

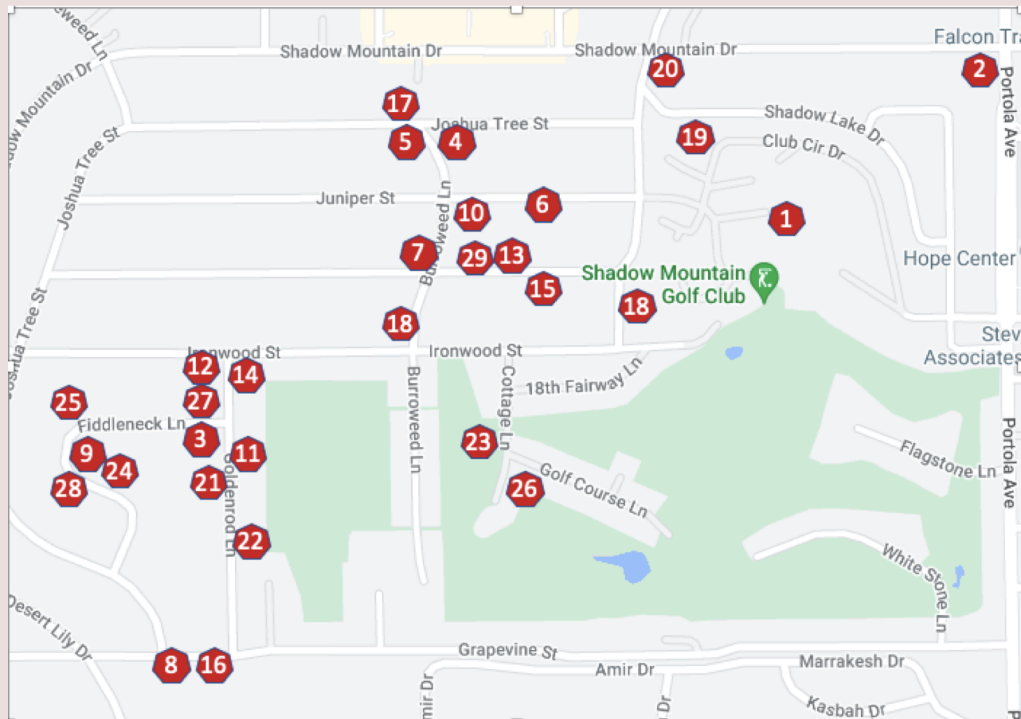
# Encore: The Mystique of Shadow Mountain

A Palm Desert Walking Tour  
February 23 & 24, 2023





# Tour Sites in order of date of construction



1. The Shadow Mountain Resort & Club
2. The Palm Desert Motor Pool
3. The Botthof "Joan Crawford" House
4. The Peterson House
5. The Pritzlaff House
6. The Burns Model House
7. The Wallgren House
8. The Pelletier House
9. The Firestone Estate
10. The Brown House
11. The Veissi House
12. The Gibson House
13. The Bradford House
14. The Bollinger House
15. The Henderson House
16. The Durham House
17. The Boyd "Hopalong Cassidy" House
18. The Moore House
19. The Stanthony Hospitality House
20. The Mojave Resort
21. The Robbins House
22. The Hale House
23. The Shadow Mountain Golf Club
24. The Pinkley House
25. The Seline House
26. The Fairway Cottages
27. The Diggle House
28. The Kemp "Lost Krisel" House
29. The Gregory House

# Encore: The Mystique of Shadow Mountain

The 2023 Mystique of Shadow Mountain Walking Tour Steering Committee wish to thank the following:

- The Historical Society of Palm Desert
- Modernism Week
- The City of Palm Desert
- Shadow Mountain Resort
- Delish Bistro and Bar
- The Mojave Resort
- The Homeowners on our tour
- Our Volunteers

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please scan the QR code below:



These brochures were created by the Historical Society of Palm  
Desert's Architecture and Design Committee celebrating the many  
architecturally significant buildings in Palm Desert.

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# Encore: The Mystique of Shadow Mountain

A Palm Desert Walking Tour

Created by the Historical Society of Palm Desert,  
Design and Architecture Committee  
February 2023







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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

# SHADOW MOUNTAIN RESORT AND CLUB 1946-2021

45750 San Luis Rey Avenue, Palm Desert, CA



Except where noted, all photos courtesy of the Historical Society of Palm Desert Archives

Something extraordinary began in 1944 when General Patton dismantled his WWII training camp responsible for preparing troops for desert warfare. The site of the *Palm Village Motor Pool* once again became an enormous empty desert space. This vacant tureen was noticed by an entrepreneurial group of affluent and influential businessmen.

## 1946:

Leading the pack was Clifford Henderson, fondly known as “The Father of Palm Desert” along with Edgar Bergen, Harold Lloyd, Leonard Firestone, and Phil Henderson, among others, who jointly established the Palm Desert Corporation. They purchased 1,620 acres at a rumored \$26 an acre. It was Cliff Henderson’s vision and his belief that he could find a way to provide utilities to this large undeveloped desertscape and build a thriving city.

### ARCHITECTS:

#### RESORT:

HENRY EGGERS, KAUFMANN,  
LIPPINCOTT, & EGGERS  
A. QUINCY JONES  
JOHN OUTCAULT

#### FAIRWAY COTTAGES:

RICHARD HARRISON,  
WEXLER & HARRISON

#### FAIRVIEW COTTAGES:

RICHARD DORMAN

#### GOLF COURSE DESIGN:

GENE SARAZEN  
GEORGE VON ELM





## Clifford Henderson (1895–1984)

Born in Iowa, Henderson graduated from the University of Southern California with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1917. He served in the 35th Ambulance Unit, in France during World War I, then transferred to the 101st Aero Squadron.

After the war, Henderson settled in Los Angeles and was chairman of ground arrangements for the Army. In 1928, he served as the first manager of the Los Angeles airport system.

With his brother Phil, Henderson built the Pan-Pacific Auditorium in 1935. The landmark Streamline Moderne convention center, designed by Los Angeles architects

Wurdeman & Becket, was the region's primary indoor venue with 100,000 square feet of exhibition space and seating for up to 6,000.

During WWII, he was involved in planning the Burma Hump air route, and also served as military governor of Dakar in North Africa.



Truck dumping the first commercial dirt in July 1946.



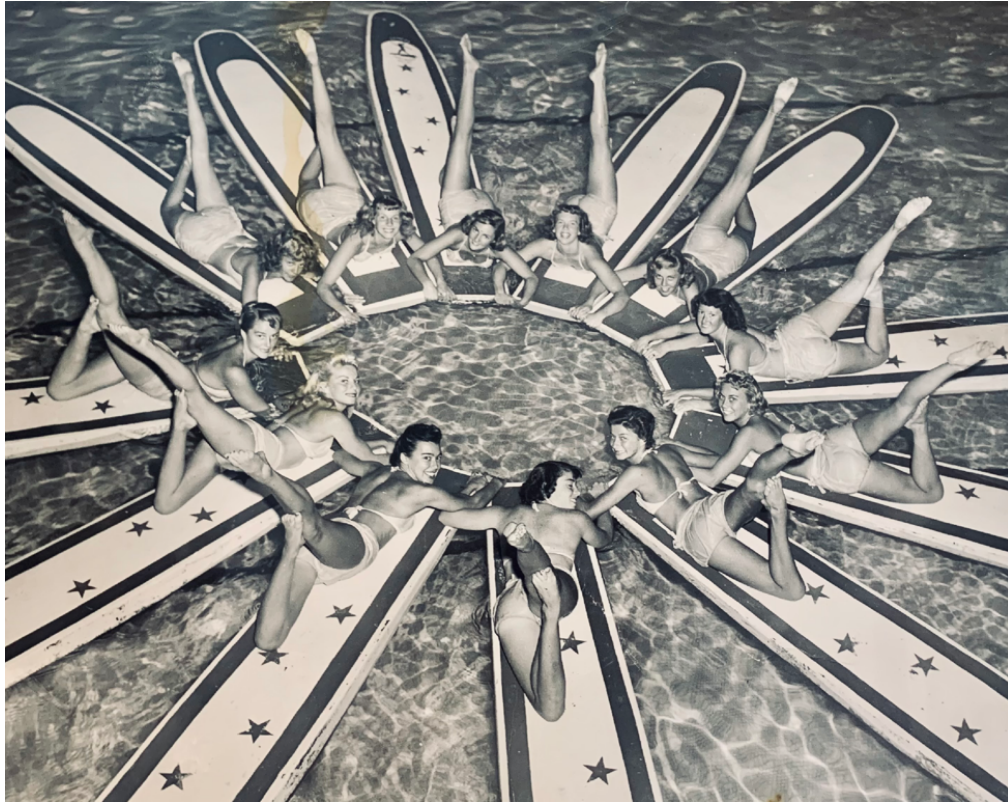
Shadow Mountain was one of Cliff's first desert dreams he made come true. Kaufmann, Lippincott, and Eggers were the original architects for this mammoth project. Kaufmann was famous for designing the La Quinta Inn and the Hoover Dam. Shadow Mountain work started in 1946 with the construction of a large 600 foot long lake.

### 1947:

Eventually, the Shadow Mountain complex featured a lake with rowboats, ducks and trout, a bar with a waterfall and tropical birds, a merry-go-round and children's snack shack, nine-hole golf course, a quarter-mile racetrack, an outdoor auditorium for concerts, the first outdoor movie screen for community movie nights, polo grounds and a landing strip for airplanes.







In 1947 an enormous 130 foot long, 350,000 gallon, figure 8 shaped pool with olympic height diving platforms and very tall water slides were added. Members and guests enjoy Janet Dee's water ballet troupe which performed regularly on white surfboards as seen in the photo above.



## 1948:

In 1948 an International Style clubhouse, dining room and pro shop was designed by the architect Tom Douglas. From the beginning the club was filled with celebrities and sports personalities. Shadow Mountain Club had everything: stables, race track, model train house, high diving, rainbow trout fishing, movies, theater, parties and more. It truly served as the social center for the young community. This club probably played the largest role in the early development of Palm Desert.

During the Club's Grand Opening, there were extravagant shows including aquatic events, water ballet and diving exhibitions, which continued to entertain members. According to the Desert Sun:

FOR FOUR DAYS AND NIGHTS, hundreds of men and women of the First Families of society not only from California but all points of the nation foregathered to rub shoulders with world-noted leaders of the arts, sciences and professions for the formal opening of fabulous Shadow Mountain Club at Palm Desert, founded by Clifford W. Henderson, just 12 miles southeast of Palm Springs.



Seen above from left to right: son of Mr. & Mrs Leonard Firestone, Hazel Wray Davey, Mrs. Justin Dart, Mr. Davey, Mrs. Leonard Firestone, Mr. Justin Dart, Leonard Firestone, Clifford Henderson, Carl Tamm, son of Mr & Mrs. Firestone, and Fred Renke



The affair was strictly invitational, with formal dinners, tea dances, a buffet dinner, a spectacular aquacade in the Club's huge pool, a rodeo, boating on the lake in the desert, an Old West parade, flag raising ceremonies with aerial bomb salutes, fireworks and huge searchlights sweeping the desert skies.

Society columns featured a cavalcade of high-profile captains of industry who chose to holiday in the desert, invariably led by Leonard Firestone of the eponymous tire company. Tycoons such as R.B. White, President of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, and Clarence Woolley the founder of American Radiator Co., William P. Lear, founder of Lear Inc., subsequently the Lear Jet Corporation, Earl Gilmore of Gilmore Oil and Stadium, H.F. Johnson of Johnson Wax, and Earl H. Hoover of the vacuum cleaner empire, were all noted as visitors as early as 1950.



*Upper left:* Randall Henderson, Mrs. Tommy Tomson, Cliff Henderson, Mortimer Snerd (puppet), Edgar Bergen, and Hedda Hopper (left to right)

*Above:* Kathy and Bing Crosby

*Lower left:* Gloria and Jimmy Stewart

Celebrities like Jimmy Stewart, Dick Powell, Robert Montgomery, Loretta Young, Greer Garson, Bette Davis, Jeanette McDonald, Ann Southern and Harold Lloyd were active members or visitors, and had migrated eastward from Palm Springs. Jimmy McHugh even wrote a special song named for the club.

Entertainments featured top headliners like Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, Rudy Valee, William Boyd (Hopalong Cassidy) and Edgar Bergen.

More recent celebrity visitors included James Franciscus, Robert Stack, Farah Fawcett, Rosie Casals, Billie Jean King, and Michael Chang.

The adults looked forward to themed parties like the Aladdin's Ball, a Monte Carlo night, and tropical luaus, but the formal Shadow Ball was the most important social event of the season.





Henry Eggers, also the architect for the Firecliff Lodge, focused on the clubhouse design. The massive stone fireplace topped with a huge copper hood is a memorable feature of the resort that can still be enjoyed today.

Tracy Conrad from the Desert Sun shared, “ Luke Leuschner and Susie O’Hair of the Historical Society of Palm Desert explain that A. Quincy Jones was also hired during the early building phases and likely altered the original plans. Luke says that Walter White was hired to redesign the club in 1955 but his concept was never built. And architects Harold Bissner and Robert Pitchford also designed an unrealized cocktail lounge addition.”

Julius Shulman, (1910-2009) was commissioned by Clifford Henderson to take photos of the Club restaurant and lounge.



Photos: J. Paul Getty Trust. Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles (2004.R.10)



## 1953:

On July 1, 1953, a deal was struck between the members of the Shadow Mountain Club and Cliff Henderson, founder and president of the Palm Desert Corp. and one of the founding fathers of Palm Desert, that allowed members to purchase shares of common stock to raise money for future development. Henderson stipulated that the Palm Desert Development Corp. was a real estate organization that would retire from activity after the Shadow Mountain Club had been fully developed and sold to members.

Plans to build a large wall around the Shadow Mountain community, construct new roads and place utilities underground as well as a new hotel and choice parcels around the development were funded by selling shares of common stock to interested members. The price of the land and buildings of the new proposed development was valued at \$560,000. Both preferred and common shares were sold. Members who did not elect to participate in the ownership corporation were to continue their membership without prejudice.



## 1958:

January 24, the Shadow Mountain Golf Course was incorporated. The Shadow Mountain Golf Course, founded by Monrad "Mon" C. Wallgren (the retired Governor of Washington State) was the first golf course in Palm Desert. The Club garnered 300 members by 1960. Legendary and famed golfers Gene Sarazen and George Von Elm envisioned the course to be the design of the future. Their design was focused on providing a balance between being player-friendly and not overtaxing golfers. The golf course location benefits from the Santa Rosa Mountains protecting the course from desert winds. Over 700 palm trees were trucked in from Long Beach.

The City of Palm Desert designated the Shadow Mountain Golf Club as an Historic Landmark in 2010.





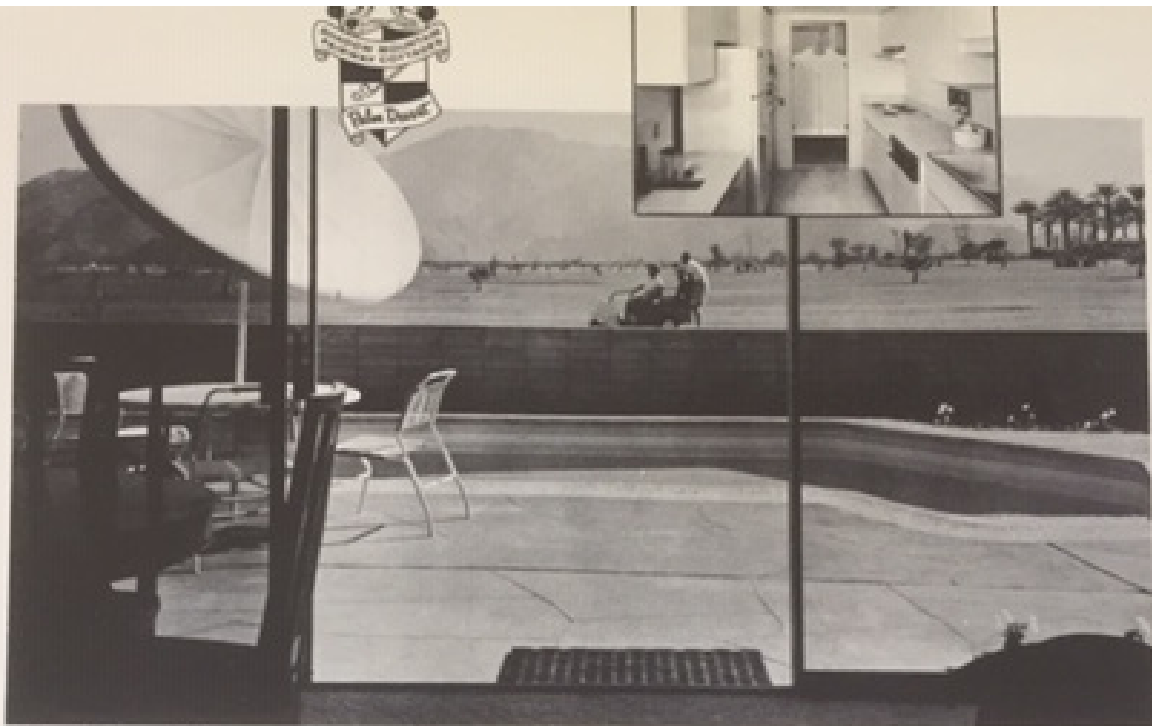
## 1960s:

The Shadow Mountain Fairway Cottages, designed by architects Donald Wexler and Richard Harrison were built between the 11th and 18th fairways.

