic Sites Bike Ride and Movies in the Park

Please make note of the events in this newsletter. Due to printing and postage costs, we will not mail separate notices. If you have an email address, be sure you are on our list so we can send electronic reminders and updates.

818-242-7447 or events@glendalehistorical.org

President's Message

Window replacement is fast becoming the country's single most critical preservation issue. It is a serious problem, not only here in Glendale but in cities and towns across the country. Misinformed homeowners are being manipulated into believing that replacing old wood windows is the most cost-effective way to improve their homes' energy efficiency. An entire industry has been built upon this deception, subsidized by misdirected government tax breaks and utility company rebates.

A few months ago, I experienced first-hand the lengths to which this industry will go to sell its product. I was at home late in the afternoon when the doorbell rang. I opened the speakeasy to find a woman who introduced herself as Melodie from Renewal by Andersen, who said that they had been doing some window replacements in the neighborhood. If I hadn't let my temper get the best of me, I would have played dumb and strung her along a bit to get her spiel. But before she could go any further, I blurted out: "Legally? Did you get permits for this work?"

"Oh, yes," she said, "we always get permits and approvals for our work." And then she told a big, fat lie: "We've been approved by the historical society."

My jaw hit the floor at about the same time as my eyebrows reached the ceiling. My temples started to throb, but I somehow managed to keep my cool. "That's very odd," I said, "because I'm the president of the historical society and we have never given any such approval." Melodie froze, the smile still stuck on her face, and repeated the lie she had been instructed to spread: "We've been approved by the historical society."

Now I was really angry. I pointed out that there was no point in lying to me because, as president, I would know that we had never given any such approval, and warned her that she was committing fraud. She faltered then, and mumbled that the "approval" was from "a few years ago." I was probably shouting when I told her that I had been president for two years, and had been on the Board of Directors for eight, that we have never given any such approval and that in fact we discourage window replacement. Melodie kept her smile fixed in place, but clearly her handlers had not trained her for this particular situation; she made a hasty retreat.

The odds that Andersen or any other window replacement peddler would have been caught in this particular lie, by unwittingly relating it directly to the president of TGHS, were about 1 in 200,000, given Glendale's population. It certainly makes one wonder what other lies they might be telling, and this exposes the fundamental dishonesty at the heart of the window replacement business. The truth is that replacement windows do not significantly increase energy efficiency and generally need replacing themselves decades before the swindled homeowner might see a return on his investment.

Over a year ago, the Glendale City Council declined to take action on proposed guidelines and enforcement actions that might have helped stem the destructive tide of unnecessary window replacement; the issue has languished ever since. So TGHS has established a Windows Task Force (WTF!) to spur action and focus on this critical issue, starting with our window maintenance and restoration workshop on May 22. (See the article on the right.) The workshop will demonstrate techniques for repairing, restoring and maintaining wood windows. The event will be held at the Doctors House, whose 120-year-old original wood windows are still in good working condition.

We need your help. If only TGHS members attend, we'll be preaching to the choir; we need to reach a much wider and more at-risk audience. So I am asking you, our members, to take an active role in this critical issue. Please invite and encourage your neighbors and friends to join us on May 22 to learn the facts about window replacement and pick up some handy information on repairing and maintaining their old wood windows.

John LaCascia Spring 2011

TGHS Offers Windows Restoration Workshop

By Scott Lasken

Out of concern with the noticeable increase in the unfortunate and unnecessary replacement of original wood windows in our cherished, historic neighborhoods, TGHS has created a Windows Task Force (WTF!), and is pleased to kick off this new initiative with a Window Maintenance & Restoration Workshop on

**Sunday, May 22,
1 pm to 3 pm
Front of the Doctors House,
Brand Park**

With 25 years of hands-on experience in the construction field, Master Carpenter Alan Adams will demonstrate how vintage windows made from old-growth wood can be repaired and restored rather than discarded and replaced with cheaper, inappropriate vinyl windows. A licensed contractor, Alan specializes in sash and door restoration and has refurbished thousands of windows. He will explain how window maintenance and restoration is more cost effective than window replacement.

Alan has worked on the homes of actors Forest Whitaker and Diane Keaton, whose houses have been featured in *Architectural Digest* and *In Style Magazine*. Please invite your neighbors and friends to attend this important Workshop on May 22, and consider getting involved in WTF! Proper window maintenance and restoration is not only important in preserving a home's architectural integrity, it also helps maintain property values in all of our neighborhoods.



