

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

# THE WALLGREN HOUSE 1949-1950

73510 Pinyon Street, Palm Desert, CA



Photo: Redfin.com

Built by Jim Ramsey, this 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2,934 square foot home features a tiled gable roof, floor to ceiling windows, and a recessed entrance with bricked support posts.

It is representative of the style of homes constructed during Palm Desert's early years.

**ARCHITECT:**  
UNKNOWN

**BUILDER:**  
JIM RAMSAY

**ORIGINAL OWNERS:**  
GOV. MONRAD & MRS  
MABEL WALLGREN

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# THE HOUSE

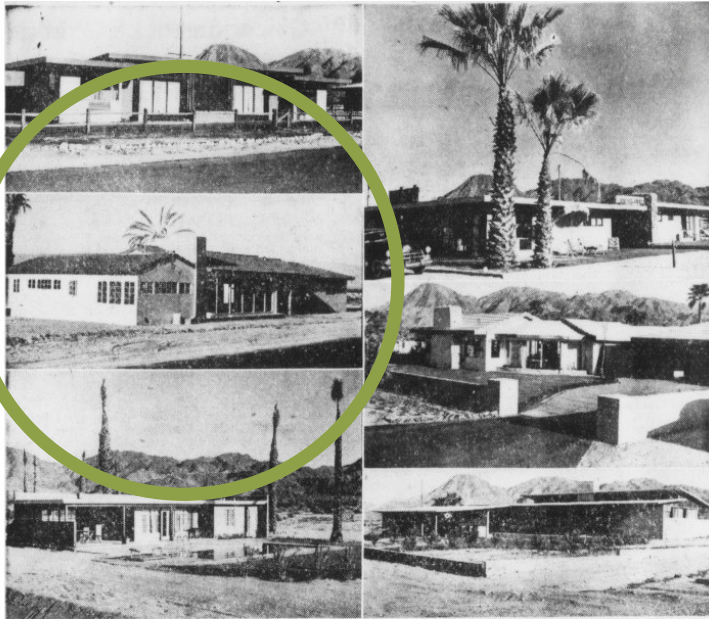
Desert Sun, Volume XXII, Number 70, 1 April 1949 — Pictures Reveal Rapid Development of Palm Desert

[Back](#)

## Pictures Reveal Rapid Development of Palm Desert

Rapid building of new homes at Palm Desert is shown here with a group of several of the numerous beautiful new homes recently completed or now under construction at that popular new resort. Seen here at top left is the lovely new home of Miss Vee M. Bear, recently completed. Below that is shown the recently completed home, truly a gem on the desert, of Ex-Governor Mon Walgren, of the State of Washington. Seen below this is the recently fin-

ished guest house and swimming pool of the home of P. K. Nichols. At top right of these several scenes is shown the new Tropical Gardens Apartments, of the Russell Stokes. Next below is seen the handsome home of Walter Botthof, publisher of Standard Rate and Data. Finally is shown the new home of R. P. Shea, head of the construction company by that same name. In addition to these few shown are a number of other beautiful homes just under construction, or partly finished. (Photos by Gayle.)



# GOVERNOR MONRAD C. WALLGREN

Monrad Charles "Mon" Wallgren (1891-1961) was born in Des Moines, Iowa. He moved to Galveston, Texas as a child and then to Everett, Washington after the Galveston hurricane of 1900. He graduated from the Washington State School of Optometry in Spokane in 1914 and engaged in the retail jewelry and optometry business until 1933.

He served four terms in the U.S. House of Representatives and four years in the U.S. Senate before becoming Washington's 13th governor (1944-1949).



Wallgren chaired the Congressional Committee on *Alien Nationality and Sabotage*, which recommended the mass removal of Japanese Americans from California, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska. As governor, Wallgren opposed the return of evicted Japanese Americans to Washington after the war.

During his gubernatorial administration, he established unemployment compensation in the state. He also advocated public ownership of electrical power production and supported a state recreation and tourist program.

After Wallgren lost his bid for reelection, President Harry Truman appointed Wallgren to the Federal Power Commission, on which he served as Chairman until 1951.

After he retired from public service Wallgren moved to the Coachella Valley and began growing citrus and invested in uranium claims in Twentynine Palms. He continued to split his time between Washington State and his home in Palm Desert until his death in 1961 at age 70.

# MRS. MABEL WALLGREN

Mabel Liberty was born in Stetsonville, Wisconsin in 1898 and died in 1965 in Palm Desert.

She was great friends with Bess Truman. President and Mrs Truman stayed with the Wallgrens in their home in Everett, Washington and twice in their home in Palm Desert.



Mabel Wallgren, center, wife of former Washington Governor Monrad "Mon" Charles Wallgren, with Bess and Margaret Truman, wife and daughter of Harry S. Truman. Seattle, Washington - June 10, 1948.  
Photo: Department of the Treasury, Harry S. Truman Library & Museum.

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