The Fairway Cottages are an example of mid-century architecture. This development, designed by Richard Harrison, was one of the Wexler-Harrison firm's last commissions and was an immediate and resounding success. The cottages are characteristic of what can now be seen as Harrison's unique style, with his signature design elements of palm trees perforating a low-slung roof, creating a breezy delineation of the front door.



Photo: [www.pscondos.com](http://www.pscondos.com)



## Shadow Mountain Fairway Cottages

*for that feeling of luxurious care-free living*

OWN YOUR OWN GOLD MEDALLION ALL-ELECTRIC HOME



Located in Palm Desert on the beautiful Shadow Mountain Golf Course with breath-taking views in every direction. Your front lawn is the immaculately kept lush green golf course. The balance of the property is beautifully master landscaped and a resident manager will be there to care for your needs and relieve you of many annoying problems in maintaining your home.

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You are invited to visit our furnished model decorated by Vinette Curtis, A.I.D., of Nicholson's of Palm Springs

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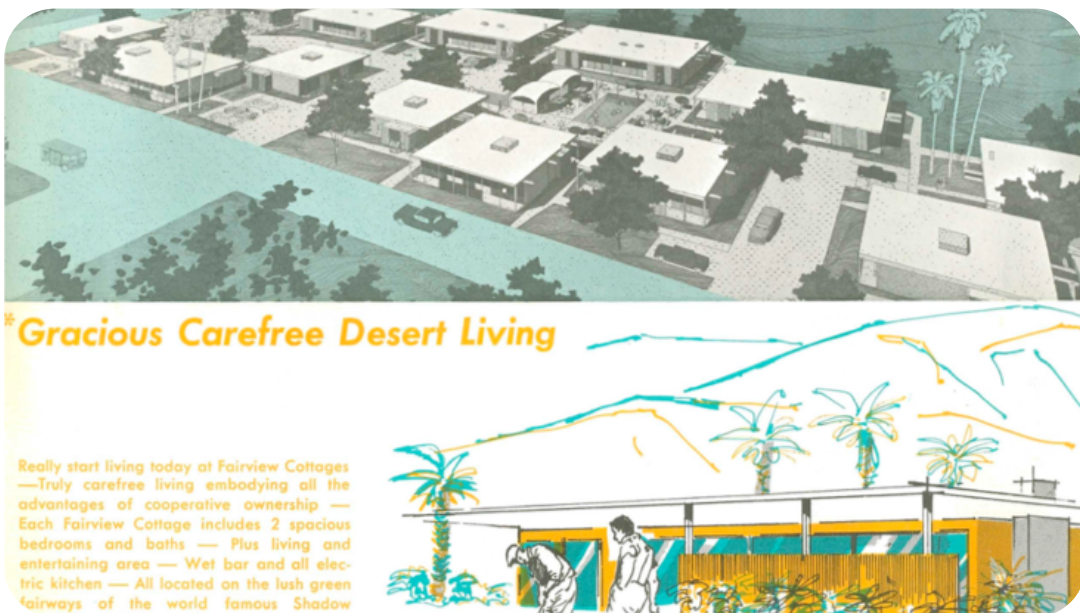
## 1960-1965:

Architect John Outcault was involved in the Shadow Mountain Club Restrooms and Dining room additions. Around the same time, he was also involved in the Shadow Mountain Gift and Apparel Shop addition.



## 1963:

Fairview Cottages were built. Located off Portola Ave near Hwy 111, Fairview Cottages is a Mid Century Modern, 20 unit, small development designed by architect Richard Dorman. The developer was Monte Wenck. Fairview Cottages were part of a much larger development scheme which was never realized.



### \*Gracious Carefree Desert Living

Really start living today at Fairview Cottages — Truly carefree living embodying all the advantages of cooperative ownership — Each Fairview Cottage includes 2 spacious bedrooms and baths — Plus living and entertaining area — Wet bar and all electric kitchen — All located on the lush green airways of the world famous Shadow

## 1964:

Architect, John Outcault was involved in the Shadow Mountain Club 40 Hotel-type units.

## 1965:

John Outcault was involved in designing the Shadow Mountain Golf Cart Storage.

## 1968:

The Shadow Mountain Golf Course and Resort were split and members had the choice to belong to one or the other. Upon separation the golf course received part of the structure to provide a clubhouse, pro shop, and enough land for a parking lot and access to Ironwood Street.

## 1970's:

The perimeter of the golf course was developed. An eclectic assortment of private homes, cottages and apartments were built.

The Club House interior was redecorated and a small kitchen, the "Pantry Kitchen", was added for short order lunches.

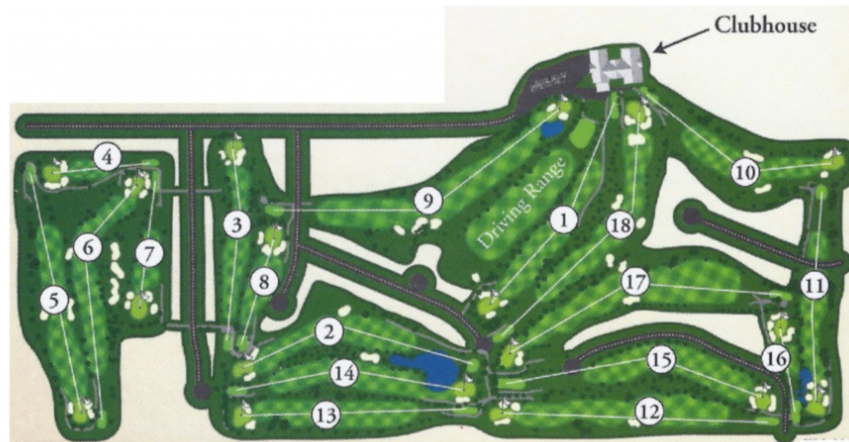
## 1976:

Heavy rain broke a dam support off HWY 74 sending boulders, sand and debris down the mountain ravaging the golf course and surrounding areas. The Shadow Mountain Golf Course members rolled up their sleeves providing needed labor and fund raising to repair the damage to the course.



## 1987:

The Filmer Mansion, that occupied a large parcel in the middle of the golf course was purchased and demolished making way for the lengthening of the 15th, 17th, and 18th holes.



## 2021:

Lindi Biggi, a local business woman and current owner of Venus De Fido, purchased the Shadow Mountain Golf Course and Clubhouse in August 2021:

*“I knew it when it was successful. When we joined 25 years ago, it was 350 members, and it was a hot spot,” Biggi said. “And that’s what I want to do now. I want to bring it back to its original splendor. I’m going to do it all mid-century modern and just try to play on its history.”*



# THE ARCHITECTS

## Henry Eggers (1911-1987), FAIA, Kaufmann, Lippincott & Eggers

### **Shadow Mountain Club and Resort**

Henry Lawrence Eggers was born in Denver, Colorado. Earning his bachelor' degree in Architecture from Cornell in 1933, Eggers lived much of his life in the Los Angeles area.

During the years 1946-1948 he was a partner in the firm Kaufmann, Lippincott and Eggers. In addition to partnering with Walter W. Wilkman in the firm Egger and Wilkman, Architects (1956-66), he ran his business from his home in Pasadena. In addition to his work at Shadow Mountain in Palm Desert Eggers designed the 1957 White Shadows House in Thunderbird Heights, Rancho Mirage.

## A. Quincy Jones (1913-1979), FAIA

### **Shadow Mountain Club and Resort**

Los Angeles architect A. Quincy Jones, studied at the University of Washington and worked for a number of eminent Los Angeles architects, including Paul R. Williams. Jones taught architecture at the University of Southern California from 1951-1967 and returned as Dean of the School of Fine Arts in 1975. Jones and Frederick E. Emmons founded Jones & Emmons in 1951. They utilized new building technologies that decreased costs and production time, and favored structural innovations including lightweight post-and-beam construction with pre-assembled parts. It is believed that Jones was retained by the Palm Desert Corporation to review and amend the original Shadow Mountain Club and Resort plans.

## John Outcalt (1927-1998), AIA

### **Shadow Mountain Club and Resort Additions plus 40-unit Hotel**

John Filer Outcalt, AIA, was a Palm Desert-based architect. After obtaining his degree from USC, Outcalt worked as a draftsman in the New York office of Alfred Easton Poor before becoming a draftsman in the Palm Springs office of Clark & Frey. Outcalt's work included residential, commercial, and institutional buildings throughout the Coachella Valley. He is best known for the Virgil Pinkley House (1960) in Palm Desert, Sea View School (1967) in Salton City, and the Indio Civic Center (1967-1968) in Indio.



# THE ARCHITECTS

## Richard Dorman (1922-2010), FAIA

### Fairview Cottages

Dorman was born in 1922 and raised in Los Angeles. After flying 35 missions over the Pacific as a WWII B24 pilot, Dorman used the GI Bill to attend the USC School of Architecture. Upon graduation in 1951, he joined the design department at Welton Becket and Associates where he served until 1956, when he left to start his own firm. Dorman's best known works include the Ivory Tower Restaurant in Santa Monica (demolished), which won an AIA Honor Award in 1961; Los Angeles International Design Center (1962); the Malibu United Methodist Church (1965); and the Beverly Hills National Bank Building (1965) in Brentwood, which was featured in Architectural Record in 1967.

## Richard Harrison (1924-1999), AIA

### Fairway Cottages

Richard Arnett Harrison, AIA was born in Los Angeles. Harrison studied aeronautical engineering in the Navy and went on to study architecture at the University of Southern California. Harrison worked for William F. Cody from July 1951 to February 1953, where he worked with his soon-to-be partner Donald Wexler. Wexler and Harrison went on to build custom homes and several tract home developments in Palm Springs. They dissolved their partnership amicably by 1961, as Harrison preferred to concentrate on residential projects and Wexler was interested in civic projects.





THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

# PALM VILLAGE MOTOR POOL 1942-1945

HWY 111 and Portola Avenue, Palm Desert, CA



Photos unless noted: Palm Desert Historical Society Archives

By the Fall of 1941, the world had been at war for two years. Nazi forces occupied most of Europe, and in North Africa, German troops threatened to capture the critical Suez Canal. Later that year, Japanese pilots attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor. Congress declared war on Japan.

**COMMANDING GENERAL:**  
GEORGE S. PATTON

**THE OWNER:**  
US ARMY & THE  
BUREAU OF LAND  
MANAGEMENT



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British Prime Minister Winston Churchill urged President Franklin D. Roosevelt to send the U.S. Army to support Allied troops in North Africa. However, America's soldiers were not prepared for combat in the desert.

In February 1942, the U.S. Army assigned General George S. Patton Jr. to advance desert tank warfare and train U.S. soldiers for combat under the harshest desert conditions possible. In early March General Patton and his staff surveyed the southwestern United States and established the Desert Training Center, encompassing 18,000 square miles of rugged, desolate and largely uninhabited lands within the Mojave and Colorado Deserts.

Patton established the headquarters for his base camp near Shavers Summit (now Chiriaco Summit), 25 miles east of Indio. Over 1,000,000 soldiers trained in the desert from 1942 to 1944. Twelve divisional camps were established, supported by a vast network of field hospitals, ammunition and supply depots, as well as transportation links – railroads to facilitate the movement of troops and supplies, and 5 airstrips to train pilots. Patton himself remained on the site for approximately 6 months from the spring of 1942.

To support the Desert Training Center, the Army commandeered land near the Indio Highway (Highway 111) and Portola in Palm Desert and created the Palm Village Motor Pool. Camouflaged tanks, field artillery, a motor pool, gunnery ranges and areas for target were in Palm Village.

The “service bays” and other buildings at the Palm Village camp were constructed of post and beams, with palm fronds used for roofs and walls.



The purpose of the Motor Pool was to train officers and enlisted men in the operation, maintenance, and repair of all types of military vehicles in the harsh desert environment. Patton believed that combat training should be as realistic as possible and that support services should not be unrealistically “convenient” for the troops. That might explain why the Palm Village Motor Pool was located so far from the actual combat training.

By mid 1943 with the Allied victory in North Africa assured, the Desert Training Center was no longer needed and started winding down. The Palm Village Motor Pool became responsible for patching up the equipment from the Desert Training Center and shipping it where it was needed. The 897th Ordinance Heavy Automotive Maintenance Company, which departed the camp in July, 1943 was redeployed as the first maintenance unit to go ashore at Normandy, landing on Omaha Beach nine days after the D-Day invasion on June 6, 1944.

Cliff Henderson contracted desert fever while serving as a Colonel in North Africa. On his discharge from the hospital, an Army doctor suggested he recover in the dry climate of the California desert. His friend, comedian ventriloquist Edgar Bergen, invited him to recuperate at his Palm Desert ranch where he would have had the opportunity to view this army land.

It was a perfect storm. The army no longer need for the land and Cliff had a vision. Along with his brothers, – Randall, Phil and Carl, and brother-in-law Tommy Tomson, Edgar Bergen, Leonard Firestone and Harold Lloyd invested in a dream to turn what had been called “The Sand Hole” - the Palm Village Motor Pool, into a desert oasis.

*Source: Bureau of Land Management, Desert Training Center brochure and the Desert Sun, June 29, 2017*



# GENERAL GEORGE S. PATTON

## 1885-1945



Born November 11, 1885, in San Gabriel, California, Patton attended the Virginia Military Institute and then the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, graduating on June 11, 1909.

Patton had his first real taste of battle in 1915, when leading cavalry patrols against Pancho Villa at Fort Bliss along the Mexican border. In 1916, he was selected to aide John J. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces in Mexico.

In 1917, during WWI, Patton was the first officer assigned to the new American Expeditionary Force tank corps where he established himself as one of the leading experts in tank warfare.

He organized the American tank school in Bourg, France, and trained American tankers to pilot the French Renault tanks. He was wounded in the battle of Meuse-Argonne and later earned the Distinguished Service Medal.

It was during WWII that Patton hit the high point of his military career. In 1943, he used daring assault and defense tactics to lead the 7th U.S. army to victory at the invasion of Sicily. On D-Day in 1944, when the allies invaded Normandy, President Roosevelt granted Patton command of the 3rd U.S. Army.

Under Patton's leadership, the 3rd Army, along with Allied forces, swept across France, and eventually Germany, capturing 10,000 square miles of enemy territory along the course of the 10-day march, liberating Germany from the Nazis.

In December 1945, General Patton died following a car accident near Mannheim, Germany. (Source: biography.com)





THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

# THE BOTTHOF "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.

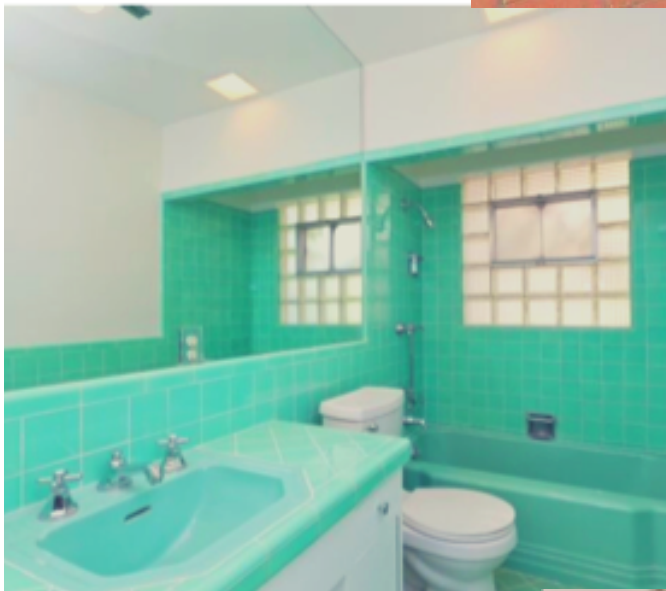
**ARCHITECT/BUILDER:**  
H. EUGENE WESTON, JR

**INTERIOR DESIGNER:**  
THEKLA MERTON

**ORIGINAL OWNER:**  
WALTER E BOTTHOF

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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 deal for both parties. (Willis Photo.)