More Homes Receive Landmark Status

By Greg Grammer

Last year, six residences were added to Glendale's Register of Historic Resources, which comes on the heels of a record-setting 10 homes that were designated in 2009. Glendale has a number of architectural gems that are worthy of landmark status, so we certainly hope that this trend will continue.



HISTORIC RESOURCE #82

Located in the Ard Eevin Highlands Historic District, this Tudor Revival was built in 1924 for Herbert and Juanita Thickett by local builder James A. Long. The house bears many hallmarks of the Tudor Revival style, as seen in its asymmetrical composition, steeply-pitched gable and hipped roofs, a dominant street-facing gable, and tall, small-paned casement windows. Its most notable feature is its impressive and unusual all-red brick cladding.



HISTORIC RESOURCE #84

Harry Jernegan built the house as a speculative venture. Soon after completion in 1929, the house was purchased by the Denhart family. The two-story house is a lovely example of the Spanish Colonial Revival architectural style. Other character-defining features include smooth stucco cladding and a red clay tile roof; recessed loggia with twin arched openings above the paneled wood entry door, and a small covered balcony at the second floor supported by heavy wood beams. The house was featured in The Glendale Historical Society's "At Home in Glendale's Historic Districts" Home Tour in 2009, and is located in the Royal Boulevard Historic District.



HISTORIC RESOURCE # 86

Built in 1936, this handsome two-story home was designed by renowned local architect Merrill W. Baird. The house was built for Arthur and Helen Daves, who lived there until 1941 when it was purchased by David and Marguerite Cannon. Mr. Cannon was an attorney who, in 1933, co-founded radio station KIEV-AM, which broadcast for many years from the Glendale Hotel. The house possesses many of the classic features of Colonial Revival architecture, including a mixture of red brick and wood cladding, detailed woodwork, window bays and decorative leaded-glass sidelights, and shutters. Baird's asymmetrical design, however, is a noteworthy departure from more traditional examples of the style. The home is located in the Royal Boulevard Historic District.



HISTORIC RESOURCE #83

(Prock House) Built in 1961, this single-family house was designed in the Modern style by architect Richard Fleming. Situated on the downslope side of the street in the Adams Hills neighborhood, this well-designed post-and-beam house appears to be one-story high from the street, with the second floor located below street level. The home was featured in The Glendale Historical Society's 2008 "Modestly Modern" Home Tour.



HISTORIC RESOURCE #85

(Rice House) Built in 1993 by renowned architect Jerrold E. Lomax, Rice House is currently the City's youngest designated landmark. Lomax is noted for his work as a principal designer with Craig Elwood, as well as his independent commissions. Constructed with a striking blend of concrete, steel and glass, Rice House exhibits the sleek design and innovative craftsmanship associated with the Modern style. The house has been featured in Architectural Digest and the Los Angeles Times. It was also featured on The Glendale Historical Society's "2006 Centennial Home Tour."



HISTORIC RESOURCE #87

Despite a number of alterations over the years, this house is a grand and interesting example of Spanish Colonial Revival style architecture. The home was built in 1925 by Robert Jensen, a prominent Glendale businessman and member of the family that built the Palace-Grand Shops, also known as Jensen's Arcade, which included the beloved (and now demolished) Egyptian Village Café. Terry Kath, singer, songwriter, and lead guitarist for the group Chicago, owned the property until his death in 1978.

Photos 82, 84, 86, 87: Greg Grammer
Photos 83, 85: Arlene Vidor

Growing up in Glendale During the Depression

By Don McDonald, TGHS Member

My family moved to Glendale in late 1929 when I was 11 years old. These are some memories of growing up there in those early years of the Great Depression.

As our 1925 Peerless brought us into California, late in the summer of 1929, my siblings and I found ourselves crowded with sensations quite new to kids fresh from Lakewood, Ohio - like the novel taste of avocados and fresh figs, geraniums growing almost wild, stately palm trees, snails which we could fizz-up and kill with salt. We were also fascinated by the popular restaurant architecture of those years, proclaiming the foods inside through the shape of the building outside: a mammoth hot dog, an enormous pig, a huge artichoke, all of which could be washed down at the giant orange which served "Orange Julius."

