



The Hourglass



Summer 2015

Some Santa Rosa Mountain and Pinyon Flats Memories

By
Harry M. Quinn

As I recall, there was little friction up here between the different nationalities. It did not matter if you were Indian, Spanish, Mexican, White, or Black, if you were in the cattle business you were all members of the cattle industry.

*The Mission of
the Historical
Society of Palm
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divided by brand and each rancher got his cattle. I do not recall any major instances between cattle owners because of their not getting their cattle from a roundup.

Basically, in this brushy country the cattle roundups took a lot of people to be successful. If these ranchers had not worked together, most of them would have failed as ranchers. Mr. Clarence Contreras used to talk about how when the Indian ranchers had their roundups, the non-Indian ranchers would be there to help them out and when the non-Indian rancher had their roundups, the Indian ranchers would be there to help them out. It was a time of mutual aid and apparently people who worked together tend to be friends together.

While there have always been those who did not get along up here, most did not want to see anyone harmed or to go without. What a far cry from today, now there are Indians on the same reservations that detest others on that reservation, there are non-Indians that detest other non-Indians in their area, and now with some water rights problems, there are non-Indians who detest Indians, and vice-versa. In most cases, these people do not care what happens to the others, they just want to get what they think belongs to them. To me, it was a lot nicer place back when people did not have so much and had to get along in order to make a go of it. While these friendships may have been a necessary evil, most of them appeared to me to have been genuine, as many of these families broke bread together at the same table and even took trips out of the area together. Back then there were no food stamps, food handouts, or welfare checks, people had to work for what they got, move on to some other place, or go hungry. However, if a working person or family fell on hard times, they would usually get help from their

neighbors to pull them through without ever having to ask for it.

People back then ate a lot of rabbit, dove, and quail, including our family in the late 1940s and early 1950s. A family could go a long way on beans, rice, and native game and when one added pancakes and biscuits to the daily menu some good meals were to be had. Meals could even get better when one added jelly made from cactus apples and / or manzanita berries or just some good old Log Cabin syrup from a can.

An Interview with Dick Hartley

By Bob Tyler

This is an interview with Dick Hartley and Bob Tyler recorded in Idyllwild on April 11th, 2015. This interview was about The Shadow Mountain Club and Betty Crockett.

Dick – We moved to Palm Desert in 1958. My parents were Fred and Barbara Hartley, my sister is Diane. When we first came to Palm Desert we lived in a duplex on San Pablo near where the Circle K is today, the building is still there. My mother was a teacher at Washington Elementary School and my father was a realtor.

Bob – What do you first remember about the Shadow Mountain Club?

Dick - I remember when we arrived at the gate my sister and I had to get buzzed in by a secretary, my Mom dropped us off in the parking lot, we had to give our number

2281. After they buzzed us in we were on our own. We would run around on the grass,



climb up the slides, jump off the diving boards. We could go in the wading pool, visit the duck pond.

Bob – When you first went to Shadow Mountain Club; did you already know how to swim? When did you first meet Betty Crockett?

Dick – Yes I could swim, Betty was the life guard and was in charge of activities at the club, and I guess my parents enrolled me in some of Betty's programs. I remember that our first hike was to Tahquitz Falls near Palm Springs. That was the first time I saw Tahquitz Falls, we had sack lunches and we got to swim at the end of the hike. We swam in the pool at the base of the falls where the rock is, the place where the iconic pictures of the falls were taken, then she led us all back to the cars. We went on other trips, but I can't really remember them.

Bob – I was told that Betty had aquatic shows where groups of kids would swim and dive?

Dick – Yes, the girls would do synchronized swimming as well as they could, we would have swimming races. There were underwater races too, where we would hold our breath as long as we could. Betty had me and Bobby Hutchison diving off of the towers.

Bob – Now there were two levels on the towers, a lower level and a very high one?

Dick – Yeah, we performed off the lower one, me and Bobby Hutchison did one and a half's at the same time. There was an audience watching, that was the whole idea. Betty organized the shows, so there was diving and synchronized swimming to music.