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.

An article in the November 4, 1949 Desert Sun describes the excitement:

Joan Crawford arrives at the Racquet Club tomorrow night to start a picture with a Palm Springs setting.

Down last weekend at the Desert Inn was Warner Bros. location manager, Bill Guthrie, who concluded to shoot the picture here. The current name is "The Victim" which will probably be changed before release. The picture is of a wide-open desert resort, WITH GAMBLING —just cinema chips though, and the game seems to be limited to Miss Crawford and the villain. They finally kill the guy.

Most of the shooting will be done at Frank Sinatra's decorative hacienda.



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, most notable for his association with the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas. Hill was responsible for the finances and money laundering of many organizations within the crime world and highly respected among the mobsters. Using her good looks and other abilities, she became the highest ranking woman in the underworld.

She was considered an equal to gangsters Frank Netti, Meyer Lansky, Frank Costello and others, as well as Bugsy Siegel. As she was fluent in Spanish, she helped extend the money laundering network into Mexico.



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.





# EUGENE WESTON, III, AIA

## 1924-2012

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."

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 ○|■



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

# THE PETERSON HOUSE 1948

73535 Joshua Tree Street, Palm Desert, CA

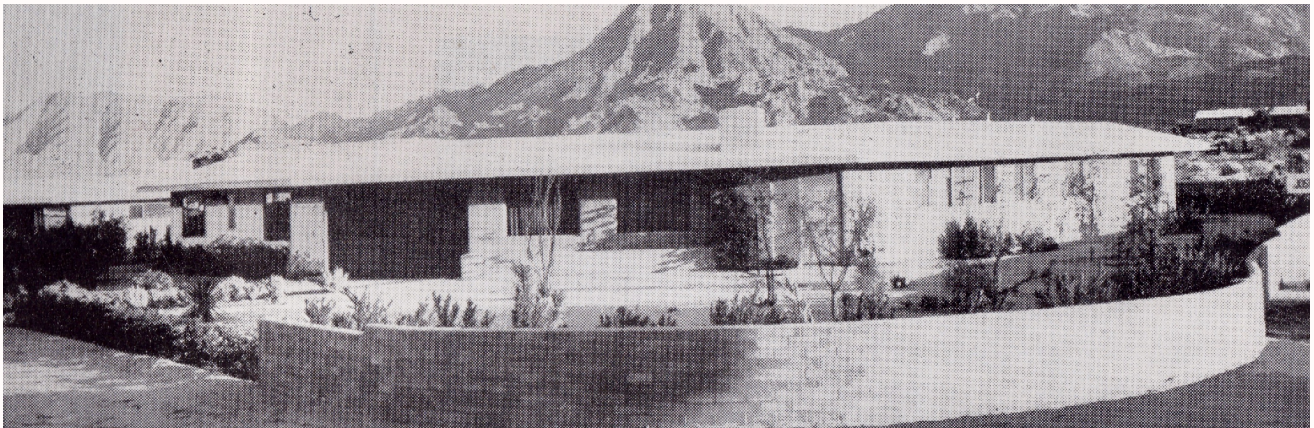


Photo: Sunspots 5th Anniversary

Albert (Al) and Edythe Peterson, along with their next door neighbor, Millie Mitchell, were the first to purchase a lot in the Shadow Mountain area from the Palm Desert Corporation.

Their home was among the first homes Walter S. White designed in the area. This 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom 1,917 square foot house is an L-shaped building sited diagonally on the lot,

Today the house is screened from the street by a tall hedge.

**ARCHITECT:**  
WALTER S. WHITE

**ORIGINAL OWNERS:**  
MR & MRS ALBERT  
PETERSON





Photos: zillow.com

## Albert and Edythe Peterson

Albert (Al) and Edythe Peterson, of La Jolla, had a winter home in Rancho Mirage in the 1940s. Mrs Peterson, a friend of Edith Eddy Ward, the real estate maven of Shadow Mountain is reported to have been keenly interested in the development. A December 6, 1951 Desert Sun article tells the story of how The Peterson and Mitchell families came to buy in Shadow Mountain.

Palm Desert Sunbeams

By EDITH EDDY WARD

*One hundred and one years ago (1850) a sixteen-year-old boy by the name of Hans Sletten ran away from his home in Denmark, boarded a ship that was coming to America, sailed around the Horn and landed in San Francisco where he deserted the ship and started for the hills in search of gold. East Monday Hans Sletten's daughter, Millie Mitchell—better known as the "Cattle Queen of the Sierras"—celebrated her birthday (we won't say which one) in her new home at Palm Desert.*

*Millie's niece and husband, Edythe and Al Peterson, planned the day which included a cocktail party at Shadow Mountain and wound up with a surprise dinner party at Thunderbird Country club, where the "Cattle Queen" was greeted by the "King" of the desert cowboy, Frank Bogart.*

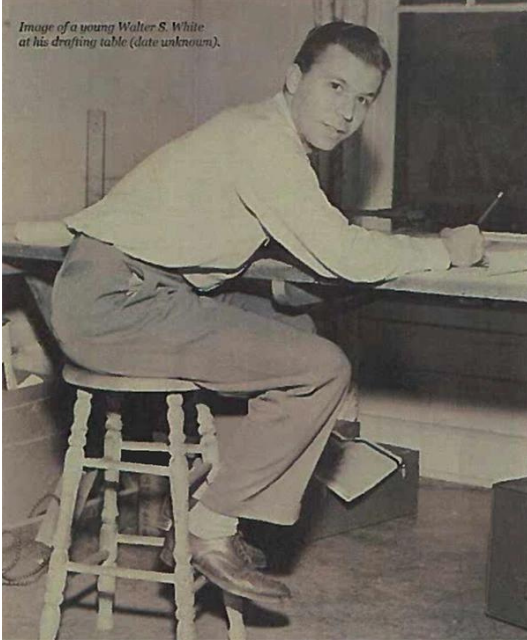
*The story of how Millie Mitchell became the Cattle Queen is an interesting one. Her father became discouraged in his search for gold and went to Montana where he met Millie's mother, who had crossed the plains in a covered wagon drawn by oxen. After their marriage in 1867, they set out for California settling in Carson Hill, in Calaveras county where Hans went to work in the mines. Millie met her future husband, Mills Mitchell in first grade. By the time they married when Millie was 23, Mills had a good herd of cattle started. When he passed away in 1929, Millie took charge and ran the business herself. She now owns over 7,000 acres of land and leases approximately 2,000 more for cattle.*

*In November 1946, the day that Palm Desert was opened, Millie Mitchell was in Vallecito. However, she had been watching the progress of this area and had made up her mind it was the spot where she wanted to build her winter home. So, she asked Edythe Peterson, her niece, who was living in Rancho Mirage at the time, to select a lot for her in Palm Desert. Edythe selected two lots—one for Millie and one for the Petersons, making them the first purchasers of Palm Desert property. Today, two beautiful homes stand on the two lots, surrounded by many other nice homes. The Mitchell house is the gathering place for all the family. A landmark and a tribute to Millie Mitchell, who had the pioneer background and the foresight to visualize the future of Palm Desert.*



# WALTER S. WHITE

## 1917–2002



Walter S. White was born in San Bernardino in 1917. Between 1933 and 1936 he attended San Bernardino High School. White learned how to build from his father, who owned a construction business in San Bernardino, California; honed his technical skills in a Southern California airplane factory during World War II; and worked in the offices of noted architects Rudolf M. Schindler, Harwell Hamilton Harris, and Albert Frey. By the mid-1940s White was a designer, builder, and developer to the growing number of desert dwellers in California's Coachella Valley. With nearly 50 homes in Palm Desert alone attributed to White, he quickly became the "go to" designer for homes in the Shadow Mountain neighborhood.

After moving to Colorado Springs in 1960, White designed many of the private residences in the exclusive Kissing Camels Estates. In the 1970s he established a reputation for designs that relied on passive solar energy.

White's career is notable for three major areas of focus: inexpensive, even DIY architecture; innovation in construction and materials; and concern for nature and sustainability. In the early years of his practice, right after World War II, White focused on designing minimal and small, inexpensive houses. These include his affordable wooden cabins for returning G.I.s, small concrete-block houses in the desert, and prefab steel and wood cabins for mountain sites. White had an abiding interest in the construction of buildings and was fearless in his experimentation. He held patents for innovative construction methods, including one for hyperbolic-paraboloid roofs. White's concern for the local landscape and the earth's environment led him to design buildings that took advantage of their natural settings while also caring for nature and sitting lightly on the land. Especially in the 1970s, the efficiency of his buildings and their effect on man's energy consumption became a focus of his practice.

Walter S. White died in 2002, at the age of 85.

Source: Art, Design & Architecture Museum, University of California, Santa Barbara

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

# THE PRITZLAFF HOUSE 1948 & 1951

73493 Joshua Tree Street, Palm Desert, CA



Photo:Linda Holden Clode

The current house, a 3 bedroom plus den, 3 1/2 bath home sits on a .59 acre lot. Designed and built by Walter S. White, this house replaced one of the earliest houses built in the Shadow Mountain neighborhood - a large California Ranch-style home, commissioned by the industrialist, Herbert Pritzlaff and designed by Cliff May.

The original home was reportedly a typical May design - combining western ranch house and Hispanic hacienda styles with elements of modernism. It was destroyed in a fire on January 31, 1949. Pritzlaff vowed to rebuild "...a house of charm, with a Mexican hacienda motif..." (Desert Sun, 4 Feb, 1949) By February 24, 1949 new plans were drawn up by architect Walter S. White and construction was completed in 1951.

**DESIGNERS/ARCHITECTS:**  
CLIFF MAY (1948)  
WALTER S. WHITE (1951)

**ORIGINAL OWNER:**  
HERBERT F. PRITZLAFF

## Herbert Pritzlaff

Herbert Frederick Pritzlaff was born March 29, 1891 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was the son of Bernard C. Pritzlaff and grandson of John C. Pritzlaff, founder of the John Pritzlaff Hardware Company, the largest wholesale hardware store in the Midwestern United States until its closure in 1958.

While visiting Shadow Mountain Club in 1946, Pritzlaff purchased property nearby. The Desert Sun (16 May 1947) reported that:

*Carl Henderson tells me that Herbert Pritzlaff of Miami Beach, Florida, took one look at Palm Desert last December 17 and in a few minutes bought a lot; sold out in Miami Beach and flew back here to settle permanently.*

Pritzlaff commissioned architect Cliff May to design a large home in a hacienda style, suitable for entertaining. Just over one year after purchasing his lot, Pritzlaff hosted more than 300 guests at his house warming/birthday party. (Desert Sun April 2, 1948)



CELEBRATES—Herb Pritzlaff cutting his birthday cake while the crowd sings "Happy Birthday" during his housewarming party on Sunday. (Gayle Studio photo.)



# The Fire

On the night of January 31, 1949, a dramatic fire destroyed the house - just ten months after it was finished. Pritzlaff and his manservant escaped the fire but were hospitalized and the house was destroyed. The Desert Sun (February 1, 1949) reported:

*Wakening at about 5 o'clock Sunday morning to find his bedclothing aflame, Herbert F. Pritzlaff barely escaped with his life from his beautiful home at Palm Desert as fire which investigators say had been smouldering for some time in the walls and attic space suddenly burst through the roof and ceiling, turning the house into a raging inferno.. Leaping from his bed, Pritzlaff attempted to roll up the burning bedcovers in an effort to smother the flames, he carried them into the bathroom in an effort to douse them with water, slightly burning his hands and singeing his hair. Hearing a crescendo of crackling behind him, Pritzlaff turned to see flames consuming drapes and rugs, sparks dropping from the ceiling. Dressed only in shorts, Pritzlaff found himself facing a cloud of rolling black smoke, ran through it into another room, dialed the telephone and choking from the acrid fumes, told the telephone operator his house was afire, then was forced to run into the frigid morning air to save his life. Pritzlaff's screams wakened his Filipino house boy, Francisco Francisco, sleeping in another part of the house, who managed to escape with a few clothes.*

*Pritzlaff lost not only his house, with its elaborate furnishings, but all of his clothing and personal belongings, including his wallet, silverware, a dinner set of 24-karat gold with platinum centers, all of his valuable papers, and his car..*

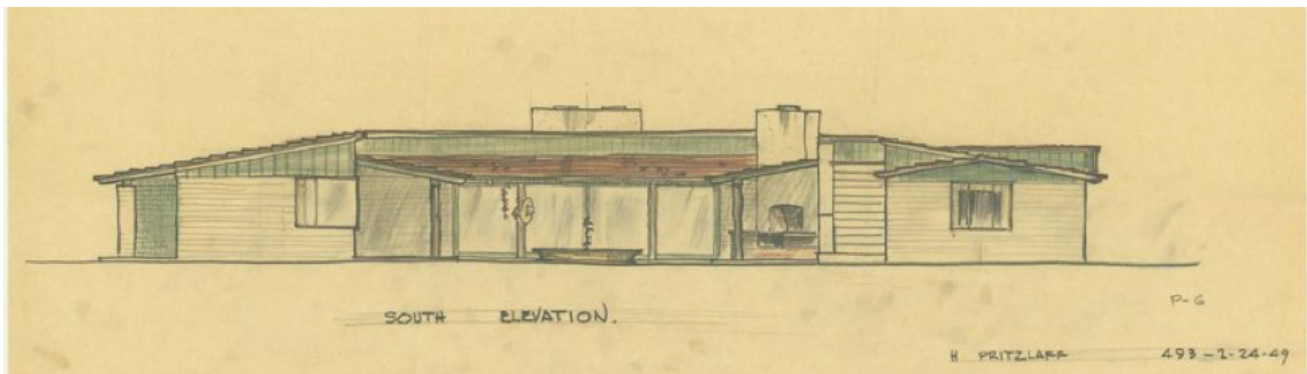
*Much of the east wing still stands, though charred by flames. The exact cause of the fire probably will never be determined. but investigators admit that the fire had gained such headway under the roof and had spread so rapidly before breaking through the roof and ceiling that no amount of fire equipment could have saved the residence with its beautiful appointments.*

# Rebuilding

Subsequent newspaper coverage (Desert Sun, February 4, 1949) reveals Pritzlaff's desire to rebuild:

*"Out of the ashes shall rise a new home, more beautiful than the one I lost to the flames a few days ago... Building it shall get under way at once." So said Herbert F. Pritzlaff, honorary mayor of Palm Desert last night from his bed at Community Hospital, where he is recovering from burns and shock received when he barely escaped with his life from flames which destroyed his desert mansion at Palm Desert last Sunday morning. "My new home shall reflect the mood of the desert. It will have more room and more conveniences. There will be outdoor patios where my friends and I can loaf in the sun and relax under the star lit desert sky and enjoy the romantic charm which was traditional in the days of the California Dons," Pritzlaff declared.*

Twenty four days later, Walter White had sketched a new home for Pritzlaff. The elevation drawing for the Pritzlaff House, dated February 24, 1949 shows a modern ranch-style home. It was completed in 1951.