That autumn we rented a home in Glendale on Lexington Avenue. At the time, the city's population was approaching 60,000. It proudly called itself "the fastest growing city in California." Its Chamber of Commerce touted it as "The Jewel City." However, like some other Los Angeles bedroom suburbs of the time, Glendale did not welcome ethnic and racial diversity and there were restrictions on who could purchase property there. The legality of restrictions like this on deeds was later removed by a Supreme Court ruling, but as a result of the existing restrictions, (promoted by real estate interests), I never attended school with African American students until entering UCLA in 1938, when Jackie Robinson was one of my classmates.

The Great Depression was deepening at the time, but we kids were sheltered from the worries it caused our parents. After several limited jobs (including selling Airway vacuum cleaners door-to-door) my Dad finally found steady work as night manager of the Tam O'Shanter Inn. I presume his pay was minuscule, but we never knew that. It was only much later in life that my mother said what a blessing it had been the day I brought home a loaf of bread I'd found on the street, apparently dropped from a bakery truck. Of course it helped that everyone we knew was in the same boat.

New to me school programs

When I entered 6th grade in nearby Columbus School, it seemed to be more informal than my previous elementary schools had been in Lakewood, Ohio. I recall two spring 1930 programs which were new to me. On May Day, we had a real May pole, around which we students danced to music hammered out by a teacher on an upright piano. We were two lines going in opposite direction, weaving in and out while holding colored ribbons attached to the May pole's top. Its gradual transformation was our reward. Then on Memorial Day we had an outside assembly which featured (perhaps for the last time) a small group of Civil War veterans. Dressed in their Union and Confederate uniforms, several of them related to us in piping old voices their well-rehearsed stories of mini-balls and grape-shot. As I recall, our program ended with some local dignitary giving an extra-fervent patriotic homily.

My job as a "jerk"

A small drugstore stood on a corner adjacent to Columbus School, and like all such stores back then it had a soda fountain. Behind this, a master artist known as a "Soda Jerk" concocted an array of sodas, milk shakes sundaes, and soft drinks. For several months, I was employed there as an apprentice "Jerk" after school hours when business was heaviest. I can't remember being paid and perhaps only got whatever I could consume. Since I was only 11 this was obviously before stricter child-labor laws were in effect - not that I labored all that hard. I found great creative pleasure in turning out a proper chocolate soda, our best seller. It had to be done just so - a careful mixture of syrup with a dollop of ice cream; then the addition of soda water - careful - not too much! You then deftly muddled these ingredients before plopping into the large glass two scoops of vanilla ice cream. Last came the truly critical step - whipping up an ambrosian froth by applying precisely the correct amount of soda water in a thin, high-pressure stream, to a few strategic spots. The result: an irresistible work of culinary art.

Mrs. Widdows, a family friend nicknamed "Sweetie," directed the Junior Choir at the Glendale Congregational Church. I was duly enrolled in the first of many choirs I was to enjoy over the years. I was a fixture in the soprano section until my voice changed a few years later. I'm sure we boys were more adept at hitting each other with rubber bands, spitwads, and pea-shooters than we were with warbling. But Glendale wasn't exactly the big league for junior choirs, and so our little group was quite popular.

The promise of lighter-than-air transportation

My central 11 year-old passion was the newly created Grand Central Air Terminal, which was to be for several years the chief Los Angeles passenger airport. My earliest visit was with my dad when we went to see the launch of the Slate metal dirigible built by Thomas B. Slate, an inventor who had developed commercial dry ice. We were part of an excited crowd watching this much-publicized event. As the huge craft (212' X 58") slowly rose, it suddenly stopped and sank back to earth. We found out later that a hydrogen intake valve had stuck open, and the pressure had popped a number of rivets. Because this could not be corrected without completely rebuilding the ship, Slate's enterprise was sunk, wiping out the (mostly Glendale) investors who had joined him in his dream, which included a mooring mast above the Glendale Hotel.

A metal dirigible might seem incredible today, when many people aren't aware that commercial lighter-than-air was once successful. The great example was Germany's huge Graf Zeppelin, which flew





The author Don McDonald when he was 12 years old in March of 1930.



