



Glendale Arizona Historical Society

"preservation of the past"

MARCH 2016 NEWSLETTER

Volume 37, Issue 3

UPCOMING EVENTS

at a glance

Please Save these Dates

A TOWN OF DREAMS

Ron Brewster

Monday, March 28 at 7pm

Manistee Ranch

MODELING

HISTORIC GLENDALE

West Valley Railroad Historical Society

Monday, April 25 at 2pm

Manistee Ranch

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Sunday, May 22 at 4pm

Manistee Ranch

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER



**TOURS AND MEETINGS
RESUME THIS FALL .
WE'LL SEE YOU THEN!**

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"ARIZONA RON"

presents

A TOWN OF DREAMS

Society members, guests and friends will be given a unique view into the history of Glendale, AZ through the entertaining presentation by **Ron Brewster**. Ron is a Glendale native, who graduated from Glendale High School in 1958. On Monday, March 28th at 7:00 PM, Manistee Ranch, 5127 West Northern Avenue, Ron will give his "**Town of Dreams**" tour of historic Glendale with pictures and stories. He also conducts 90 minute walking tours of historic downtown Glendale during the year.

Go to: www.visitglendale.com for dates and details. Ron will bring back fond memories for long-time Glendale residents and excite others about places, events and people that created Glendale's history. Refreshments will be served by our hostesses **Rosemary Lynch** and **Vesta Roper**.



GUHS/GHS All Class Reunion

Saturday, April 2nd

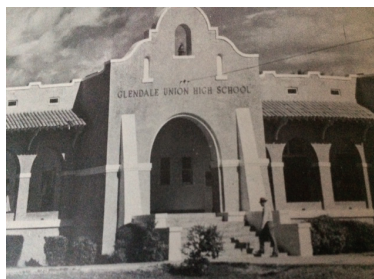
10:00 am to 4:00 pm

in the

GUHS Cafeteria

Attendees will have the option of touring the facilities before lunch guided by current students of GHS. The National Junior ROTC Color Guard and Vocal Ensemble will open the reunion and the buffet luncheon will be prepared by the School's Award Winning Culinary Class. Mr. Bruce Heatwole, former student, teacher and Principal will serve as Master of Ceremonies.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit the reunion website: www.ghsaar.myevent.com. Tickets are required for attendance and space is limited! Ticket prices include lunch and can be purchased on line at: <http://ghsaar.myevent.com> or by mailing a self addressed envelope to: GUHS/GHS AAR Committee at PO Box 6288, Glendale AZ 85312. Include the following information: Name (include maiden name), graduation year, name of spouse or other attending with you, contact info: Phone, email and/or Street address. Also indicate if a vegetarian entrée is preferred. Include a check made out to GUHS/GHSAAR for \$18 per person attending. The deadline for reservations is March 19, 2016.



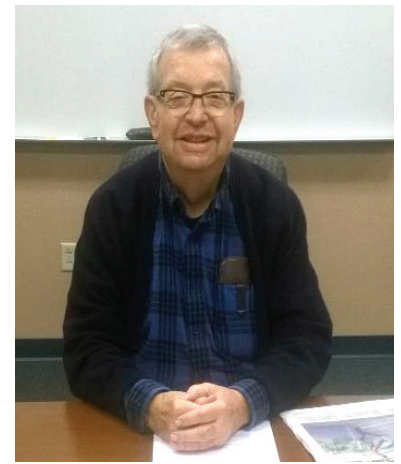
Glendale High School, ca 1950

President's Message

The Board of Directors did not meet with city staff at the February 2, 2016 Board meeting to discuss the proposed Sahuaro Ranch Use Agreement. The meeting was rescheduled for March 1, 2016. During the same meeting the Board will meet with representatives of the **West Valley Historical Railroad Society** about where the Society can find a place for their model railroad layout. They have built a replica of the ice house, Santa Fe Depot, Beet Sugar Factory and other historic Glendale buildings.

The Railroad Society is asking for the GAHS Board input as to what historic buildings should they model and where could they locate their models and train equipment. It is a serious group of great craftsmen and enthusiasm for model train layouts. Some of their members have joined the Historical Society and will be volunteering to help with events. The Rose Garden rose bushes are sleeping now, but will wake up later this month and "Spring" forward with bright colors and beauty for visitors and weddings parties.

The Society has booked 40 weddings to date for the rose garden or adjacent palm tree area when the green area is being over seeded. Volunteers are needed to help facilitate the weddings. Please call Marty or Carol at 623-435-0072 to sign up. Our members have been very generous over the years with donations as memorials or gifts. One member, **Beki Maynes**, has consistently given a very generous amount to celebrate her birthday. The Board appreciates all that Beki and many other members do to help the Society fulfill its mission. **Nelda Crowell**, Oral History Coordinator, completed her first oral history interview of **Carol St. Clair**, who never had an oral history interview.



*Ron Short, President
Board of Directors*

Mamie Smith's Memories of Glendale



Downtown Glendale, ca. 1910

Mamie Smith, wife of long-time Glendale educator Harold W. Smith, came to town by train from Kentucky in 1908. Glendale looked like the photo with dirt streets, horse mounted police and a town that didn't lock its doors. In 1985 Mamie, age 84, talked with Glendale Star reporter Donna Michaels about her memories of Glendale. Mamie said that from 1908 to 1985, "I think the main difference is the people, some people are so mean now". Back then "we would carry

our mattresses out on to the lawn and sleep peacefully all night", "Heck, during the depression when folks were losing everything they had, we didn't worry about crime." Mamie said she couldn't see Glendale becoming a real big city but was astounded by the new improvements such as the new city hall. She lamented that when her and Harold married in 1921 they should have bought the entire block where their property sits. They could have "cleaned up". Harold taught school and Mamie worked at Glendale State Bank. She went home for lunch one day and came back to find the bank had "gone broke" She turned to becoming a mother to Harold Jr, William and Deanna. Mamie was on the first girls Basketball Team at Glendale High School as the "jumping center". When she was in high school she and her short-hand teacher were asked to take notes for a big meeting to discuss the paving of Grand Avenue past Northern Avenue. She usually took the Phoenix street car to Phoenix for a round trip cost of 10 cents and in 1985 she didn't drive because of the "terrible traffic."