Bob - Did you go down the slides?

Dick - We got towels from the office and put them at the bottom of the slide which would create a pool of water at the bottom, then we'd slide down and blast into the pile of towels with our feet and water would go

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everywhere. We'd do that until we were told to stop.

Bob – Was Betty sitting there when you did that?

Dick – Oh, heck no, we made sure that Betty was nowhere around when we did that, we got away with it for a while. Jimmy Snedaker and I were playing around at the top of the slide and Jimmy almost fell off, he just barely held on with on hand.

Bob – My mother made us stop going down the slides 'cause we wore the bottoms out of our bathing suits. The bottom of the slides were sheet metal.

Dick – They also had movie night 'cause there was a nice screen outside. You could show up with your family and sit on the grass and watch a movie. I only remember one movie, it was "The Boy with Green Hair," which was weird and scary.

Bob – Little blond haired kid's hair turned green anyway from all the chlorine in the pools, we all had green hair.



Dick – There was a little railroad house that had a model railroad inside, I only remember one time that there was actually a man in the house running the trains. There was also a maintenance shed and the gardeners had hung pinups on the wall, we all liked that! Then there was a puppet show at Easter with marionettes, I still remember the songs they sang.

Dick – About 1960 my father "Fred Hartley" got involved with real estate in Pinyon Crest, which is up the mountain off Hwy 74, my father was selling lots up there and so we lived up there for a couple of years. In about 1962 my parents bought a lot on Covered Wagon Trail in Palm Desert, so by then I could ride my bike to the Shadow Mountain Club and I could come and go as I pleased.

Bob – Did your parents ever go to the restaurant at the club?

Dick - Yes, sometimes I had to go with them which was agony for a kid because I

had to sit still. I remember that they had starched napkins and little baskets of crackers. My Mom slapped my hand when I took too many crackers. It was torture, I had to sit at the table and wait until my folks were finished talking. I was too fidgety, I wanted to get out and run around.

Bob – I was lucky, my parents didn't take me to the restaurant. They would go with friends and they liked it because they'd see people there like Julie London and Bobby Troup. They thought that was wonderful, they never knew who they might see there. That was when the Shadow Mountain Club was in its heyday.

Dick – What do you remember about the duck pond?

Bob - I remember the snack bar, my mother would give me some money and I would get a bag of popcorn, I would eat some of the popcorn and then feed the rest to the ducks.

Dick – Did you ever climb over the fence to the pond?

Bob – No, because there was a big white goose that would peck and bite the hell out of me if I got anywhere near it. I could feed the ducks, but then the goose would come over and try to bite me, it was really mean. There was a little rowboat there and I wanted to get in it and row around the pond, but the goose wouldn't let me!

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Dick – I convinced my sister and Robin Barrett to jump the fence with me and I swam over to the island, through all the feathers and duck poop. There were duck nests over there with lots of rotten duck eggs. I then slipped and fell in the mud, we couldn't get back over the fence soon enough!

Dick – When I was in high school the Barrett's took over the concessions at the pool, they sold hamburgers and snacks, Mrs. Barrett was so nice, it was really fun being there!

Letter from Anne Tuttle

Dear Friends:

On November 2nd I will celebrate my Thirteenth anniversary at the Historical Society. I want to thank you for your continued support of our museum for without support I would not have had the pleasure of making your acquaintances.

We have accomplished so many things during this time: art shows, art appraisals, 2nd grade tours, summer pot luck and Friday night lectures. Our annual events keep getting better and better...our 2 day yard sale, picnic, luncheon and the great mini-muster programs for 3rd grade students.

Your memberships and contributions have allowed us to continue to expand our activities for Palm Desert and surrounding communities.

Thank you!!! I look forward to our continued relationship.