Don's home in Glendale at 368 Lexington Drive

34,000 passengers over a million safe miles around the world. When it visited Los Angeles in August 1929 on its first round-the-world flight, I'll never forget the glimpse we had of it, like an angelic silver cloud. We could scarcely hear the unusual muffled throb of its

five diesel engines. A year later, when I was in Wilson Junior High, I took the affirmative and prevailed in a debate: "RESOLVED THAT THE DIRIGIBLE HAS A BRIGHTER FUTURE THAN THE AIRPLANE." Of course such a debate would have been impossible a few years later, with the sad ends of the MACON, AKRON, and HINDENBURG.

More pioneers at Grand Central

The very peak of my Grand Central experiences involved Charles Lindbergh. He had been my hero ever since that night in May 1927 when Mom had us all pray for his safety. I had my own well-thumbed copy of his book "WE" telling about his daring adventure flying "The Spirit of St. Louis" to Paris in 1927. His plane's wing number NX-211 was engraved on my heart. And here he was, coming to visit Grand Central with his new wife for a civic reception in 1930 (as I recall, they were afterward to take off and set a new transcontinental speed record). I was beside myself with excitement, and arrived early. A crowd had already gathered. After watching his Lockheed Sirius land, I ran into the terminal to get somewhere near the front of the throngs stretching through to the upstairs reception area, all held back by ropes tended by policemen.

"What are you trying to do, son?" A policeman saw me trying to crowd in for a closer vantage point.

"Gee, Officer - I'm just trying to get a look at my hero."

"Take it easy, son; stand over in front of that post."

Shortly afterwards the Lindberghs passed directly before me. Here he was in person at last! The Lone Eagle, lanky and unsmiling, striding briskly along. Anne Morrow, his petite wife, who almost had to run to keep up, had a shy smile. The two were escorted by some solicitous officials. I was really keyed up.

Grand Central brought me another treat in the summer of 1931. Amelia Earhart, the famous aviatrix, visited there to demonstrate an early version of the helicopter, a Pitcairn PCA-2 Autogiro. Naturally, I had to see Amelia show off its innovative feature: take-offs and landings in very little space (neither being truly vertical).

In Glendale we were about 35 miles from Mom's relatives in Santa Ana. When we drove there, it took nearly two hours - a trip which would be more like 35 minutes on today's freeways. The trip was a pleasant one, much of it through fragrant citrus groves. But on a drive of that duration, we invariably saw a serious auto accident or two. Cars were far more lethal then. Seat belts and improved tires, glass, and brakes came mostly after WWII. Divided and limited-access highways were years off. Traffic fatalities in those years were many times what they are today, per passenger mile. Newspapers kept box scores on "The Slaughter," especially over holidays.

We had one transportation asset which is missing today, though - an efficient Pacific Electric Railway inter-urban system, which reduced the need to drive cars. On special occasions we would take the "Big Red Cars" to the beach. Their terminal in Venice was near a giant swimming pool called The Plunge, which we sometimes patronized. (I remember my very keen embarrassment there, having to undress with strange men around.)

Scouting

My 12th birthday was special for several reasons. I got my first adult outfit - what a thrill - a rite of passage! Gone were the knickers of childhood. Changed into long corduroy pants, I was ready to become a citizen of the world, a genuine junior high school student. The other reason was that I could now join the Boy Scouts. I joined Troop #2 and we had lively meetings in the basement recreational hall of the Congregational Church. For some forgotten reason, I soon became the troop's cheer leader, possibly because I had the loudest voice, an attribute much-appreciated by my fellow scouts. In that heroic role, I would energetically coax out such sallies as

The toughest jobs
We sure can do
Cause we're the tops
We're Scout Troop Two
RAH! RAH! RAAAAAH!

Making Scout Second Class required completing a 14-mile hike. Our prescribed route took my buddy and me through tiny downtown Burbank, way out to its remote pastoral reaches. Out beyond the fledgling Lockheed Aircraft Company, to the vineyards past the Ranch & Boxing Barn of Jim Jeffries, the ex-heavyweight champ. To get my Firemanship merit badge, I had to pass a test given at the Glendale Fire Department. The Fireman who examined me referred to some nozzle fittings as "male" and "female." This sounded important, but I had no idea why these terms were applicable. Such ignorance in a boy age 12 would probably be totally impossible today.