AD&A Museum, UC Santa Barbara

# CLIFF MAY

## 1903-1989

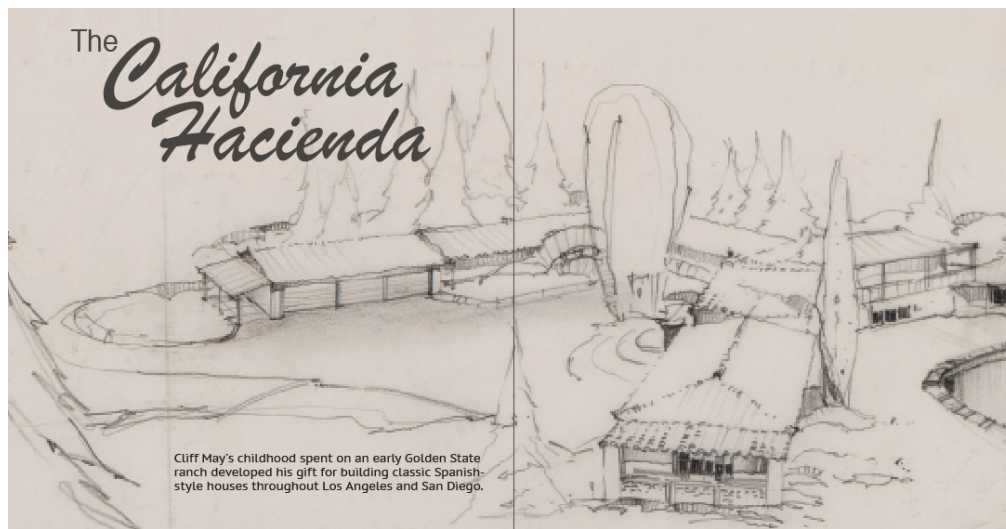
Born in San Diego, Cliff May (1903-1989) studied business at San Diego State College. After graduation, he began building Monterey style furniture which led to building his first house with help from developer Roy Lichty, his father-in-law. Before May moved to Los Angeles in 1936, he had built 35 houses over a 5 year period in San Diego.

Cliff May relocated to Los Angeles to work with financier John A. Smith. Together they embarked on building and marketing May's urban ranch house designs, including for the development called Riviera Ranch, a subdivision in West Los Angeles marketed to the wealthy. By 1943, he had established a national reputation as a designer of custom California Ranch Houses.

Throughout his career, Cliff May drew upon the history and mythology of the Spanish and Mexican eras for his designs. He spent his childhood summers at his aunt's Las Flores ranch in North San Diego. This experience instilled in him a vision of the ideal California house: a sprawling structure, low to the ground and open to the landscape. "To me, when we lived on the ranch, with cross-ventilation and rooms spread out and around courtyards, basic old California plans, it seemed to be a much better way to build and live." (Source: Jocelyn Gibbs, The California Hacienda [www.architectureforsale.com](http://www.architectureforsale.com))

May maintained an active architectural practice in Los Angeles until his death in 1989.

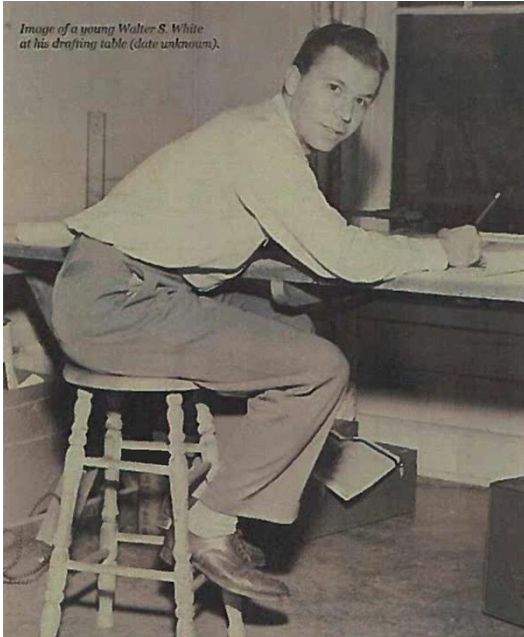
(Source: Architecture and Design Collection, Art, Design & Architecture Museum, UC Santa Barbara)





# WALTER S. WHITE

## 1917–2002



Walter S. White was born in San Bernardino in 1917. Between 1933 and 1936 he attended San Bernardino High School. White learned how to build from his father, who owned a construction business in San Bernardino, California; honed his technical skills in a Southern California airplane factory during World War II; and worked in the offices of noted architects Rudolf M. Schindler, Harwell Hamilton Harris, and Albert Frey. By the mid-1940s White was a designer, builder, and developer to the growing number of desert dwellers in California's Coachella Valley. With nearly 50 homes in Palm Desert alone attributed to White, he quickly became the "go to" designer for homes in the Shadow Mountain neighborhood.

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Walter S. White died in 2002, at the age of 85.

Source: Art, Design & Architecture Museum, University of California, Santa Barbara

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

# THE BURNS MODEL HOME 1949

73605 Juniper Street, Palm Desert, CA



Photos: Linda Holden Clode

The Herbert W. Burns Model Home is a 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom home of 2,168 square feet on a .46 acre lot. His designs use horizontal lines, stone stacked fireplaces, flat roofs, cantilevered overhangs, vertical pylons, screens, grids, and planters seamlessly blending the indoor-outdoor lifestyle while natural materials like wood and sandstone help the structure fit into the environment.

Julius Schulman photographed Burns' work for the Los Angeles Times Home Magazine (1948) and wrote admiringly:

*"The designer must merge desert and house, so the occupant will be puzzled to find that subtle point where the view ends and the interior begins... For the theme of desert life, its common denominator is Herbert W. Burns."*



Official Modernism Week Event

**ARCHITECTURAL  
DESIGNER:**  
HERBERT BURNS

**THE OWNERS:**  
CHARLES AND THELMA  
MCVEY







Photos from the Palm Desert Historical Society Archives



**Mr. and Mrs. Charles McVey's new home  
is typical of much of the smart new building.**



# HERBERT W. BURNS

## 1897–1988

According to Stephen Keylon, author of "The Design of Herbert W. Burns," Burns had multiple careers — a lighting designer/fabricator, a stockbroker, a building contractor, a color consultant and finally, a as a self-taught architectural designer.

Best known for his apartment motels in Palm Springs - Town & Desert Apartments (1947) (now known as The Hideaway), Desert Riviera Hotel (1950), Holiday House (1951), Village Manor Inn (1955) (now known as the Orbit In) and Desert Hills Hotel (1956).



PHOTOGRAPH BY JULIUS SHULMAN, TOWN AND DESERT APARTMENTS, 1947  
J. PAUL GETTY TRUST. GETTY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, LOS ANGELES (2004.R.10)

Burns also designed many single-family homes for discerning clients, including Edith Eddy Ward, the “first lady of real estate” in Palm Desert. Her home was featured in the *Los Angeles Times Home Magazine* in 1948 and described as follows:

“The home, in which she entertained extensively, featured long, low lines that fit the desert contours, a large terrace punctuated by syncopated vertical steel poles, something that would become a Burns trademark. Burns designed the Ward home to be easily converted, as required, into a motel, and Mr. and Mrs. L. Fred Talbot of Portland subsequently purchased it and added ten more rooms creating the Sun and Shadow Apartment Hotel in Palm Desert.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY BURNS FAMILY ARCHIVES, Published in Palm Springs Life 2018

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

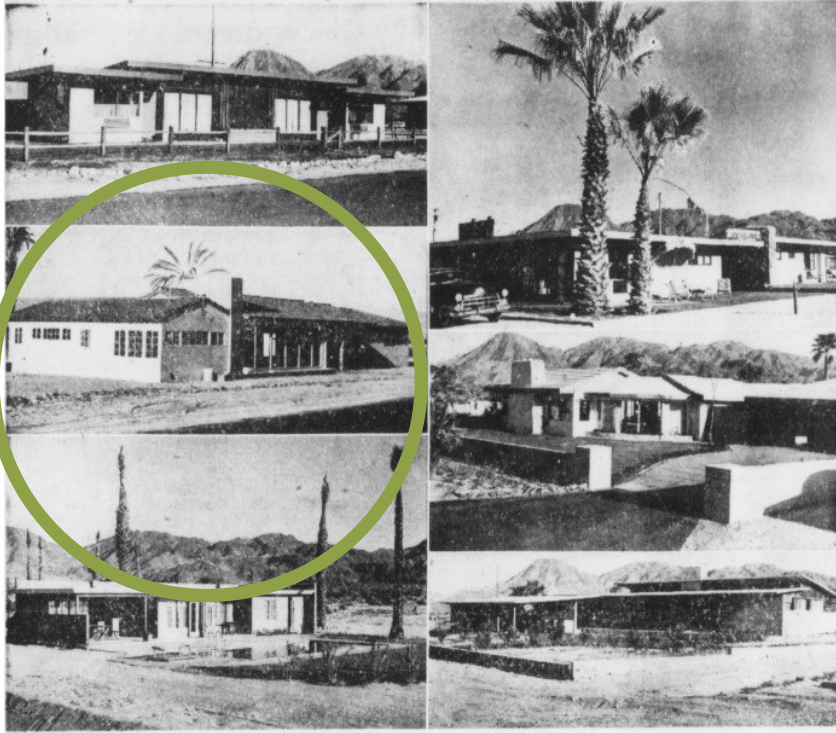
**ORIGINAL OWNERS:**  
GOV. MONRAD & MRS  
MABEL WALLGREN



## 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.)



Desert Sun April 1, 1949

## 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 (Liberty) 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.



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

# THE PELLETIER HOUSE 1950

73297 Grapevine Street, Palm Desert, CA



Photo: Linda Holden Clode

A low stone wall originally circled the rear yard and the pool. The 4,587 square foot home contains 3 bedrooms and 3.5 bathrooms and sits on .93 of an acre of land.

The walls were made of rose colored concrete block. The original chimney and the above the roofline wood facing can still be viewed from the street.

One of the highlights of this home is the copious amount of rock that is on the side of the garage walls, and the entrance. The rock can also be found in the interior in the living room and in the master bedroom.

Adrian C. Pelletier, the original owner, was the President and Honorary Chairman of the Purex Corporation.

**ARCHITECT:**  
ALBERT FREY, AIA,  
CLARK & FREY

**BUILDER:**  
ARTHUR COFFEY

**LANDSCAPING:**  
CHESTER "CACTUS SLIM"  
MOORTEN, MOORTEN  
GARDEN

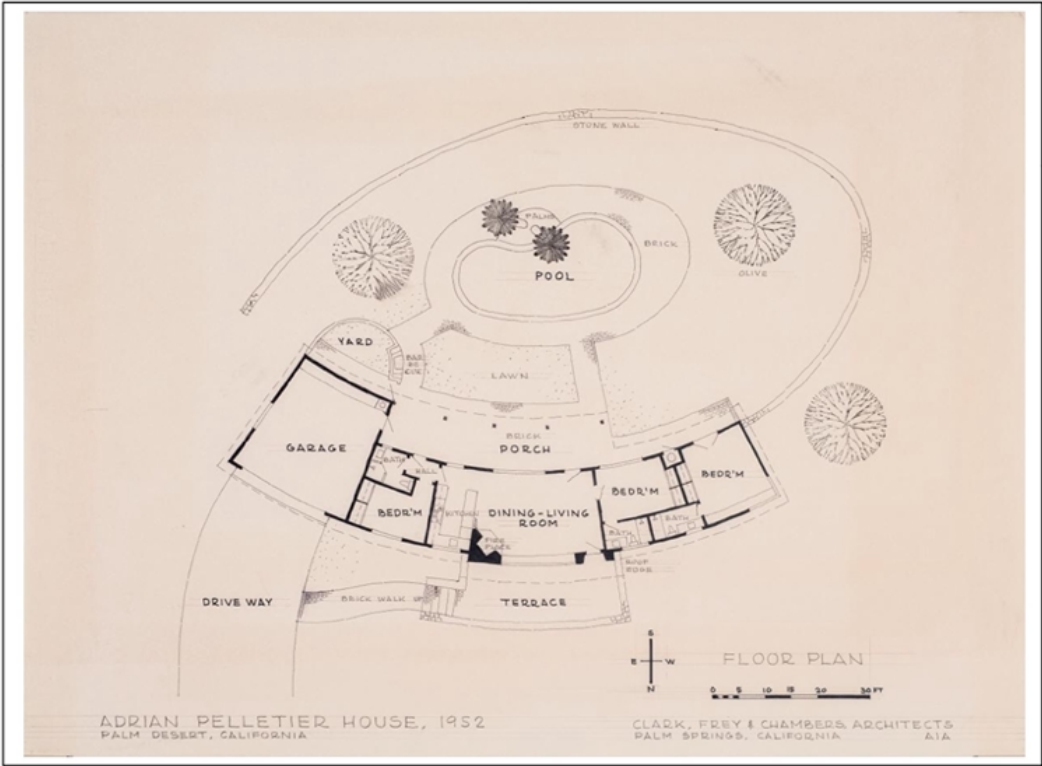
**ORIGINAL OWNER:**  
MR. AND MRS. ADRIEN C.  
PELLETIER



B&W photos: Julius Schulman, Albert Frey papers, Architecture and Design Collection. Art, Design & Architecture Museum; University of California, Santa Barbara.



The home is curved with the lines of the pool emulating those of the home. The casita also curves; and the extended lines from home to casita create an oval.



1952 Adrian Pelletier House designed by Clark, Frey & Chambers Architecture and Design Collection. Art, Design & Architecture Museum, UC Santa Barbara



Photo: zillow.com





Photos: zillow.com



# ALBERT FREY, AIA

## 1903–1998



Photo: Palm Springs Art Museum Collection

Albert Frey was born in Switzerland in 1903 and died in Palm Springs in 1998.

He worked for Le Corbusier in Paris, but moved to New York in 1928 and in 1930 partnered with A. Lawrence Kocher. In 1931 they designed the Aluminaire House, the first all metal (aluminum) house in the U.S. It was exhibited twice, the second time at MOMA in 1932 as part of the show, 'International Style-Architecture since 1922.'

The Aluminaire House was recently gifted to the Palm Springs Art Museum as a part of their permanent collection. This iconic masterpiece of modernist design will be reconstructed at the corner of W. Tahquitz Way and Museum Way in Palm Springs.

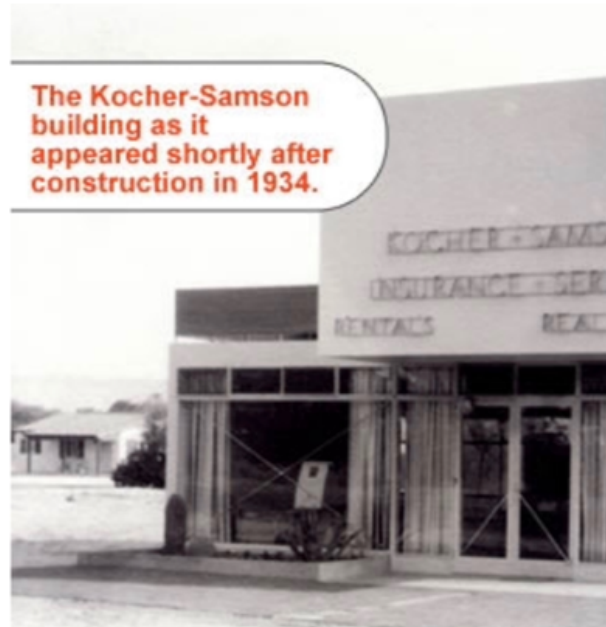


It is fun to note that although Palm Springs rightly lays claim to Frey, his first home was right here in Palm Desert in 1934! While working on the Kocher-Sampson building in Palm Springs, he stayed in this small homestead at the corner of HWY 111 and HWY 74 in Palm Desert.

The house had its own well and electric power. The chimney and fireplace were made of adobe. He drove the open road from Palm Desert to Palm Springs every day in his 1932 Ford convertible.

From 1934 to 1937, Frey worked directly with John Porter Clark. They subsequently collaborated for over 20 years although not in the same firm.

Clark became the managing architect for the College of the Desert (under master planner and design architect, John Warneke). Frey's firm, Chambers and Frey, worked directly under Clark beginning in 1958 designing several key buildings, including the campus center which still stands.