Most sincerely,
Anne Tuttle

Donation from Albertson's Market

We were very fortunate to receive a generous donation of \$1000.00 from Albertson's Market here in Palm Desert. We had worked with the Store Director Rex Marlowe reviewing several pictures in our files which were enlarged and are now hanging on the walls in the newly redecorated store. The store looks great

and you will want to make a tour of the site around the inside perimeter viewing the historical pictures of Palm Desert.

William Kroonen = Education

by Ginny Folkers

In mid-1981 Bill Kroonen was busy trying to get financial assistance for the Desert Sands Unified School District. At the November election time of that year he let it be known that he believed in: parents and schools working together; developing full potential of students; a balanced curriculum of basic skills, academics, vocational preparation, and enrichment; retaining local control of schools; continued development of fine staffs and facilities; and restoring public confidence in our schools.

Matt Monica and Bill Kroonen were placed on the Board in their first four- year terms. When Bill was made president, his comment was, "I hope we can be agreeable in our disagreements." In November of 1985 he was involved in another election.

Bill's family seemed to be following in his footsteps. His wife, Paula, was teaching a Japanese class at College of the Desert in the late 1980s. Leo, his son, received scholarships from both the Rotary Club and Southern California Edison.

After thirteen years on the Desert Sands Board during which time they built nine schools and remodeled the older buildings, Bill Kroonen decided to resign and move on to the county. In July 1994 he was seated on the Riverside County Board of Education. Bill was commended for his intelligence, compassion, and integrity. In 1996 he was asked to speak at the first anniversary of the C.O.D. Library. Then he was made interim superintendent/president of the community college. When David George resigned, he took over the office of interim superintendent and president.

The District Board of Trustees voted unanimously to make Mr. Kroonen

president. Ray House and John Marman insisted that he had proven his leadership ability. College employees greeted the decision with applause and congratulatory comments. Bill quickly mapped out his goals for the college.

In September 2010 Bill Kroonen became a City Councilman to complete the term left open by the death of Dick Kelly. He promised to study the budget, the loan program for alternative energy equipment, and listen to the citizens. Disagreement on controversial issues was expected, but it was possible to respect other attitudes and opinions. It was necessary to make good decisions for Palm Desert's welfare. Bill was named "Citizen of the Year" in Feb. 2013 for service to the community.

On April 30, 2015 Bill Kroonen will again receive an award from the Palm Desert Rotary Club. This time it will be for years of service in the field of education.

Lou Kuehner, an Early Emblem of Community Service in P. D.

By Ginny Folkers

When Cliff Henderson opened the Shadow Mountain Club, he put Lou Keuhner in charge of the children's' program. Lou hired Betty Crockett, much to the appreciation of the kids and their parents.

In 1956 Lou started a unique school he called "The Leisure Loft." It eventually became a center for artistic and cultural studies. They taught dancing, painting, body-building and judo. Also, they offered a nursery school and a piano studio. Lou wanted to teach people to use their leisure time constructively.

By 1958 they had an enrollment of between 400 and 500. A dozen teachers taught 25 subjects; all participants were from the community. Lou's business started off in the Desert Magazine building, and then it moved to the 28-acre Warner Ranch.

Effective programs for pre-school to junior high school ages included etiquette and social graces. For the older boys, a jacket and tie were required and the girls wore party dresses. Day camps for boys 6 to 12-years of age were popular. They included swimming, crafts, cookouts, mountain trips with overnight hikes.

Along with Madeline Kelly, Lou became an administrator for the Foundation for Retarded Children of the Desert. Kuehner would establish a rehabilitation workshop at the office on Portola and Chicory Streets, originally the first church in Palm Desert. Goals of the workshop were: give work training, job placement service, work evaluation program, and placement in community jobs. Summer campouts were also conducted. In 1979 Lou resigned from the Foundation for the Retarded. He had lived in the desert for 30 years. I (Ginny) met Lou for the first time at the Society's picnic.

