

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

THE BOTTHOF HOUSE ("THE JOAN CRAWFORD HOUSE") 1947

73331 Fiddleneck Lane, Palm Desert, CA



Photo by Linda Holden Clode

This 1947 2 bedroom, 2 bath California Ranch style home by H.E. Weston has 3,898 sq. ft of gracious living on over 1/2 acre lot.

The living room has a 10 ft stone fireplace. The original custom wet bar and dining lanai provide mountain views. The master suite has two adjoining bath and dressings rooms.

Joan Crawford stayed in the house while filming "The Damned Don't Cry" in 1950.

ARCHITECT/BUILDER:
H. EUGENE WESTON, JR

INTERIOR DESIGNER:
THEKLA MERTON

ORIGINAL OWNER:
WALTER E BOTTHOF

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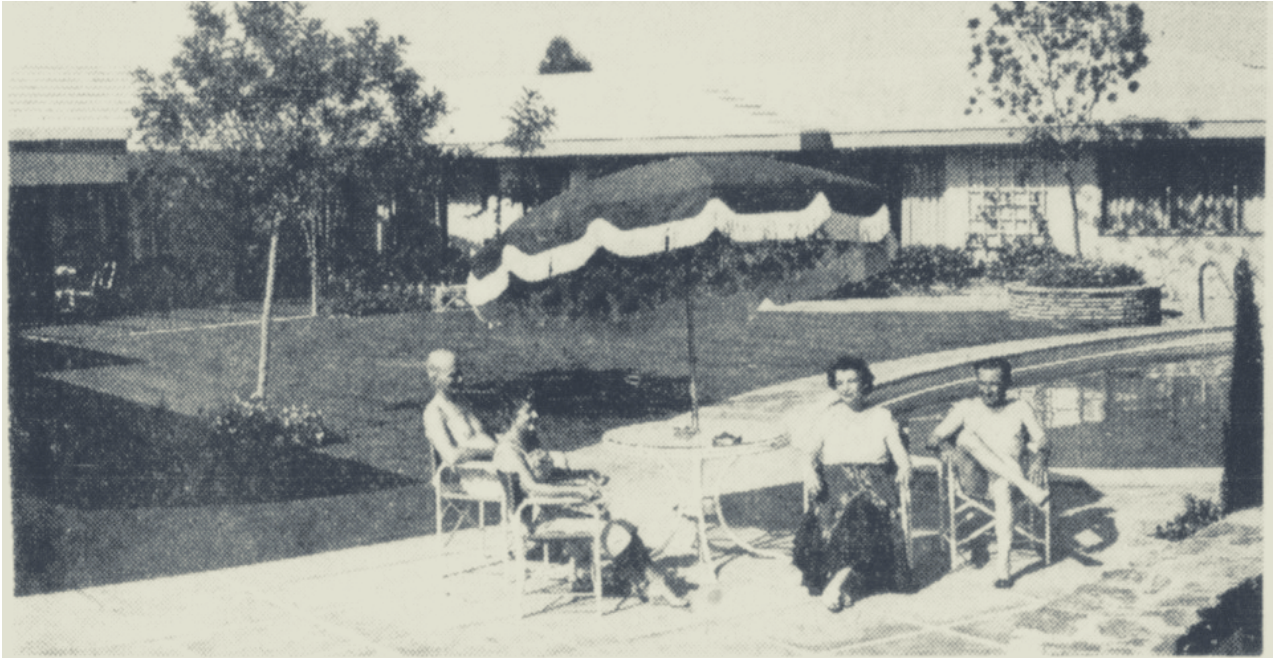


THE HOUSE



Built in 1947 for Walter E Botthof, founder of The Chicago Standard Rate and Data Services Company, the house was sold in 1950 to Mr and Mrs Milton H. Hasler of Laguna Beach. Mr Hasler owned the M. H. Hasler Construction company which built the Delta-Mendota Canal sections of California's Central Valley Project.





PALATIAL ESTATE—Mr. and Mrs. Carl Henderson, left, and Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Hasler of Laguna Beach, enjoy the patio at the palatial Walter Botthof home, Palm Desert, which the Haslers recently purchased in one of the valley's biggest residential sales. Carl Henderson negotiated the

THE HOUSE 1950



Here is desert living at its best.
The estate home of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Hasler.

Weston was born in Los Angeles, California where his father and grandfather were both architects. After serving in the US Army during World War II, he studied Industrial Design at the Art Center in Pasadena. Following graduation, Weston worked for his father's architectural firm and later for Alvin Lustig, where he prepared residential working drawings for a building contractor client. Following his employment with Lustig, Weston worked alongside Douglas Byles for Smith and Williams Architects.

Weston and Byles left Smith and Williams together and formed the partnership Byles and Weston, a design-build firm. Both became General Contractors and built a number of houses in and around the Pasadena area.

In 1956, Weston and his family moved to La Jolla where Weston continued his design-build career. When the San Diego real estate market slowed down, he approached Fred Liebhardt, FAIA, for a job.

In 1960, Weston became a partner at Liebhardt and Weston. Eugene Weston III joined the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in 1962.

In 1956 The Los Angeles Times quoted Weston in saying, "Even a modest house could be 'more beautiful and meaningful' if it was built with post-and-beam construction that opens up interiors and invites the outdoors in through walls of glass."

H.W. "GENE" WESTON, III

Our combined planning and construction service offers the advantage of a single responsibility for both phases of building and permits the important coordination between the plans and the construction budget.

Inquiries are cordially invited.

EUGENE WESTON ○|■



STORIES OF THE HOUSE

Actress Joan Crawford stayed in this home while she was filming the 1950 movie, "The Damned Don't Cry" based on the life of gangster Bugsy Siegel and his girlfriend, Virginia Hill. Scenes were shot in Palm Springs at Frank Sinatra's Twin Palms home on Alejo.



Poolside at Frank Sinatra House in Twin Palms, Palm Springs

A series of posters from Warner Brothers advertising the film were displayed in the lobby of the movie theaters. The cards were 11" x 14" posters that came in sets of 8. The Lobby Card Set:



"The Damned Don't Cry" is now a very highly regarded Film Noir which is unusual in that a female lead controls the action. Joan Crawford was perfect for the film as her life closely paralleled that of the heroine, Virginia Hill (1916-1966, nicknamed the Queen of the Mob). She was the girlfriend of gangster Bugsy Siegel. Hill was responsible for the finances and money laundering of many organizations within the crime world and highly respected among the mobsters. She was considered an equal to gangsters Frank Netti, Meyer Lansky, Frank Costello and others, as well as Bugsy Siegel.

Siegel was notoriously murdered in what is likely a gangland hit in 1947 at the rented Beverley Hills home of Virginia Hill while she was in Paris.



The movie title is taken from Eugene O'Neill's play, "Mourning Becomes Electra". The quote: "Don't Cry. The Damned Don't Cry."

Eddie Muller of *Turner Classic Movies Noir Alley* ranks this movie as an outstanding example of Film Noir. He says that Joan "crackles." His Forward and Afterward can be viewed on YouTube. This is the Afterward where we can glimpse Frank Sinatra's home.



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