Photos: Palm Springs Art Museum Collection

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION OF ARCHITECTURE		REVISED AS BUILT 1-2-62	
20717 APPROVED JUL 18 1961		STUDENT CENTER ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS LAYOUT	
ARCHITECT <i>Robert Chambers</i>		CAMPUS CENTER	
JOHNSON & NIELSEN STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS		FREY & CHAMBERS ARCHITECTS A.I.A. 879 NO. PALM CANYON DRIVE PALM SPRINGS, CALIF. JOHN PORTER CLARK COORDINATING ARCHITECT	
THARALDSON, MATTHEWSON & ARBRIGHT MECHANICAL ENGINEERS		COLLEGE OF THE DESERT COACHELLA VALLEY JUNIOR COLLEGE DISTRICT IMPERIAL COUNTY CALIFORNIA	
OMER J. DEBEVER & ASSOCIATES ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS		COLLEGE INDEX CD-592 ARCH INDEX 599 DATE MAY 15, 1961 DRAWN H. ORTIZ CHECKED C. J. PER-	
		E 2	

College of the Desert Archives



# CHESTER MOORTEN, LANDSCAPE DESIGNER

The original landscaping was done by Chester "Cactus Slim" Moorten of Moorten's Botanical Gardens in Palm Springs.

Cactus Slim began his career in Hollywood where he was an original Keystone Cop and a stand-in for Howard Hughes. He developed tuberculosis on a film set and went to recover near Joshua Tree where he panned for gold and collected beautiful cacti.



Photo:[www.moortenbotanicalgarden.com](http://www.moortenbotanicalgarden.com)

Moorten moved to Palm Springs in 1938 and bought property from renowned nature and desert photographer, Stephen Willard, (now Moorten's Botanical Gardens, 1701 South Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs). The business grew to include landscape design and soon Slim and his wife, Patricia, were hired to create desert landscapes for the homes of Walt Disney, Red Skelton, Jimmy Van Heusen, Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby and others.

(Source: [www.moortenbotanicalgarden.com](http://www.moortenbotanicalgarden.com) )

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

# THE FIRESTONE ESTATE 1950

73153 Fiddleneck Lane, Palm Desert, CA



Photos: Estately.com

Built for the tire magnate, diplomat and philanthropist Leonard Firestone and designed by William Pereira in 1948-1950, this home is one of the finest Mid-Century Modern homes in the desert.

Sited in South Palm Desert on 1.3 acres the main home is approximately 5,000 square feet, and the guest house a further 2,000 square feet comprising of a total of 7 bedrooms and 7 1/2 baths. The estate has a hotel-size pool, tennis courts, and as befitting a a tire magnate's home, 3 garages, 2 carports and additional parking for 15 cars.

**ARCHITECT:**  
WILLIAM PEREIRA

**ORIGINAL OWNER:**  
LEONARD & PEGGY  
FIRESTONE







Photo: Historical Society of Palm Desert Archives



Photo: Michael Locke





Photo: Michael Locke

The Estate was designed as an homage to the great redwoods surrounding San Francisco. The design includes grape arbor (below) on the iron gates and other references to the Sonoma Valley where Firestone owned wineries.



Photo: Linda Holden Clode





Photos: Michael Locke





Photos: Michael Locke





Photo: Fuegorock, CC BY-SA 4.0

## Leonard Firestone

Leonard Kimball Firestone was born in 1907 in Akron, Ohio. The son of rubber magnate, Harvey S. Firestone, he was educated at Princeton University and after graduating from college, was employed by the family company.

In 1939, he became a director at Firestone. He was named president of Firestone Aviation Products Co. in 1941 and President of Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. in 1943.

A staunch Republican, Firestone was a delegate to the Republican National Convention from California in 1944, 1948 and 1952. Firestone was chairman of the Nelson Rockefeller 1964 presidential campaign.

He retired as president of Firestone's California operations in 1970. In retirement, Firestone developed vineyards, planting 250 acres of vines, and in partnership with his son, founded the first commercial winery in Santa Barbara County.

He was appointed U.S. ambassador to Belgium by President Richard Nixon in 1974, and was reappointed by President Gerald Ford, serving until 1976.

Leonard Firestone died in Pebble Beach, California in 1977, aged 89.



Photo: Herald Examiner Collection, LA Public Library

The following is excerpted from "The man from the desert who played with presidents", Melissa Riche, November 17, 2016 The Desert Sun:

*Firestone visited the desert regularly beginning in the early 1930s. His first home, on Fiddleneck Lane was designed by renowned LA architect, William Pereira and completed in 1950.*

*Firestone then bought four lots overlooking the thirteenth fairway in the Thunderbird Country Club. Firestone decided to build a new desert home on two of his lots, saving the adjacent land for a future neighbor. Again, he chose William Pereira as architect.*



As head of California fundraising for Eisenhower's campaigns, Firestone joined the golfing party on the famous presidential visit to Thunderbird Country Club in 1954. Eisenhower made many return trips to Thunderbird, becoming an honorary member in 1961, by which time Firestone was president of the Palm Springs Golf Classic. The tournament eventually became the Bob Hope Desert Classic and proceeds went towards the founding of the Eisenhower Medical Center, for which Firestone became chairman.

Gerald Ford visited Belgium for a NATO meeting and stayed with the Firestones at the embassy. Although they'd met before, the visit sealed the friendship. After Ford became President, the Firestones were regular visitors to the White House. In 1977, following his defeat to Jimmy Carter, Firestone built Ford his retirement dream home next door at Thunderbird. The friendship between the Firestones and the Fords resulted in the Betty Ford Clinic.

When Firestone died in 1996 at the age of 89, Ford said of his friend, "He was a truly great man and an outstanding citizen".

# WILLIAM L. PEREIRA, FAIA

## 1909–1985

Pereira was born in Chicago and graduated in architecture from the University of Illinois. He helped draft the master plan for the 1933 Chicago World's Fair. With his brother, Hal Pereira, he designed the Esquire Theater at 58 East Oak Street, considered one of Chicago's best examples of Art Deco.

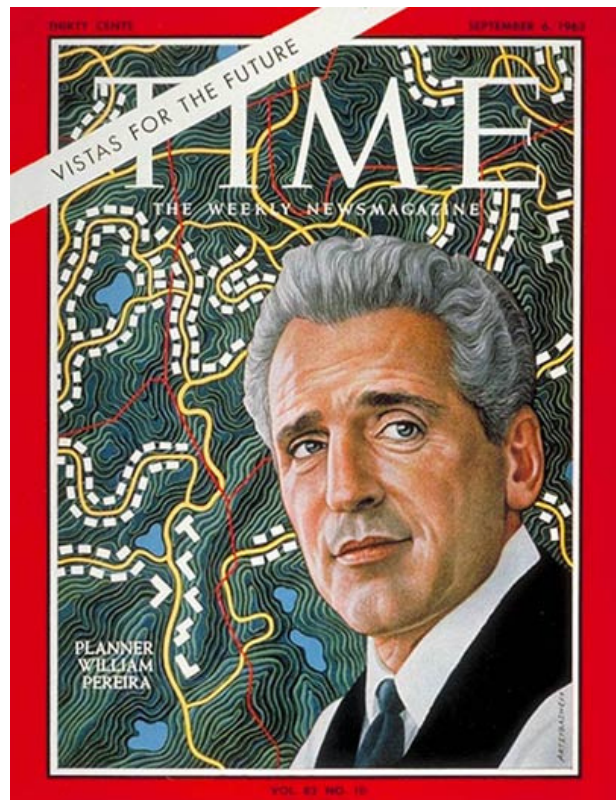
Later in the 1930s he moved to Los Angeles. After working as a solo architect, Pereira was hired by the Motion Picture Relief Fund and designed the first buildings for the Motion Picture County House in Woodland Hills.

Pereira also had a brief stint as a Hollywood art director. He won, with others, an Oscar in 1942 for special effects on a Cecil B. DeMille film *Reap the Wild Wind*.

In 1949, he became a professor of architecture at the University of Southern California. He then formed a partnership with architect and classmate Charles Luckman, designing some of Los Angeles's most well-known buildings. After parting with Luckman, he formed the third and final company, William L. Pereira & Associates, completing over 250 projects.

Among his most recognized buildings are San Francisco's Transamerica Pyramid (1972), Los Angeles County Museum of Art (1965), and the Geisel Library at UCSD (1970).

Pereira was one of the few architects to appear on the cover of Time magazine.



Time Magazine, September 6, 1963



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

# THE BROWN HOUSES 1951 & 1960

73543 Juniper Street and  
73526 Ironwood Street, Palm Desert, CA



House #2 Photo: Redfin.com

Walter White designed three homes in Palm Desert for Tom Brown (two - #1 and #3 - are on our tour route):

1. 73543 Juniper Street (1951);
2. 73219 Juniper Street (1954), and
3. 73526 Ironwood Street (1959)

House #1, built in 1951, contains 4 bedrooms and 4.5 bathrooms in 3,680 square feet. At the corner of Burroweed and Juniper, the house is angled on the corner lot, typical of many Walter White designs.

House #3, built in 1960, sits on a .54 acre property. This 5,591 square foot house with 3 bedrooms, and 3 bathrooms, as well as a large detached casita, is also angled on a large corner lot.

**ARCHITECT:**  
WALTER S. WHITE

**DESIGNER HOUSE #1:**  
BARKER BROS, LA

**DESIGNER HOUSE #3:**  
GEORGE ERB, A.I. D.

**BUILDER HOUSE #3:**  
MHOON & MHOON, PALM  
DESERT

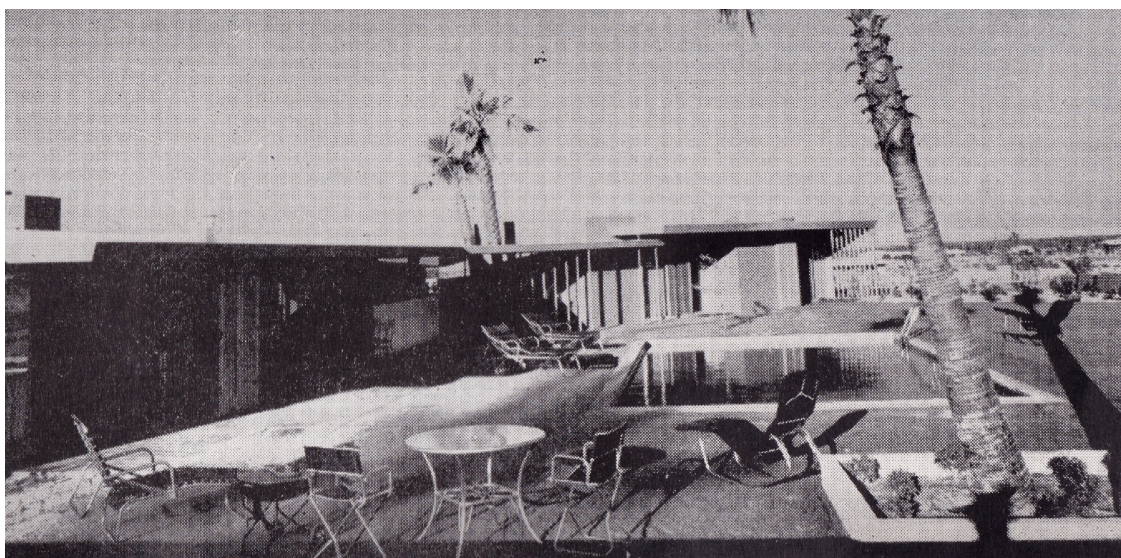
**ORIGINAL OWNERS:**  
MR & MRS THOMAS  
(TOM) F. BROWN



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# House #1



Photos: Desert Sun, 1952 and 1953



**LARGEST TRANSACTION** — The Tom Brown home at Palm Desert has been purchased by Henry F. Asmussen of Los Angeles, chairman of the board of West Publishing Company of St. Paul and New York, legal publishers. Edith Eddy Ward represented both buyer and seller in the largest real estate transaction in Palm Desert this season.

**Bar Association President**

geles, chairman of the board of West Publishing Company of St. Paul and New York, legal publishers. Edith Eddy Ward represented both buyer and seller in the largest real estate transaction in Palm Desert this season.





Photos: zillow.com



# House #3



White designed several homes for Thomas Brown. In addition to the three in Palm Desert, he also designed a home Arcadia, California (1960), as well as a prefabricated cabin in Estes Park, Colorado (1965).

The Palm Desert House #3 on Ironwood Street, was showcased in Architectural Digest's Spring 1962 edition with photographs by Maynard L. Parker.



Photos: Maynard L Parker, Architectural Digest

## Thomas F. (Tom) Brown

Thomas F. (Tom) Brown was a San Francisco lawyer. During the 1950's, he was the No. 1 ranked tennis player in California (Mill Valley Record May 20, 1954) and played out of the Mill Valley Tennis Club. In this June 14, 1956 photo (below), he is shaking hands with his brother, Noel - to whom he lost - apparently, a rarity! In fact, a Madera Tribune article of July 3, 1959, notes Tom was invited to join the US Davis Cup squad, but unfortunately due to work commitments was not able to do so.



In November, 1952, Tom was elected as Vice-President of the Palm Desert Community Association. His wife was active in the Palm Desert Players Association as well as the local chapter of the American Red Cross. They attended the Palm Desert Community Church and belonged to the Shadow Mountain Club. Many articles of the day, highlight Tom and his wife who were often guests at events with the Hendersons' and other 'movers and shakers' of Palm Desert's early days.

## Other Owners

House #1 was built by Tom Brown in 1951 and sold to Mr and Mrs Henry S Asmussen of Los Angeles in 1952. Mr Asmussen was the Chairman of the Board of West Publishing Company of St Paul and New York, legal publishers. The Desert Sun (1962) reported the sale as the largest in the desert in that season.

In 1956 Harry B. Clow, President of Rand McNally purchased House #1. The Desert Sun (December 1956) reported that:

*One of Palm Desert's most outstanding homes, formerly owned by Mrs. Alyce Asmussen. was purchased last week by Mr. and Mrs. Harry B. Clow of Chicago through the Edith Eddy Ward Real Estate Office. Mrs. Ward represented both seller and buyer Located in the Shadow Mountain Estates, the distinctive desert home featured in brochures and magazines as representative of the finest in desert living, was designed by Walter White, Jr., with interior decoration by Barker Brothers of Los Angeles. Mr. Clow is president of Rand McNally Publishing Company in Chicago and Mrs. Clow is related to the noted Cudihy family. The Palm Desert home will be used as their winter residence.*

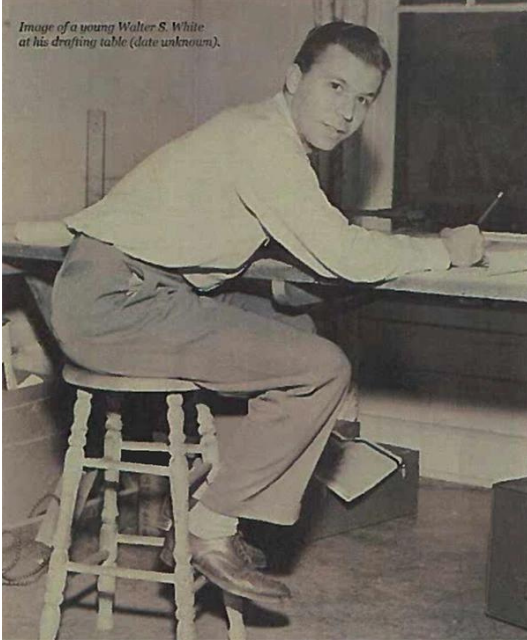


House # 3. Photo: Maynard L Parker, Architectural Digest



# WALTER S. WHITE

## 1917-2002



Walter S. White was born in San Bernardino in 1917. Between 1933 and 1936 he attended San Bernardino High School. White learned how to build from his father, who owned a construction business in San Bernardino, California; honed his technical skills in a Southern California airplane factory during World War II; and worked in the offices of noted architects Rudolf M. Schindler, Harwell Hamilton Harris, and Albert Frey. By the mid-1940s White was a designer, builder, and developer to the growing number of desert dwellers in California's Coachella Valley. With nearly 50 homes in Palm Desert alone attributed to White, he quickly became the "go to" designer for homes in the Shadow Mountain neighborhood.

After moving to Colorado Springs in 1960, White designed many of the private residences in the exclusive Kissing Camels Estates. In the 1970s he established a reputation for designs that relied on passive solar energy.

White's career is notable for three major areas of focus: inexpensive, even DIY architecture; innovation in construction and materials; and concern for nature and sustainability. In the early years of his practice, right after World War II, White focused on designing minimal and small, inexpensive houses. These include his affordable wooden cabins for returning G.I.s, small concrete-block houses in the desert, and prefab steel and wood cabins for mountain sites. White had an abiding interest in the construction of buildings and was fearless in his experimentation. He held patents for innovative construction methods, including one for hyperbolic-paraboloid roofs. White's concern for the local landscape and the earth's environment led him to design buildings that took advantage of their natural settings while also caring for nature and sitting lightly on the land. Especially in the 1970s, the efficiency of his buildings and their effect on man's energy consumption became a focus of his practice.