Historical Society Picnic in the Park, Sunday 3-29-15

By Ginny Folkers

The cooks served Keedy burgers, and Scout Troop #69 was on hand to aid in every activity. It was a wonderful get-together for members and friends. The red HSPD tee shirts circulated among the crowd. If you missed it, please make a resolution to attend it next year. It is a memorial to our pioneer, Ed Mullins.

The Military History of the Salton Sea and Camp Dunlap

Lecture speaker: Sid Burks

By Dick & Ginny Folkers

Most people are not aware of the military activity at the Salton Sea from 1939 to the late 1970s. Mr. Burks was a teacher at California State University – San Bernardino and also a pilot for 35 years. The squadron patch depicted Donald Duck riding a bomb.

Pre-World War II is known as the Golden Age of Aviation. The squadron used the PBY Patrol Bomber, which was built by Consolidated Aircraft. The Salton Sea was used as an emergency landing site if San Diego was logged in. From 1939 to 1942 the north edge of the Salton Sea (Date Palm Beach Resort) was called "Seaplane Base Salton Sea." Later it was owned by Ike Eyer. It took the Coastguard/Navy two years to agree on how the base should be operated. In 1941 and 1942 barnacles from PBY bilge tanks were introduced into the Salton Sea. Before that it was barnacle-free.

Three movies were produced in this area: 1) "Wake Island" filmed in 1942, 2) "Sahara" starring Humphrey Bogart, and 3) "Five Graves in Cairo."

The PBY-5A planes could land on land or water. They were used for submarine patrol, bombing, medical evacuation and transport duties. Also, the PBY-5A planes were used by all allied countries.

In 1944 the Navy and Marine corp mission changed as there were no longer problems with the Japanese fleet. They added 638 personnel for rocket training at the air field at Sand Beach, north of the Wildlife area, in the southwest quadrant.

The prime plane was the TBF/TBM Avenger with a three-man crew consisting of a pilot, a radio operator and a gunner. The Salton Sea had a surface as smooth as glass, which was perfect for various bombing exercises. The Norton Bombsite (not so secret) as used by bombers like the B-17s.

The Germans obtained bombsite plans which did not impress them.

At the Salton Sea there were 13 water targets, 10 land targets, and 5 emergency landing fields to accommodate the training program. It was the responsibility of the bombardiers to destroy this site was over-zealous on the government's part.

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After World War II, air to ground training started. An AAA-509 Campsite Group under Col. Paul Tibbettes had three goals for future atomic bomb deliveries: 1) Improve bombing accuracy, 2) Evaluate bomb shapes, and 3) Perfect escape maneuvers. Use a 155-degree dive and turn, giving 12 seconds to get away from the nuclear explosion.

Government facilities were used by the Atomic Energy Commission as a sea base. Captured Askania (German) cameras were used because of their high quality. Between 1961 and 1979, Parachute Testing was the prime usage. Finally, a movie was made entitled "The Monster that Challenged the World."

Camp Dunlap, named after a General, was an Artillery Training Center. It was located near Nyland in Imperial County. This site on 631 acres was a Marine facility consisting of 30 buildings with a Tent City for housing 185,000 Marines. This was the 12th Marine Squadron that fought in the Bouganville, New Guinea battle. It is the area of Salton Sea/Slab City, and also Leonard Knight's "Salvation Mountain."

Capturing the Desert Wind

Lecture speaker: Paul Clark
By Dick & Ginny Folkers

Because he worked as the Head Planner for Riverside County for 30 years, Mr. Clark is eminently qualified to talk about how wind energy has transformed the Coachella Valley.

In 1983 the county created its Wind Energy Policy. The area at the eastern approach to

the San Gorgonio Pass was used for the windmills (turbines) because the power of the wind in that location was very strong. The Bureau of Land Management was also involved in the study.

Of course, there were a lot of regulations and conditional use permits. Zoning rules were used to study safety, scenic views, noise, vibration, dirty air turbulence, and wind access. In 1990 Riverside County 4,254 windmills. Fewer birds have been killed in the Coachella Valley by windmills than in other areas.