I received an "official" Boy Scout camera for Christmas. It was the official olive-drab color of an official 127 film size, and it folded officially. I became absorbed with it, and took photos to the extent my modest

GROWING UP continued on page 8

DOCTORS HOUSE news

By Sonia Montejano



Bill Holderness, Sheila Murray, Mireya Romo-Bowen, Bob Clark and Jeri Benton

Drawing Winners Enjoy Dinner

Each year the lucky winner of the Candlelight Dinner drawing gets to enjoy an elegant dinner, Victorian style, at the Doctors House. This year's winner, Sheila Murray and her three guests Bob Clark, Jeri Benton and Bill Holderness, celebrated their friendship as they enjoyed not only the fabulous meal prepared by Laura Kelly, but also the unique atmosphere of the Victorian dining room. The meal was served by Lead Docent Mireya Romo-Bowen who was dressed in a period maid's uniform.



Ani Nina Oganyan



Lidia Khlgatyan

Welcome Aboard

The Doctors House Museum has been able to open its doors every Sunday since 1984 with the help of volunteers. Three volunteers, Mary Kay Prather, Marina Perez and Liz Hickman, have retired and will no longer be guiding tours at the Doctors House. Fortunately for the museum, two others have emerged from our community to begin their volunteering. They are each fluent in Armenian and with unique qualities that are an asset to TGHS.

Ani Nina Oganyan has been a resident of Glendale since her family immigrated to the United States when she was two. She graduated from Herbert Hoover High School and is currently in the process of transferring to a four year university to study theater. Ani Nina has been an active volunteer in many charitable organizations and has acted in many school and community plays. She is excited to be a part of the Doctors House family and The Glendale Historical Society; meeting new people and becoming involved gives her great joy.

Lidia Khlgatyan has only been living in the United States for 3 years and is attending Glendale Community College. She plans to transfer this fall, get a bachelor's degree and pursue a career in as a pharmacist. She hopes to reach her goal so that she can then make a difference in helping people with their medical needs. In the interim, Lidia enjoys guiding visitors through the Doctors House and having them get a glimpse into what medicine was like at the turn of the century.

The museum is actively seeking volunteer docents. If you are interested, please contact the museum director at (323) 251-9697.

WELCOME

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS November 2010- February 2011

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

JEWEL CITY PATRON (\$500)

Glendale Adventist
 Medical Center - R

VERDUGO PATRON (\$250)

Steven Chapman &
 Ricardo Ordoñez - R
 Nancy Hathaway
 (The Wine Vault) - U
 Peter Rusch & Scott Halloran - U

TROPICO PATRON (\$100)

Maureen Palacios
 (Once Upon A Time Bookstore) - U
 Diane Stevens - N

SUSTAINING (\$50)

Jamie & Polly Anderson - U
 Jordan & Elizabeth Cohen - R
 Catherine & Chris Lamson - U
 Los Angeles Public Library - R
 Carol Merry - R

Royal Canyon Property
 Owners Association - R
 Dennis Tesdell - N

Bella Yegian - N

FAMILY/DUAL (\$40)

Bill & Sydney Bennett - R
 Ben Betts - N

Randall Von Bloomberg &
 Joanna Hess - R

Mark & Sharla Bohman - R

Zuzka Eggena - R

Richard & Carol Heyes - N

Larry & Bernadette Hovland - N

Richard A. Lieboff - R

Julio Moline & Moira Delaney - R

Patricia Marsh &
 Michael Morgan - U

Irene Munafo - R

Ray & Virginia Newbum - R

Donald McPoland - R

Stephanie Schus & Joe Russin - R

Sandy & Woody Wise - N

Katherine Wolfe - N

NON-PROFIT (\$35)

Glendale Arts

INDIVIDUAL (\$25)

Richard Bloch - R

Russell Cinque, Jr. - R

Hannah Lazarus - N

Doris McKently - U

Michael Mohill - N

Robin Oates - R

Anna Rundle - R

SENIOR/STUDENT (\$15)

Mary Kay Daniels - N

Marguerite DeBey - R

Paula Devine - R

Mary Jo Ferrell - R

Dr. Ray Galloway - R

Valerie Howard - R

Richard Johnson - R

Jane Kneedler - N

Dorothy Montapert - R

Don McDonald - R

Mary McVay - R

Ana Nina Oganyan - N

Michael Sharp - R

Merry Sue Smoller - N

Mary Underwood - R

Virginia Young - R

PAST PRESIDENTS

Deborah Dentler

Carole Dougherty

Andrea Humberger

Marie Luft

Steve Preston

Bill Shepherd

David Smith

Arlene Vidor

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?