Walter S. White died in 2002, at the age of 85.

Source: Art, Design & Architecture Museum, University of California, Santa Barbara

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

# THE VEISSI HOUSE 1951

46142 Golden Rod Lane Palm Desert, CA



Photo: zillow.com

This 3 bedroom 3 bathroom home, currently under extensive renovation, is sited on a large, half-acre lot.

Backing onto Shadow Mountain Golf Course, this home is one of the earliest in the neighborhood and has dramatic angled roof lines, extended wrap around porch on the second level, and a large roof overhang.

**ARCHITECT:**  
FREDERICK MONHOFF

**ORIGINAL OWNERS:**  
MR & MRS JASCHA  
VEISSI



Photo: Discogs.com





Photos: zillow.com



## Jascha Veissi

Jascha Veissi was born Joseph Weissman in the Ukraine in January of 1898. Educated in the Ukraine he emigrated to the United States in 1920 joining the violin section of the Cleveland Orchestra for the 1921-22 season. It was during that season that he changed his name to Veissi.



He played with many of the major orchestras in the US including the Seattle Symphony, Boston Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

In the 1930s, when Veissi was a member of the L.A. Philharmonic, he owned a magnificent property, also designed by Frederik Monhoff, on Mulholland Drive in Los Angeles. From *Warren Beatty: A Private Man* by Suzanne Finstad:

The week before he started to film *Shampoo*, in early March 1974, Beatty found his dream house. It was hidden behind a gate and situated like a castle on the highest point of Mulholland Drive, the winding canyon road separating Los Angeles from the San Fernando Valley, known, appropriately, as a lovers' lane because of its stunning views. The property was called "the Viking," named by its second owner, Lauritz Melchior, a Wagnerian tenor from Denmark, who purchased the five-acre property in 1941 from its original owner, Jascha Veissi, once the principal violist for the San Francisco Symphony. Beatty—who associated the violin with his father's lofty dreams, revered artists of stature, and had a nostalgic feeling about opera singers because of his grandmother MacLean—instantly romanticized the Viking.

Veissi briefly played with the renowned Kolisch Quartet in 1939. His career was cut short when he suffered an injury to his index finger while working on an electronics project. The doctors wanted to amputate his finger, but Veissi refused and eventually did recover and regained his ability to play. He remained active as a teacher at Scripps College.

Jascha Veissi died in Carmel, California on October 11, 1983.

# FREDERIK MONHOFF, AIA

## 1897-1975

Frederick Monhoff was born in New York City in 1897. The family moved to Los Angeles when Monhoff was young. Following a stint in the Navy during WWI, he attended UC Berkeley receiving his MA in 1921. He was an honored artist, illustrator and architect. He designed private and public buildings all over Southern California including the now demolished Biltmore Hotel (1948) in Palm Springs, as well as a home for the Biltmore owner, Samuel Harold Levin, in the Tahquitz River Estate neighborhood of Palm Springs.



The Biltmore Hotel, Palm Springs, Frederick Monhoff, Architect  
Photo by Julius Schulman © J. Paul Getty Trust. Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles  
(2004.R.10)

Monhoff designed numerous homes for Jascha Veissi - in Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, Claremont, Montecito and Palm Desert.

He was the design architect for the Los Angeles County Architectural Division. He taught architecture at the University of California, Los Angeles during the 1940's, as well as design at the Otis Art Institute in LA (1926-1950) and the Pasadena Art Institute (1959). His work is archived at UCLA, the deYoung Museum and the Smithsonian.

Frederick Monhoff died in 1975 in the Napa Valley.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

# THE GIBSON HOUSE 1951

46021 Goldenrod Lane, Palm Desert, CA



Photos: Zillow.com

This 1951 home is very similar in design to the Botthof House (73331 Fiddleneck Lane) and therefore has been attributed to H.E. Weston.

It is a large - 3,590 square foot rancher, and has 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms and a two room casita. It has been extensively renovated but the exterior entrance and carport bear the signature of H.E. Weston.

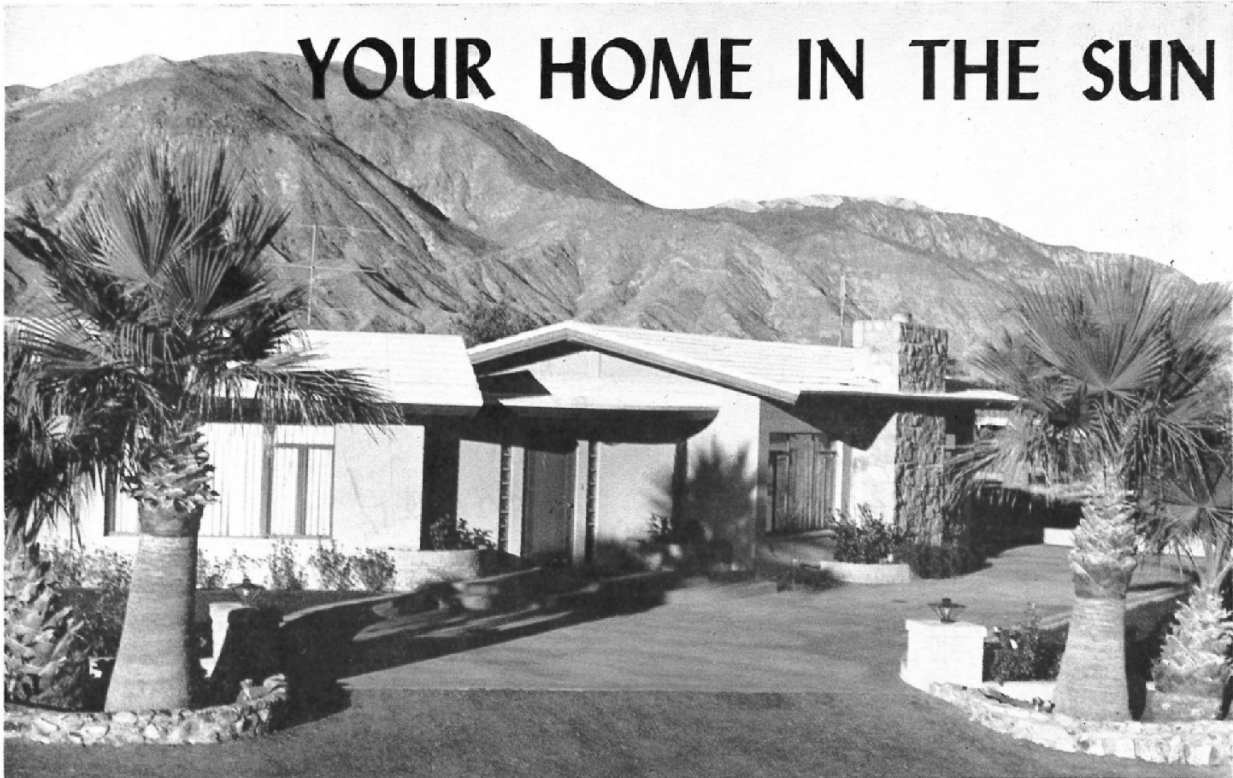
**ARCHITECT/BUILDER:**  
H. E. WESTON III  
(ATTRIBUTED)

**BUILDER:**  
ROBERT GIBSON

**ORIGINAL OWNER:**  
ROBERT GIBSON







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*Rancho Mirage*  
 Phone Palm Springs 84932

**GANNON REALTY COMPANY, Realtors**  
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 Phone Palm Springs 2772

**EDITH EDDY WARD, Real Estate Broker**  
 73667 Highway 111, *Palm Desert*  
 Phone Palm Desert 76-3431

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AT TWILIGHT LIGHTED PALMS BID WELCOME

(January, 1953) PALM SPRINGS VILLAGER—3



Photos: Zillow.com



# H.E. "EUGENE" WESTON III, AIA 1924-2012

Gene Weston was born in Hollywood, the son of a Los Angeles architect, who had worked for Bertram Goodhue in 1923, and nephew to Joseph Weston also an architect. In the mid 30s, they formed a company to design and manufacture factory-built houses, clearly ahead of their time.

After serving in the US Army during World War II, Weston studied Industrial Design at the Art Center in Pasadena. Following graduation, he worked for his father's architectural firm and later for Alvin Lustig, where he prepared 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. 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."

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EUGENE WESTON ○|■





THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

# THE BRADFORD HOUSE 1952

73576 Pinyon Street, Palm Desert, CA



Photos: Zillow.com

Melvyn Bradford, President of Metro Homes, commissioned Walter White to design a Palm Desert residence in 1952. The 3 Bedroom, 4 Bath 3,086 square foot home sits on a 1/2 acre lot.

The house is a larger version of the standard Metro Homes style with the Walter White signature elements including the large overhanging roof, clerestory windows and the home angled on the lot.

**ARCHITECT:**  
WALTER S. WHITE

**BUILDER:**  
MELVYN BRADFORD,  
METRO HOMES

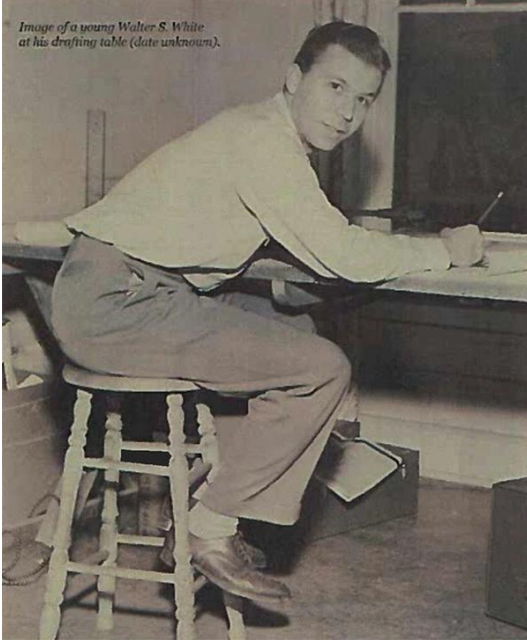
**ORIGINAL OWNERS:**  
MR & MRS MELVYN  
BRADFORD





# WALTER S. WHITE

## 1917–2002



Walter S. White was born in San Bernardino in 1917. Between 1933 and 1936 he attended San Bernardino High School. White learned how to build from his father, who owned a construction business in San Bernardino, California; honed his technical skills in a Southern California airplane factory during World War II; and worked in the offices of noted architects Rudolf M. Schindler, Harwell Hamilton Harris, and Albert Frey. By the mid-1940s White was a designer, builder, and developer to the growing number of desert dwellers in California's Coachella Valley. With nearly 50 homes in Palm Desert alone attributed to White, he quickly became the "go to" designer for homes in the Shadow Mountain neighborhood.

After moving to Colorado Springs in 1960, White designed many of the private residences in the exclusive Kissing Camels Estates. In the 1970s he established a reputation for designs that relied on passive solar energy.

White's career is notable for three major areas of focus: inexpensive, even DIY architecture; innovation in construction and materials; and concern for nature and sustainability. In the early years of his practice, right after World War II, White focused on designing minimal and small, inexpensive houses. These include his affordable wooden cabins for returning G.I.s, small concrete-block houses in the desert, and prefab steel and wood cabins for mountain sites. White had an abiding interest in the construction of buildings and was fearless in his experimentation. He held patents for innovative construction methods, including one for hyperbolic-paraboloid roofs. White's concern for the local landscape and the earth's environment led him to design buildings that took advantage of their natural settings while also caring for nature and sitting lightly on the land. Especially in the 1970s, the efficiency of his buildings and their effect on man's energy consumption became a focus of his practice.

Walter S. White died in 2002, at the age of 85.

Source: Art, Design & Architecture Museum, University of California, Santa Barbara



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

# THE BOLLINGER HOUSE 1953

73359 Ironwood Street, Palm Desert, CA



Photos: Redfin.com

The curved home is a 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom 1,756 square foot house which sits on a large 0.44 acre lot.

A large posted overhang is reminiscent of the ranch style homes popular in the 1940's and early 1950's.

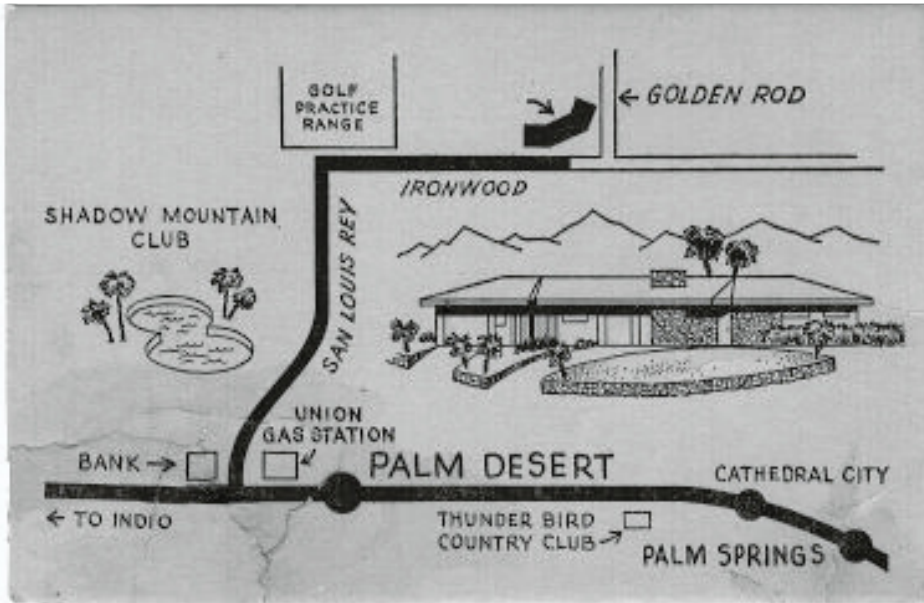
The Bollinger home remains largely unaltered and is a great example of the vernacular of the 1950's in Palm Desert.

**ARCHITECT:**  
UNKNOWN

**ORIGINAL OWNERS:**  
MR & MRS GLEN  
BOLLINGER



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Original Sales pamphlet courtesy of the current owners.

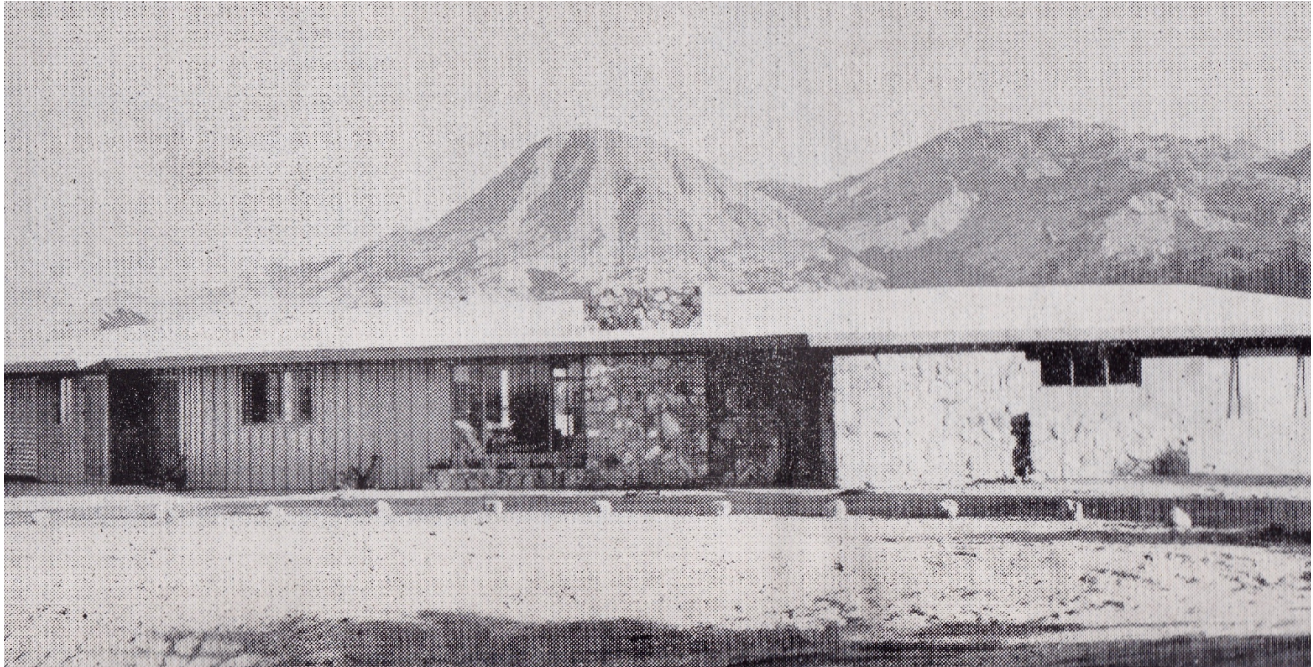


Photo: Sunspots

## Glen and Margaret Bollinger

Glen Bollinger was born in Iowa in September of 1892. He was the co-founder, along with Burton Ardens, of the Sparkletts Drinking Water Company, one of the largest bottlers of drinking water in the United States.