Tourists have become interested in the windmill phenomena, so dune buggy tours have been organized. Future designs look like a bird cage on a pole, ovals over bridges on freeways, and huge spoked bicycle wheels.

Recent Donations to the Historical Archive

*Jan Holmlund – Collection #65 (202 items) After checking for duplicates, this donation was processed under various subjects.

*Barbara Keedy Eastes – Collection #78 (3 items) PD-Sports & Recreation-Museums-Hist. Soc.-Coachella Valley program 3-29-14 / PD-Pioneers- Kuehner, Lou – Palm Springs Life 1960s / PD-Transportation-Airports-Palm Desert Airpark, C.V. Weekly 11/12-14.

*Dick Folkers – Collection #80 (2 items) PD-Government-CVAG-brochure 2012 / PD-Pioneers-Henderson, Marian Marsh-1920s-40s article on “Birth of a Nation” Marian’s first acting roll, Wall Street Journal 11/12-14.

*Jean Denning – Collection #175 editor of the Cliff Henderson biography (written by Ginny Folkers), donated (47items) mostly about PD-Pioneer-Henderson, Clifford W.- and PD-Native Americans, Business & Industry, Charities, Clubs & Associations, & Living Desert.

*Mark Talboy – Collection #176 (3 items) PD – Sister Cities – Gisborne, New Zealand.

*Lerae Moeller Bush – Collection #177 (4 items) PD-History-General-United States, letter Nov. 2014 and 2 photos dated 1887 / PD – Fire Department, 1889 blueprint and patent forms for an extension ladder.

*Van Tanner – Collection #178 (1 item) PD – Sister Cities-Gisborne, New Zealand, recent letter.

*Carolyn Nesbitt – Collection #179 (8 items) PD-Flora-Flowers/Plants, 2011 calendar / PD- Hotels & Motels (multiple), guide 1988-89 / PD-Pioneers –Henderson, Clifford W., copy of 1965 Fortune Magazine / PD-Publications-Desert Rat Scrap Book-packet 3, pouch 10 (by Harry Oliver) / PD-Buildings-Residential,photo 1940s /PD-History-General-1940s-50s, post-card/PD-Pioneers-Andy the Donkey Man, photo 1940s/PD-History-General-Palm Springs-1910s-40s, photo / and scrapbook & cookbook for exhibit and yard sale.

*Janet Donovan – Collection #180 (1 item) PD-Religious Organizations-Desert Springs Church, historical essay Nov. 2014, about how to obtain a grand piano.

*Raul & Marnee Gonzalez– Collection #181 (11 items) PD-Housing-Apts. “Sand & Shadows”, brochure1950s-60s/PD-Developments-Fairview Cottages, 5items 1964/PD-Dev.-Sandpiper, 5 items, late 50s/60s.

Winning Ticket

The winning ticket for the Sunday brunch at the Santa Rosa home of Marvin Spreyne was won by Susan Marie Weber.

Yard Sale

We once again determined that there was enough stuff to hold a spring yard sale. One day only. Merilee took over the reins and with guidance from Adele and the support of a whole lot of people we did it again, \$2040 and a lot of camaraderie by

the end of the day. Congratulations to Merilee on her first society yard sale.

**You know you're from Palm Desert
when you....
A project by Nerl Porras**

For those of you on Facebook, Nerl has created the above group. He has pictures from the past and many of the members supply additional pictures and stories. This has been a very successful adventure and I am sure Nerl and the participants are having a lot of fun. Nerl also hosted a get-together several weeks back for those that are participating. He had a very good turnout, mostly "youngsters" and then a few older ones like Romer, Rover and Kuehner. What a great way to get some more people looking at our history. Great job Nerl.

New Members

Randy Roy
Joann Lee
Elaine & Ed Gordon
Robert & Sue Joki
Joan Kaczmarek
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Larry Krikorian
Janet Clement Forbush
Robert & Betty Corey
James & Hilde Keeran
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