



Glendale Arizona Historical Society

"preservation of the past"

MAY 2019 NEWSLETTER

Volume 40, Issue 5

UPCOMING EVENTS

at a glance

Please Save These Dates

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2019

Thunderbird Field #1 & School

Nelda Crowell

7:00 PM at Manistee Ranch



With Honor & Gratitude
We Remember
May 27, 2019

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2019

Sanderson Ford Museum Tour

Neil Schrock, Tour Guide

2:00 PM at Sanderson Ford

6400 N. 51st Ave. in Glendale



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The History of Thunderbird Field

to be presented by **Nelda Crowell**

Monday, May 20, 2019, 7:00 PM, Manistee Ranch, 5127 W. Northern Ave.

(Please enter off of 51st Avenue)

Thunderbird Field, subsequently Thunderbird School of Global Management, is one of the most important parts of Glendale's history. Over 10,000 cadets were trained at Thunderbird Field to be pilots and fight in WWII. The Thunderbird School of Global Management was recognized as the top international business education venues in the world. The school called Glendale home for more than seventy years, until its move to Arizona State University and downtown Phoenix.

Society members and their guests have a unique opportunity to learn the history of these important historical resources from an outstanding historian, Nelda Crowell, retired Assistant V. P. and archivist for the school. She will also talk about the future of the historic Thunderbird Field site. Refreshments will be served.



Nelda Crowell
(Retired Archivist)

Thunderbird School of
Global Management



Thunderbird Field 1941



Historic Hangar 1941



Air Control Tower 1941

When Agriculture was Queen



In 1955, the Sixth Annual Melon Festival was held, and Miss Patti Marks won the competition. (She is standing second from the right.) She toured the east and mid-west promoting Arizona-grown fruit. In 1955, more than 4,000 people were directly employed in agriculture production of \$25 million annually. In 1954, the Santa Fe Railway shipped 6,541 cars of lettuce, 546 of cantaloupes, 51 of melons, 67 of grapes, 84 of onions, 247 of miscellaneous fruits and vegetables, 34 of sheep, 22 of cattle and 21 of horses. The top money crop was cotton followed by lettuce and carrots.

The Glendale Depot did more business than any other Arizona location on the Santa Fe Railway's line.



**Ron Short, President
Board of Directors
1957**

President's Message

The GAHS has provided several excellent programs this year and will end the season with a presentation by Nelda Crowell on the history of Thunderbird Field.

So find your goggles - that's not your computer - and attend the

May 20, 2019, 7:00 PM program meeting at Manistee Ranch. Already scheduled, is the October 28, 2019 meeting, a tour of the 15,000 square foot Sanderson Ford Museum at 2:00 PM. Throughout the summer, the Society office will be open part-time - Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM, but no tours are scheduled.

Nelda Crowell, with the new Past Perfect software and new laptop, will be working with member volunteers to place the Society's documents and artifacts on computer. In partnership with ASU, she will help launch a student internship program this fall on several opportunities for preserving Glendale's history, thanks to a grant by donors Charles, Jennifer and John U. Sands, in memory of John P. Sands. The internship program will operate through the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Science on ASU's West Campus; Dr. Eduardo Pagán will be the its faculty administrator. While this program will focus initially on Manistee Ranch history within the context of the history of Glendale and the West Valley, Nelda is also working with Arizona Christian University on Thunderbird Field's important history.

The only way the Society can keep historic resources in good condition is through donations, and right now, essential repairs are needed on the Manistee Ranch house and the other historic buildings. Any donations provided to the Society for Manistee Ranch will only be used for Manistee Ranch. In 2018-2019, these donations allowed the Society to complete about \$12,000 in repairs on the house. Several of the pillars supporting the porch were replaced, gutters were installed to stop deterioration of the wood, steps were replaced and fixed, and we got new screens.

Woodpeckers are creating serious damage to this historic building. Recently workers patched up nearly 30 woodpecker holes in the sides of the building. The birds even drilled all the way through the Sky Parlor and entered the building. Two hours after the holes were filled, three new holes were seen. Our February program presentation was interrupted by thunderous woodpecker serenade. One Board member had to pound on the wall to stop it. We've tried all sorts of gadgets to scare the birds away without any success, but since woodpeckers are protected, special federal assistance would be needed to take any drastic action to remove the birds. If you have any suggestions to rid Manistee Ranch of these "natural drummers", all suggestions would be appreciated!

Have a fun summer and be prepared for another terrific fall and winter, chock full of Glendale Arizona Historical Society activities.