They were frequent participants in parties at the Shadow Mountain Club during the 1950's and 60's and are mentioned in the social section of the Desert Sun.

After selling their house on Ironwood Street, he and his wife, Margaret, moved to the the Sands and Shadows condominiums on Highway 74.

Glen Bollinger died in Los Angeles in December of 1978.



Margaret Bollinger (2nd from right) at Shadow Mountain Club, Desert Sun, October 24, 1969



## Hop and Howard Adams

The Adams brothers bought the Bollinger House in 1980.

Hop and Howard Adams were originally from Boise, Idaho. They left Boise to run the Nevada Club in Las Vegas, the Royal in Henderson and the Bonanza in North Las Vegas, eventually settling in Carson City where they bought the Nugget Casino in the mid 1950s. It is still owned and operated by Howard's son, Alan Adams, and Hop's wife, Mae Adams.

The current owners report that when they purchased the house in 2011 it was fitted with safes, locks on the outside of the bedrooms doors and a "panic room."



The Nugget Casino (1950s), Carson City, NV

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

# THE HENDERSON HOUSE, 1947

73597 Pinyon Street, Palm Desert



Photos: Redfin.com

In 1947 Cliff Henderson, known as the Founding Father of Palm Desert and the developer of the Shadow Mountain Club, had this serene mid-century modern house built for himself and his actress wife, Marian Marsh, star of many films in the 1930s and 1940's. The house was built close to the Club and El Paseo with restaurants, motels and shopping.

Sited on an oversized lot with dramatic mountain views, the design uses breeze block inside and out, and has views of the pool and patio from nearly every room.

**ARCHITECT:**  
KAUFFMAN & EGGERS

**RENOVATION (1952):**  
WALTER S. WHITE

**LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT:**  
TOMMY TOMSON

**ORIGINAL OWNER:**  
CLIFFORD & MARIAN  
HENDERSON



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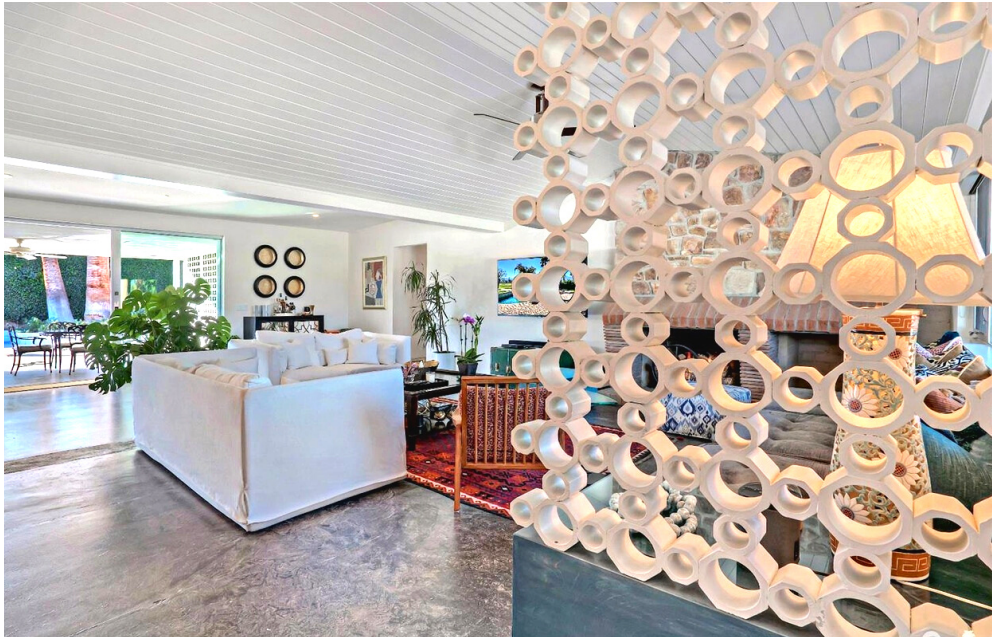


Photo: Gail Thompson, Gayle's Studios. Courtesy Shadow Mountain Resort Collection



Aerial photo from the early 1950s showing the Henderson House in relationship to Shadow Mountain Club and Resort. Photo from Historical Society of Palm Desert collection





Photos: Zillow.com



Photo: San Diego Air & Space Museum

## Clifford Henderson

Born in Iowa, Henderson graduated from the University of Southern California with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1917. He served in the 35th Ambulance Unit in France during WWI, then transferred to the 101st Aero Squadron.

After the war, Henderson settled in Los Angeles and was chairman of the ground arrangements for the Army. In 1928, he served as the first manager of the Los Angeles airport system.

He was involved in planning the Burma Hump air route, and also served as military governor of Dakar in North Africa.

With his brother Phil Henderson, he built the Pan-Pacific Auditorium in 1935-1936. The landmark Streamline Moderne convention center, designed by Los Angeles architects, Wurdeman & Becket, was the region's primary indoor venue with 100,000 square feet of exhibition space and seating for 6,000.

According to The Desert Sun "*History: the Henderson Clan, founders of Palm Desert*" by Sid Burks, September 29, 2017:

*Cliff bought several parcels of land south of the Indio Highway (Highway 111) and across the road from Palm Village, including the site of what had been the vehicle pool for General Patton's Desert Training Center. He was careful to conceal his intention to develop the land into an upscale community. He quietly amassed 1,622 acres.*

*Cliff formed the Palm Desert Corporation in March 1945. Investors included his old friend Edgar Bergen, Leonard Firestone, and other well-heeled friends and acquaintances.*

*The first order of business was to dig wells and develop the other infrastructure the fledgling community would need. Cliff wanted everything First Class. He predicted that "One day this will be the smartest address on the American Desert.*



*Cliff had the vision, raised the money and made it all work, but he had a lot of help. His brother, Randall had found the site and moved his publishing business there to become the first commercial enterprise in Palm Desert. Randall helped develop the concept of Palm Desert, but he never promoted it in his magazine or participated in its development. Cliff's brother-in-law, Tommy Tomson, came to California to break into the movies. When that didn't work out, he became a self-taught landscape architect. Tomson did the landscape designs for Santa Anita Racetrack, Los Angeles Union Station, and Pan-Pacific Auditorium for his brother-in-law, Cliff. He did the landscape design for the homes of countless Hollywood big names, as well.*

*Tomson helped Cliff found Palm Desert by creating the overall site plan and street layout, as well as the landscape design for many of the businesses and residences. Two other brothers, Phil and Carl Henderson helped found Palm Desert. Cliff considered Phil to be not only a brother and business partner but his best friend. Carl was the "born salesman" and did the legwork of selling the lots to make the whole thing a reality. In 1951 it did become a reality when Palm Desert absorbed nearby Palm Village and officially incorporated as a city.*



April, 1978: Clifford W. Henderson, Father of Palm Desert  
at presentation of bust/plaque on El Paseo Drive.

Photo: Desert Sun



## Marian Marsh Henderson

Marian Marsh was born Violet Ethelrod Krauth in Trinidad, British West Indies (now Trinidad and Tobago), and came to the United States as a child. She followed her older sister into an acting career, and appeared in over 40 films from 1929-1942. She also appeared in several television programs in the 1950s. In her films, Marian Marsh starred opposite many of the leading men of the day, including John Barrymore. One of her best-known films is "Svengali", in which she is hypnotized by an evil character played by John Barrymore (bottom right photo).



# THE DESIGN TEAM

## Henry Eggers (1911-1987), FAIA, Kaufmann, Lippincott & Eggers

Henry Lawrence Eggers was born in Denver, Colorado. Earning his bachelor's degree in architecture from Cornell in 1933, Eggers spent much of his life in the Los Angeles area. During the years 1946-1948 he was a partner in the firm Kaufmann, Lippincott & Eggers. In addition to his work at Shadow Mountain in Palm Desert, Eggers designed the 1957 White Shadows House in Thunderbird Heights in Rancho Mirage.

## Gordon B. Kaufmann (1888-1949), Kaufmann, Lippincott & Eggers

Gordon Kaufmann was born and educated in England, moved first to Canada and finally Los Angeles where he first rose to attention with his design of Greystone (1928), the largest private residence in Southern California at the time. He is best known for his large-scale works including Santa Anita Park (1934), Hoover Dam (1935), the Los Angeles Times Building (1935), and the Hollywood Palladium (1940), among other important Southern California landmarks.

Gordon Kaufmann and Henry Eggers were in partnership for a brief period (1946-1948). Their partnership designed the Shadow Mountain Resort and Club, and it is assumed that they also designed Clifford Henderson's home a few steps away from the Club on Pinyon Street.

## Walter S. White (1917-2002)

There is some evidence that Walter S. White designed some exterior modifications to the Henderson House in 1955 - possibly removing a carport, reconfiguring the driveway and adding an extension. Information on Walter S. White can be found at:

<http://www.adc-exhibits.museum.ucsb.edu/exhibits/show/walterwhite/introduction>

## Tommy Tomson, Landscape Architect (1901-1986)

Cliff Henderson's brother-in-law, Tommy Tomson, designed a landscape plan for Cliff's home on Pinyon Street.

Tommy Tomson laid out the streets and major plantings for the business district, El Paseo. He also designed the landscaping for the Shadow Mountain Resort and Club, as well as for the homesites for sale in and around the Club in South Palm Desert.

Below is a landscape plan by Tommy Tomson for the Henderson House, but it is not known if the plan was implemented.

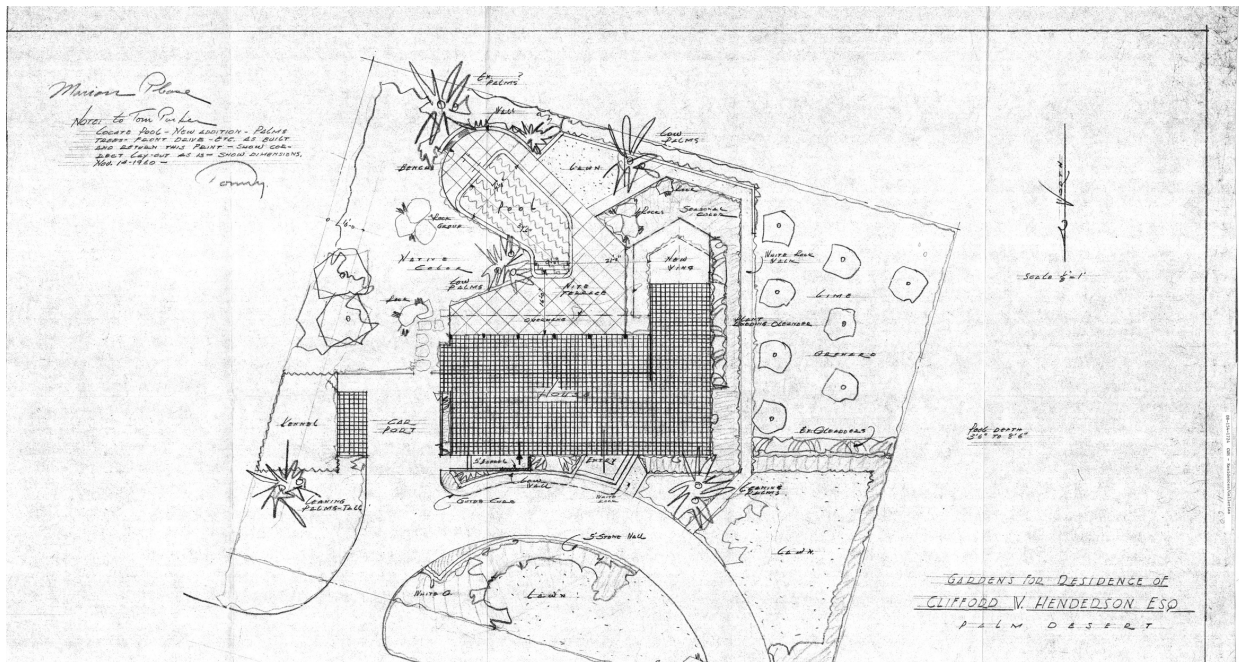


Photo: Gail Thompson, Gayle's Studios. Courtesy Shadow Mountain Resort Collection



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

# THE DURHAM HOUSE 1954

73325 Grapevine Street, Palm Desert, CA



Photos courtesy of Redfin.com

Mr. and Mrs. Durham commissioned Walter White to design a Palm Desert residence in 1952. Original drawings were by Walter White with construction completed in 1954. The 3,381 square foot home sits on .91 acres with 3 bedrooms and 3.5 baths.

The current view of the home shows that the carport has been enclosed. As well, the original triangular wall design projecting on the right of the garage appears to have been removed.

**ARCHITECT:**  
WALTER WHITE

**ORIGINAL OWNERS:**  
MR & MRS WILLARD  
HIGLEY DURHAM



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Walter White's thoughtful design for this home (plan above) details where the sun would be throughout the year (winter, spring, summer). White was well known for positioning his homes to capture the best light while reducing heat during the hottest times of the year. This often meant the home would sit at an angle on the lot, often a corner one. His use of expansive windows allowed a flow from inside to out. This home features an interior lanai to capture light and bring greenery into the home. It is interesting to note that Bedroom #3 (far left on the plan) is set at one end of the home. Many Palm Desert homes were built as winter retreats, this floor plan allowed guests to have their own private space while visiting.



Both floor and elevation plans  
 Art, Design & Architecture Museum, University of California, Santa Barbara Archives



## Construction 1953/4





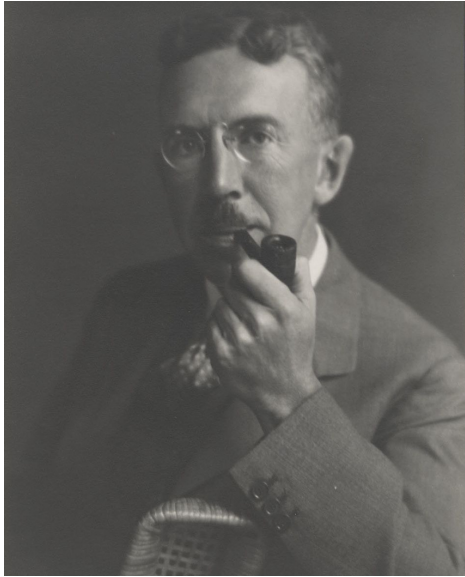


Photo: findagrave.com

## Willard Higley Durham

Willard Durham was born in 1883 in New Haven, Connecticut. He graduated from Yale university with a Doctor of Philosophy degree and joined the faculty.

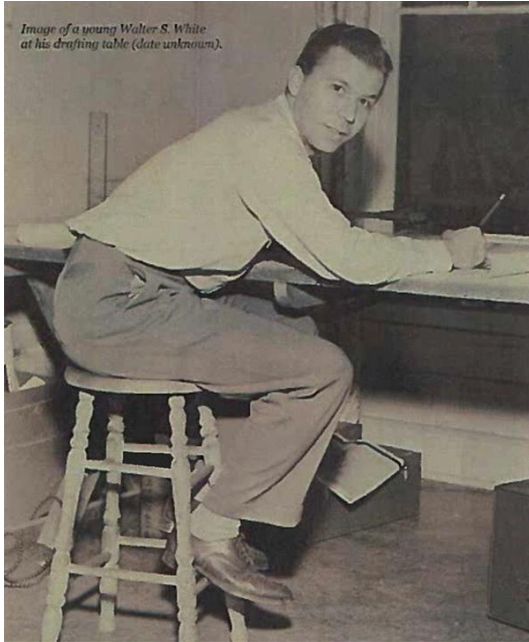
While teaching at Yale, he wrote and edited "Critical Essays of the Eighteenth Century" published by Yale University Press.

