



Glendale Arizona Historical Society

"preservation of the past"

DECEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

Volume 34, Issue 8

UPCOMING EVENTS

at a glance

Please Save these Dates

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, Dec 14th at 2:00 pm
Manistee Ranch

POTLUCK

Monday, Jan 26th at 6:00 pm
Manistee Ranch

HISTORY OF THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

with PASTOR GLADDING
Monday, Feb 23rd at 7:00 pm
Manistee Ranch

THELMA HEATWOLE VIDEO PRESENTATION

Monday, Mar 23rd at 7:00 pm
Manistee Ranch



Annual ICE CREAM SOCIAL
Saturday, May 24th at 4:00 pm

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Merry Christmas

HO HO HO

This year's Society Christmas Party promises to be a magical experience for you and others, so plan to attend our annual holiday celebration at the beautifully decorated and historical Manistee Ranch.

There will be singing of Christmas carols, food and beverages, fellowship and the privilege of being in one of Glendale's most cherished and historical buildings, Manistee Ranch.

Please bring a friend to enjoy the party. And....be sure to bring your favorite dessert to share with the group. Beverages will be provided by the Society.

Everyone will be smiling and having a good time at the GAHS 2014 Christmas Party, so plan to be there:

- * Sunday Afternoon, December 14, 2014
- * 2:00 PM at beautiful Manistee Ranch
(directions on page 4)





Ron Short, President
Board of Directors

President's Message

The Board of the Glendale Arizona Historical Society wishes you a very **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year**.

The year 2014 seems to have gone by quickly. The November Ole Timers Picnic was very well attended and all had a good time with great food.



Manistee Ranch in Need of TLC



While Manistee Ranch is a terrific location for the Society meetings and events, its buildings are a very big responsibility for the Society; there are always new building issues to resolve. The roof in the kitchen has a leak and a contractor has been hired to fix that problem before it gets worse. The woodpeckers are back making holes in the side of the house. That damage will be repaired. The outdoor lighting is poor to none. Carol St. Clair and I met with an electrical contractor to discuss what can be done.

The first phase will be to connect the front porch light with the light on the pole in front of the house to come on automatically when it gets dark. Second the security lights on the sides of the

house will be upgraded to LED that goes on automatically at dark. A light will be installed on the garage. Third, we will install a flood light at the peak of the roof on the east side of the house to provide light in the yard for evening events. These improvements will enhance the appearance, safety and convenience for all of us who enjoy the beauty of Manistee Ranch.

Sahuaro Ranch Guest House is critical to the Society's mission of telling the story of Glendale's history. Volunteers greet and give visitor tours on Sunday afternoons. The GAHS office is always buzzing with calls and visitors regarding wedding arrangements and history questions.

Weddings facilitated by the Society volunteers take place in the rose garden with the Guest House used for dressing and gathering of the wedding



WE APPRECIATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP "Renew for You and Invite a Few"

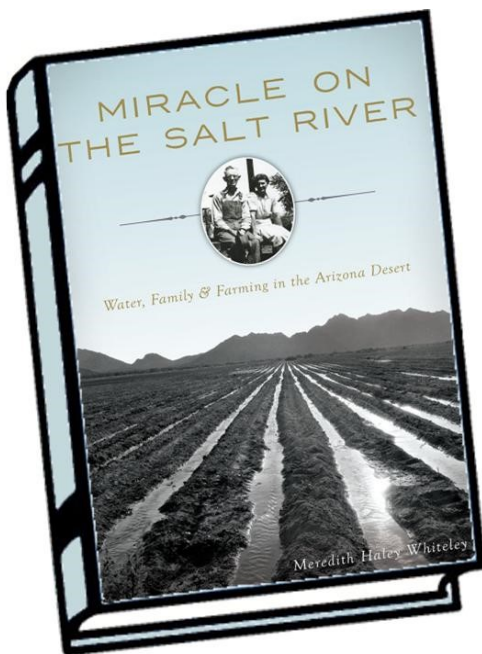
The membership of the GAHS is currently at 191. The Board appreciates your membership. You are the Society and the

Board works hard to provide programs and activities for the membership and preservation of Glendale's history. Without your membership and participation there would be no Glendale Arizona Historical Society. The Society has sent out membership renewal letters for 2015. It would be appreciated if you could fill out the membership form, write a check for the dues and send both to the Society's PO Box. It's really important to carefully consider how you feel you can help to improve and preserve the Society through volunteering for various activities listed on the membership application. Your help is needed and appreciated. Also, included are two extra membership applications in case you'd like to invite someone to join the Society and help to preserve and promote Glendale's history.