Las Vegas Benefits from Glendale Native

The grandson of Glendale's first mayor, **Archie Bennett**, hit it big in Las Vegas, Nevada. **William G. Bennett** was born November 16, 1924, in Glendale, son of local ranchers, Allen Milton "Jack" Bennett and Marjorie Dean Williams. He graduated from Glendale High School and attended Phoenix College. He then served as a Navy dive-bomber during World War II. William returned from the war and established a chain of successful furniture stores. He lived in the Arcadia neighborhood. His wife died in 1962 while they were on vacation in Mexico. He sold the chain of stores the same year and later remarried.

He invested heavily in a financial corporation that failed and bankrupted him. In 1965, the president of Del Webb Corporation wanted a person with business background to help manage its Sahara Tahoe property and hired William to be a casino host, learning the department functions of a casino. His wife worked there too as a cashier. He did well and was soon transferred to manage its losing downtown Mint Las Vegas casino. He turned it around, so the company had him manage two more casinos. Leaving Del Webb, he then partnered with William Pennington to lease the Circus Circus Hotel and Casino, and in 1983, the two bought the property. Dramatic changes were made

which included a 395 room tower. Together, they made the Circus Circus experience appeal to middle class families. William extended the Las Vegas strip to the south by building the megaresorts Excalibur in 1990 and Luxor in 1995. Circus Circus Enterprises was the largest employer in Las Vegas with 18,000 employees. In 1991, he resigned as CEO of Circus Circus Enterprises, selling his shares for \$54.2 million. In 1995, he bought the Sahara Hotel and Casino and renovated the 50-year-old property.

William was a philanthropist most of his life and quietly donating millions to the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, assisting children of fallen police officers, giving to animal foundations and he established the Bennett Foundation for charitable assistance. In 1984, a major labor dispute resulted in work stoppage at several properties. Bennett continued to pay his employees a higher wage than competing casinos, because he did not want to back out of previous contracts with his workers. He even supplied a catering truck to provide three free hot meals a day for five years to union workers as they picketed the Frontier casino. He died at age 78 on December 22, 2002.



William G Bennett

Our Dedicated Volunteers



During February's **Winter Antique Tractor Show**, your Society provided self-guided tours of the Sahuaro Ranch Guest House and Adobe House. Society volunteers greeted 450 visitors to these historic resources. Thank you to **Martha Dennis**, Sahuaro Ranch Tour Coordinator, along with Marty Cole, Sarah Trone, Jessica Koory, Vesta Roper, Theresa Parker, Cindy Whiffen, David Horney, Nelda Crowell, Norm Crowell, John Geurs, Paulette Geurs, Jack Rose and Pat Kennedy for volunteering at the show.



The 2019 **Folk and Heritage Festival** was held March 2-3, also at Sahuaro Ranch. Our volunteers helped 750 visitors at both the Guest House and Adobe House. Thanks again to our Sahuaro Ranch Tour Coordinator, **Martha Dennis**, and her team of volunteers, including Marty Cole, Sarah Trone, Leslie Newcomb, Jodie Kallberg, Rosemary Lynch, David Horney, Nelda Crowell, Karl Dennison, John Geurs, Paulette Geurs, Jack Rose, Pat Kennedy, Barbara Lentz and Mary Vandever for helping at this festival.

SANDS FAMILY 1913 AUTO TRIP TO SAN DIEGO

a four month adventure

The Sands family, Louis, Frances, Louis Jr, and John, along with nanny Miss Lizzie Swan and their mechanic, Frank Rankin, left Glendale at 7:20 AM on June 5, 1913 in their **Hudson Motor Car**, bound for San Diego, CA...but not without numerous challenges and breakdowns.

The car carried one auto trunk on the rack, one kit on the running board, 3 suitcases, 3 extra casings and tubes, canvas chairs, spring repairs, ropes, an axe, a shovel, one lantern, 2 cameras, a Thermos, ice, canned goods, and 3 hats in a flat bag tied to the top of the car. They stopped in **Buckeye** for photos and in **Arlington** for water. They then stopped for the night at the 22-room **Hotel Modesti** (1887), enjoying baths in the **Agua Caliente** hot springs.

They left for Yuma and stopped at **Palomas** for 16 gallons of water. There was a difficult drive through the riverbed reaching **Castle Dome** and a bad dusty road to **Yuma**. They stayed at the **Gandolfo Hotel** an extra day, taking care of two blowouts. They had left Johnny at the hotel with the nanny to take a nap, and while they were out eating with friends, heard five fire bells issuing from the hotel. Louis ran, leaping upstairs four steps at a time, to rescue John and the nanny. He did, and the fire was put out.