GENERAL JOHN J. "BLACKJACK" PERSHING VISITS GLENDALE

General Pershing, a huge WWI hero, came to Glendale by rail on Friday, January 30, 1920 arriving at 8:05 AM. Glendale was the first Arizona city to welcome the General.

Glendale Mayor C.H. Tinker and one of the largest crowds ever assembled in Glendale, including its elementary and high school students, who were given recess from school to meet Pershing at the Santa Fe Depot. W.J. Galbraith, head

of the Commercial Club introduced the General. Pershing gave a 10 minute speech talking about the necessity for broad education of children. He lauded Arizona's contribution of troops to WWI. However, Pershing explained "We cannot exist long with an illiterate people.

A democracy conducted by ignorant fathers soon finds itself in the hands of ignorant and irresponsible people, and is soon drafted into anarchy. The safeguard of our

country today is the education of these little boys and girls in their duties as citizens. The state has no higher responsibility than to educate the children..."

When the Selective Service "Draft Act" was passed into law in 1917, the military found that 30% of those drafted were illiterate. General Pershing's trip by train continued on to Phoenix.

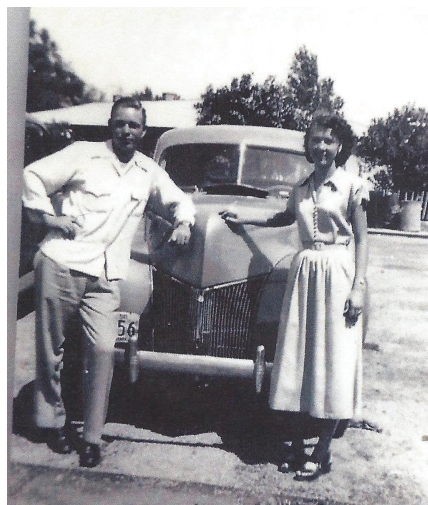
America was given a formal chance to thank General Pershing for victory.



A Family Remembers 'Old Glendale'



Downtown Glendale, ca. 1941



The Rayburns, Happy in Glendale

A few weeks ago the Society office received a wonderful letter from Evelyn and Albert "Bud" Rayburn sharing with the Society some precious memories of Glendale during difficult times for the Rayburn family. Bud is now 85 and Evelyn 78. However, in 1941 Bud's parents Prentis and Ida with sisters Rhonda, Vola, and himself, moved to Glendale from McAllister, OK thinking Ida had tuberculosis, which turned out to be false. They first lived in an auto court on East Van Buren and Dad took what jobs he could. Prentis got a job at Luke Field, but was electrocuted on the job in 1943. The family had an extremely difficult time to survive, but Roy Harrelson allowed them to live in the little well house on his farm with "Bud" taking care of horses at 12 and Rhonda doing waitress work at 14. The First Southern Baptist Church helped the family with food and clothing. Bud talks about

memories of he and sister Vola riding burros to the movies downtown Glendale. Ida, the mother, was not able to work, so both Bud 15 and sister Rhonda 17 quit school to support the family making money anyway they could. Bud even rode the bus to Phoenix to pick up a box of young chicks to raise and sell eggs. Jim Weed was an important mentor to Bud lending spiritual guidance and care for the family. The pastor and many others at the church helped the family. The family was able to move into the Glendale Housing Project. Bud joined the Army at 17, discharged in 1950 and recalled the same year to be sent to the Korean War. Sister Vola joined the Navy at 18 and now lives in Gilbert and Rhonda passed away in September 2013. Both sisters are life members of the Society. Bud and Evelyn live in Groom Creek, AZ.

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Martha Dennis.....Director
Vesta Roper.....Director
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Our next membership get together is
Monday, March 28, 2016 at 7 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 our newest member:
Randi Turk

March Celebrations



Glendale Arizona Historical Society
PO Box 5606
Glendale, AZ 85312-5606

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Tour the Ranches

The Guest House at Sahuaro Ranch is scheduling its public tours between 1pm and 3:30pm each Sunday afternoon by the Glendale Arizona Historical Society from October to May. Call 623-435-0072 to arrange group tours. (Last tour is at 3:00 PM) Schedule is subject to change.

The Glendale Parks and Recreation Department conducts tours of the Main House on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 11am to 2pm, and on Sundays from 1pm to 4pm. For more information, or to arrange a group tour call 623-930-4201.

The Historical Society conducts tours of the Manistee Ranch House and Office from October to May, on the first and third Saturdays of each month, noon to 4 PM. The last tour starts at 3 PM. The 2015-2016 season's remaining tour dates are March 5 and 19, April 2 and 16, and May 7. Tour fees: adults \$5, seniors \$4. Ages 6 to 16 are \$1. GAHS members are free; (schedule is subject to change.) Please call 623-435-0072 for group tours and schedule information. Tours will close for the summer, and resume in October.



2016 Potluck and Installation

Those reelected to the Board for 2016 include, from left to right in the photo, are Carol St. Clair, Vice President; Rosemary Lynch, Director; Jessica Koory, Secretary; and Ronald Short, President. Reelected director Martha Dennis is not pictured.

Councilmember Bart Turner, on the far left, installed the new Board members and then asked for all GAHS members present to express their willingness to support the Board and the Society. All raised their hands in support.