Preservation advocacy

Historic Districting

Fundraising

Special events/Tours

Outreach/Education

Doctors House volunteers

Historic research/Surveys

Archiving/Organizing

Membership/Outreach

**THE GLENDALE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Effective to
October 1, 2011**

PRESIDENT

John LoCascio

john.locascio@glendalehistorical.org

VICE PRESIDENT

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Greg Grammer

greg.grammer@glendalehistorical.org

SECRETARY

Marty Bracciotti

marty.bracciotti@glendalehistorical.org

TREASURER

Lorna Vartanian

lorna.vartanian@glendalehistorical.org

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Marcia Hanford

marcia.hanford@glendalehistorical.org

MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH COMMITTEE CHAIR

Victoria Lasken

victoria.lasken@glendalehistorical.org

BOARD MEMBERS

Margaret Hammond

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Scott Lasken

scott.lasken@glendalehistorical.org

Joe Selph

joe.selph@glendalehistorical.org

DOCTORS HOUSE DIRECTOR

Sonia Montejano

sonia.montejano@glendalehistorical.org

NEWSLETTER LAYOUT

Carole Dougherty

cdougherty@sbcglobal.net

CONTRIBUTORS

Marty Bracciotti

Greg Grammer

Scott Lasken

John LoCascio

Don McDonald

Sonia Montejano

Lorna Vartanian

Write us at:

TGHS

Post Office Box 4173

Glendale CA 91202

Visit us on the web at:

www.glendalehistorical.org

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

GROWING UP continued from page 5

allowance and family supplement allowed; small glimpses of a Glendale that's now ancient history - the Verdugo Hills without houses on them, the planes of long-forgotten airlines using Grand Central, the adjacent National Guard Field, sometimes thrillingly used by U.S. Army Air Corp planes from March Field. My camera recorded scenes at my crowning Scout adventure - our 1931 Summer Camp at Sequoia National Park. The massive redwoods astonished me, as did mighty Morro Rock we camped beneath. But in the obligatory postcard "to your mother" my chief remark was only that "I had plenty to eat on the way up."

My first bicycle

My first bicycle was a used one, but it seemed like a magic carpet to me. My buddy Dan Schickler and I rode way over to Eagle Rock the first day I had it. Sore legs the next day seemed a small price to pay. With my bike I had a chance to take over a neighborhood route for *The Saturday Evening Post*, a weekly magazine very popular at the time. (If it's remembered at all today, it's probably for its Norman Rockwell covers.) This involved picking up 40 to 50 copies from the local agent and delivering them after school on Thursdays. I would then collect once a month. The magazine sold for 5 cents, which will tell you something about subsequent inflation. And it was hard to sell for 5 cents, which will tell you something about the Great Depression. I learned about this difficulty the hard way when we had to make periodic door-to-door sales to drum up new customers. I hated to do this, and at the time identified with Elmer Blurt, a comic radio character. Elmer was so hopeless at door-to-door selling that after knocking at a door he always hoped-hoped-hoped nobody would be home. If someone was, he'd say "uh-(gulp) you wouldn't like to buy this genuine patented apple-corer/corkscrew, would you?" And of course he always got rudely rejected with either a choice expletive or the door slammed in his face. That was me, but without the humor.

The Glendale Historical Society
PO Box 4173
Glendale CA 91202
www.glendalehistorical.org



Peter Rusch at TGHS' 2010 holiday party at Glendale's train depot.

Photo: Simon Wright

**THE
GLENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ENDOWMENT FUND**

The Community Foundation of the Verdugos maintains an endowment fund, which benefits The Glendale Historical Society in perpetuity.

It was established by former TGHS treasurer Richard Montgomery and grew considerably after a bequest by former TGHS president Dr. Robert Newcomb. Contributions to the fund are invested, and earnings are distributed each year to benefit TGHS's ongoing preservation efforts.

Please consider making a contribution that will last for all time!

www.glendalecommunityfoundation.org
330 Arden Avenue, Suite 130
Glendale CA 91203
(818) 241-8040
info@communityfoundationoftheverdugos.org