On June 8, 1913, they left Yuma by ferry across the three-mile-wide **Colorado River**. The ferry got stuck in a bad mudhole for three hours requiring chains, boards and blocks, and the help from an Indian boy to get out. Once on the California side, their car met with heavy sand and a steep upgrade, making its progress difficult. People advised them to drive along the railroad tracks through the area, but there were so many trains, that was too dangerous. 45 miles out of Yuma, the

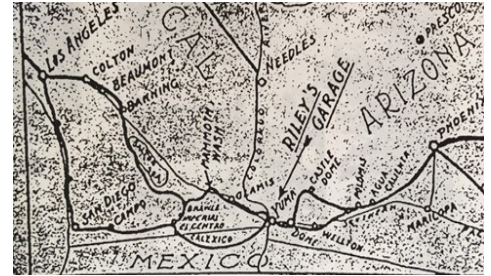
horrible sand got into the clutch, but it was too dark to do any repairs, so Frank had to walk four miles for help. He returned late that night with a big wagon, a driver and two teams of horses that took the family and their belongings to **Glamus**, where they slept in a tent next to the only boarding house.

Next morning, the driver was sent back to the breakdown site to tow the Hudson to Glamus. The cost was \$6.00 for the wagon ride and \$10.00 to pull the car.

To avoid the dreadful **Mammoth Wash**, Louis shipped the auto 40 miles by train to El Centro, CA. The family stayed in a shack for a night at **Imperial Junction**, then took the train to **El Centro**, staying at the **Oregon Hotel** for 4 nights and 3 days. Their car and mechanic arrived on June 11th at a shipping cost \$17. The town of **El Centro** was 6 years old with 4,000 people. It had just survived an 18-case smallpox scare resulting in 3 deaths. The Sands family wore bags of asafetida to ward off this and other diseases.

So off they went, again encountering heavy sand near **Coyote**. At **Mountain Springs**, one of the car's springs broke. It was there they met two men in a disabled car. Louis offered to help get them and their car to **Campo**. In doing so, the tow ropes broke, damaging the brakes. As a result, Louis had to steer with one hand and use the emergency brake with the other to get over that treacherous mountain road.

The last 80 miles to **San Diego** went very well. The family stayed at the **U.S. Grant Hotel**. From there, they drove to Los Angeles and bought a new car. The family drove their new car to San Francisco, Yosemite and back to Los Angeles, taking the Santa Fe Railway back to **Glendale**. They got safely home on **October 5, 1913**.



1913 Map of the Family route to San Diego



Hudson Touring Car and Sands family



2 teams pulling the Hudson to Glamus, CA



Hotel Modesti at Agua Caliente hot springs



Hotel Gandolfo at Yuma



U. S. Grant Hotel (1906) San Diego, CA

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Our next membership event is □

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2019
Thunderbird Field #1 & School
Nelda Crowell
7:00 PM at Manistee Ranch

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.

Welcome
to our newest members
Norman & Jean Hailey

Farewell
to a valued member
we lost on March 19, 2019
Harold Griner
He was 89 years old.

Glendale Arizona Historical Society
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The Ranch Tour Season is Ending



The Glendale Arizona Historical Society will suspend Guest House and Adobe House tours in June, July, August and September. The City of Glendale Parks and Recreation staff at Sahuaro Ranch offer free tours of the Main House, except no tours in August. The Glendale Arizona Historical Society also conducts tours of historic Manistee Ranch and the last tour of the spring is on May 4, 2019. Tours for the Guest House, Adobe House and Manistee Ranch will resume in October 2019. The public is welcome to visit both Sahuaro Ranch Historical Park and Manistee Ranch Park during the summer.

SAHUARO RANCH 1895 MAIN HOUSE, 9802 N. 59TH AVENUE

FREE TOURS of the Main House September to July: 10 am to 2 pm, Fridays & Saturdays; 1 pm to 4 pm, Sundays, (Closed August and on holidays, Thanksgiving weekend, December 24, 25, 31 and January 1.) Please call 623-930-4201 for group tours of 10 or more.

SAHUARO RANCH 1898 GUEST HOUSE and 1887 ADOBE HOUSE, 9802 N. 59TH AVENUE

FREE TOURS of the Guest House October to May: 1 pm to 3 pm on Sundays.

FREE TOURS of the 1887 Adobe House during festivals and with prior arrangements. Call 623-435-0072 for more information, if you have any questions, or for group tours.

1897 MANISTEE RANCH , 5127 W. NORTHERN AVENUE (enter from 51st Avenue)

Your society's docents conduct tours October to May: noon to 4 pm (last tour starts at 3 pm). Fees: Adults \$5, Seniors \$4, Ages 6-16 \$1, GAHS MEMBERS are FREE. These tours are on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month during tour season. This season's final tour is on Saturday, May 4, 2019. Thanks to those of you who joined us for these amazing ranch tours.



Sahuaro Ranch Adobe House



Sahuaro Ranch Guest House



Sahuaro Ranch Main House



Manistee Ranch House