A Miracle Called Glendale

A new book was published this year entitled *Miracle on the Salt River* by Meredith Haley Whiteley. Meredith is a third generation native of the Valley. She was raised on the farm in Glendale and Maryvale. She went off to college at Grinnell College in Iowa and Arizona State University earning a PhD. She taught American and Arizona history before developing a career in university planning and institutional research. Meredith retired early and renewed her interest in Arizona water history and the voices of ordinary people.

Ms Whiteley's book is a fascinating, well researched, documented and written history of the region, but specifically that of Glendale, its people and institutions. She acknowledges Carol St. Clair and the Glendale Arizona Historical Society for help with the research. Many of the photos used in Carol and Chuck St. Clair's book "Glendale" is in this book.



The focus is on water, good and bad, which was the driver of development of the Valley and Glendale. It meant life and death for the farmers and businesses in the Glendale area. In 1903 and 1904 there was a terrible drought and when it did rain the north side canals were in such bad shape they could not handle the water. Farmers were selling out and leaving the area. Angry farmers tried to get the Arizona Water Company to repair the canals with no success. West Valley farmers started to dig their own 30 mile canal following the Grand Canal. The new canal was called "Appropriators Canal" and funded with \$50,000 contributed by the farmers. The canal irrigated 38,000 acres. The farmers built the canal with their own bare hands, but it brought life back to the area.

The book followed the lives of Kate and Jack Brooks and Joe and Ollie Haley families in the Glendale area from their start in the Valley until the 1960's. It shows how deep water, religion, family, land, farming and values tied the people of Glendale together. In 1918 Glendale was faced with the serious Spanish Influenza with 35

people dying in the first three weeks of November 1918. The community came together and did what had to be done to survive this influenza.

Miracle on the Salt River can be acquired at local book stores and on-line. It will be time well spent to obtain a deeper appreciation and understanding of how lives were impacted by living in the desert.

GOT RUGS ?

Several weeks ago there was a severe rainstorm that swept through the city. The intensity of the storm drove water into the basement of the Guest house. GAHS volunteers cleaned up the water that was standing but the area rugs were too wet and damaged to save. It would be appreciated if a member might have small to medium size area rugs that could be donated for use in the basement.



If you have a rug to donate, please call Josie Reardon at 623-435-0072 to make the arrangements.

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GAHS Phone Numbers:

Guest House Office: 623.435.0072
Manistee Ranch Office: 623.931.8848
Newsletter Editor: 602.770.8202

GAHS E-mail:

General Info: gahs73@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor: gail@gcmeyers.com

Visit our Website:

www.glendalearizonahistoricalsociety.org

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Our next membership get together is
**Our Annual GAHS Christmas Party
Sunday, Dec 14, 2014 at 2:00 pm
Manistee Ranch, 5127 W. Northern**

Please enter the driveway to Manistee Ranch from 51st Avenue, just south of Walgreens. Proceed through the parking lot, and continue through the open vehicle gate. Then keep right, and park along the dirt driveway.

We are pleased to welcome these
new members to the GAHS:

The Whiffen Family
(Cindy, Charlie, Catie and Allie)

Jerry and Debbie Geiger

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Tour the Ranches

2014 / 2015 Schedule

The **City of Glendale Parks and Recreation Department** conducts tours of the **Main House** now through May on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 AM –2 PM and Sundays from 1 PM –4 PM. For information or to arrange group tours, call **623-930-4200**.

The **Glendale Arizona Historical Society** is conducting its tours of the **Guest House** now through May every Sunday from 1 PM –3:30 PM. Group tours may be arranged by calling **623-435-0072**.

The **Glendale Arizona Historical Society** conducts tours of **Manistee Ranch and Office**, 5127 W. Northern Avenue, Glendale, AZ (enter off of 51st Avenue parking lot) now through May on Saturday afternoons from noon to 4 PM (Last tour starts at 3 PM) on January 3 and 17, February 7 and 21, March 7 and 21 and April 4 and 18 and May 2. Admission costs are: Adults - \$5, seniors - \$4 and Ages 6 to16, just \$1. Group tours may be arranged by calling **623-435-0072**.

(Schedules are subject to change without notice)