He became an English professor at University of California Berkeley in 1921 where he remained on faculty until his retirement in 1954.

It appears likely that this house was a retirement residence for the Durhams'. Mr. Durham only lived 6 months after the home was completed. He died in 1955 after a long illness.

# WALTER S. WHITE

## 1917–2002



Walter S. White was born in San Bernardino in 1917. Between 1933 and 1936 he attended San Bernardino High School. White learned how to build from his father, who owned a construction business in San Bernardino, California; honed his technical skills in a Southern California airplane factory during World War II; and worked in the offices of noted architects Rudolf M. Schindler, Harwell Hamilton Harris, and Albert Frey. By the mid-1940s White was a designer, builder, and developer to the growing number of desert dwellers in California's Coachella Valley. With nearly 50 homes in Palm Desert alone attributed to White, he quickly became the "go to" designer for homes in the Shadow Mountain neighborhood.

After moving to Colorado Springs in 1960, White designed many of the private residences in the exclusive Kissing Camels Estates. In the 1970s he established a reputation for designs that relied on passive solar energy.

White's career is notable for three major areas of focus: inexpensive, even DIY architecture; innovation in construction and materials; and concern for nature and sustainability. In the early years of his practice, right after World War II, White focused on designing minimal and small, inexpensive houses. These include his affordable wooden cabins for returning G.I.s, small concrete-block houses in the desert, and prefab steel and wood cabins for mountain sites. White had an abiding interest in the construction of buildings and was fearless in his experimentation. He held patents for innovative construction methods, including one for hyperbolic-paraboloid roofs. White's concern for the local landscape and the earth's environment led him to design buildings that took advantage of their natural settings while also caring for nature and sitting lightly on the land. Especially in the 1970s, the efficiency of his buildings and their effect on man's energy consumption became a focus of his practice.

Walter S. White died in 2002, at the age of 85.

Source: Art, Design & Architecture Museum, University of California, Santa Barbara

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

# THE BOYD "HOPALONG CASSIDY" HOUSE, 1955

73498 Joshua Tree Street, Palm Desert, CA



Original paint colors



As it looks today.

Photo: Linda Holden Clode

Hopalong Cassidy was a fictional cowboy hero created in 1904 by the author Clarence E. Mulford, who wrote a series of short stories and novels based on the character who was immortalized first in film, and later on television by movie star, William Boyd. Boyd was not only a prolific actor but also an astute businessman, advancing the licensing and promotional aspects of the entertainment business, as well as being an early property investor in the desert.

Rumor long held that Boyd's house was self-designed, but it now seems likely that while he was involved, the architect was Charles W. Doty. Although William Boyd was one of the most successful Hollywood stars of all time, he wanted a private, rather modest residence where he and his wife Grace (Gracie) could live in relative obscurity.

## **ARCHITECT/DESIGNER:**

**CHARLES W. DOTY  
(ATTRIBUTED) WITH  
INPUT FROM  
WILLIAM BOYD**

## **ORIGINAL OWNERS:**

**WILLIAM & GRACE BOYD  
(1955-1971)**

## **RESTORATION:**

**MARIO HERNANDEZ  
(2005-2007)**







The two bedroom, two bathroom house is a rectangular 1,892 square foot bungalow orientated towards the rear highlighting the large pool with overlooking bar. The stools were saddles and rumour has it that each was named after a celebrity horse.

The front of the house has a small window from the kitchen. Apparently, Gracie, who was very tiny, used to stand on the stove and peer out to see if she knew the person who was knocking on the door before she answered it.

The wrought iron grille beside the front door has the initials HC in it.

The home has floor to ceiling glass in the rear, a corner fireplace and vaulted beamed ceilings.



Photos: Desert Sun, July 30, 2019





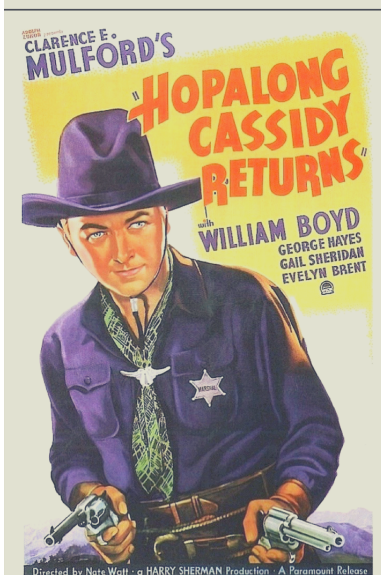


## William Boyd (aka Hopalong Cassidy)

Hopalong Cassidy was the hero from the imagination of author Clarence E. Mulford who began a series of short stories and novels back in 1904.

William Boyd, as Hopalong Cassidy (Hoppy), had a long and storied career and was a true pioneer of his time.

Originally a silent movie star whose character transitioned well to the talkies, Boyd worked for both for Paramount and United Artists and made an amazing 67 movies as Hopalong. His character was always the good guy (even though he wore a black hat!) and had salient advice for his young fans. For example, his 'Hoppy Creed' suggested that "they listen to their parents, work hard and always wear their rubber boots!"



Boyd moved to television in 1949 in what was the first western for NBC. He continued with his radio show producing 104 along with 52 half hour TV shows. With his combined movie and TV career, no one has equalled the longevity of one continuous character.

By 1955, Boyd, at age 60 was ready to retire. He had a devoted crew, most of whom had been with him for many years. It just so happened that CBS was about to launch a new western and Boyd successfully negotiated his crew moving to the new production. The decision turned out to be an excellent one as the production company worked on Gunsmoke from 1955 to 1975 and Boyd was able to take that retirement knowing he had assured the security of his crew.



Before Star Wars and Harry Potter were merchandising mega businesses, Boyd had grasped the power of advertising. He was receiving 5,000 letters a week from his young fans and thought that they might want to have a memento of their hero. He began giving out Hoppy coins but soon realized that there was more opportunity there.

Eventually, he had licensed cowboy boots, other clothing, hats, comic books, lunch kits and all of the merchandise that today we take for granted that goes with a successful movie. In those days, it was ground breaking and made Boyd a wealthy man.

He appeared on the covers of many magazines including Time, Life, Look, TV Guide and the Saturday Evening Post.



Boyd and his wife, Grace, were active participants in the social scene in the area, particularly at the Shadow Mountain Club.

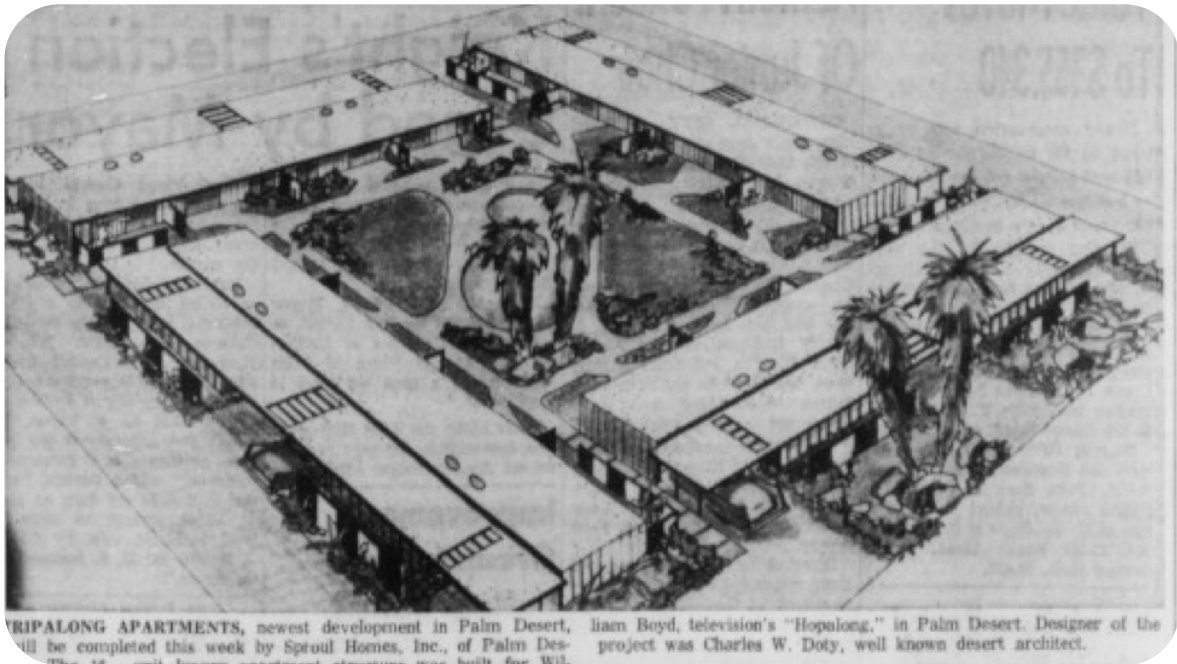
## Investment Property

William Boyd's large property holdings included the 1958 Tripalong Apartments, designed by Charles W. Doty. According to the Desert Sun:



Photo: Linda Holden Clode

*The luxurious, modern apartment project features four individual buildings, forming a square around a figure-eight swimming pool designed by desert architect Bill Doty. Real estate man Dick Coffin, who served as Boyd's agent during construction of the project while the Boyds toured Europe said each building has four, one-bedroom apartments. Each apartment unit includes bedroom, living room, dining room and bath All furnishings and decor were selected by Boyd and Coffin.*



TRIPALONG APARTMENTS, newest development in Palm Desert, will be completed this week by Sproul Homes, Inc., of Palm Desert. The project was built for William Boyd, television's "Hopalong," in Palm Desert. Designer of the project was Charles W. Doty, well known desert architect.

Desert Sun, Nov 1, 1958



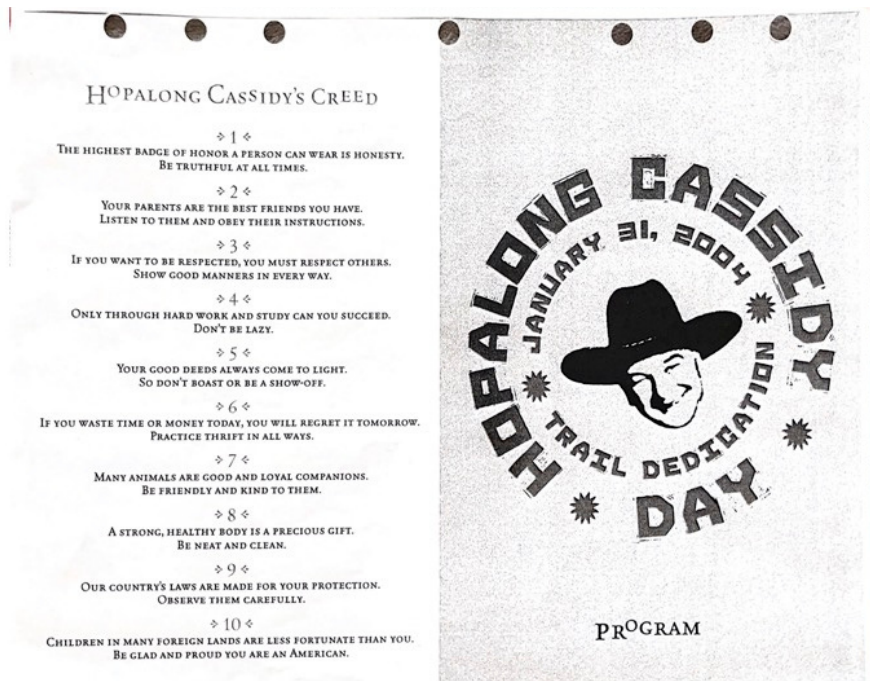
## Palm Desert Legacy

The Historical Society of Palm Desert hosted an exhibit of Hopalong Cassidy memorabilia in January of 2004.

At the same time, they took the lead in sponsoring the building of a 7.4 mile challenging trail dedicated to Cassidy in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. Trail builders Doug Webster and Mike Schuler are pictured here. Replicas of the wooden 'Hoppy' coins were given out to attendees at the trail site dedication in January, 2004.



The legacy of William Boyd as Hopalong Cassidy remains an inspiration. He was an innovator, a successful businessman and a true hero who added greatly to the romance of Palm Desert.





# CHARLES W. DOTY

## 1927-2011

Rancho Mirage-based designer Charles W. Doty worked in the office of Walter White in the early 1950s. Doty, never licensed as an architect, occasionally collaborated with licensed architects. He is best known for his design of the Mr. and Mrs. Richard Winans Residence (1956) in Palm Springs, which was published several times in the Los Angeles Times.

The design of the Boyd House is attributed to Charles Doty. He also designed Boyd's investment property, the Tripalong Apartments (1958).

Doty's other residential and commercial buildings include the Indian Wells Country Club Homes (1959) in Indian Wells, the Continental Six (1960), a small apartment enclave in Palm Desert named for the six original owners who all owned Lincoln Continentals, and the Vista Del Valle Clubhouse (1967) in Desert Hot Springs. Along with architect C.E. Betraun, Doty also designed the Ocean Shores Golf and Country Club (1966) in Ocean Shores, Washington.



Continental Six. Photo: pscondos.com

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

# THE MOORE HOUSE 1955

45850 San Luis Rey Avenue, Palm Desert, CA



Photos (pre-renovation): Redfin.com

This 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath 1,303 square foot home is one of seven houses built by the Robert Construction Company between 1953 and 1957.

Each of these seven houses has been renovated and modified over the years and the architectural provenance has been lost. However, the Moore House, currently under renovation has revealed clues that lead the HSPD Architecture and Design Committee to propose a Walter S. White design.

The Moore House is unusual in that it sits lengthwise on the lot. This view above is from the side yard looking north. The view right is from the side entry looking south.

**ARCHITECT:**  
WALTER S. WHITE\*

**BUILDER:**  
ROBERTS  
CONSTRUCTION  
COMPANY

**ORIGINAL OWNERS:**  
MR GEORGE W. MOORE

• ATTRIBUTED



## The Road to Recognition

The road to recognition and restoration of a significant home is often one with many twists and turns.

The Moore House, built in a group of seven on the east side of San Luis Rey, had become tired when new owner Larry Richards purchased it. His goal was to remodel it for use as an investment rental home.

The Shadow Mountain Walking Tour (2022 and 2023) goes by this home, and while doing some explorations of the route, we became intrigued with it. The workers on the construction site allowed us into the backyard and it became apparent that it was a potential Walter White.

The clues were the angle on the lot, the mitered corner window (this one with an interior structural column), and the distinctive fascia boards.



It was noted by fellow committee member and architect, Charlie Franks, that the fascia boards on many of the other six homes along SanLuis Rey, although the fronts had been altered, were the same. He also saw it as a potential Walter White.



Photos: Linda Holden Clode



I left my card for the construction site manager to pass on to Larry who did get in touch with me. I put him in contact with fellow HSPD Board Member, Architecture and Design committee member, and Landscape Architect, Wayne Conner. Perhaps, more importantly, Wayne owns the famed Walter S. White Stewart House on Pinyon and is very familiar with the work of Walter White. Larry and Wayne soon became frequent companions at the site and Larry credits Wayne with changing the direction of his remodel to a restoration.

Wayne became particularly intrigued with the similarities of the colour palate of the two homes. He writes, "Larry Richards researched what the original house colors were by scraping at the layers of paint down to the base colour. He found a greenish blue color similar to what was used in various tones in the Stewart house and on a home on Old Prospector by Walter White. Both houses had red and green concrete. A dark blue was used around the house and on the fascia (and it appears was on an accent wall in the Stewart house and similar to what was used at the "Wave House"). Other colours were salmon (garage plaster wall and fireplace wall) and an off white used on the garage wood ceiling (now being used on the interior and the exterior of the house).

Larry attempted to use the dark blue and salmon colors on the house exterior but the result was hiding the subtle detail of the window and door surrounds, fascia and siding. By using the off white the detail and strength of the design intent is evident and better appreciated."



Wayne Conner (left) and owner Larry Richards (right)  
Photo: Linda Holden Clode

Achieving accurate attribution of a home involves research, comparisons, site discoveries and some luck. Sometimes, the information is readily available in the archival records, and sometimes it is not. In the case of the Moore House, the written records show the builder, but not the architect. We are making our attribution on the basis of comparisons by architectural historians, researchers, homeowners and available data.

It is our conclusion that the Moore House (and quite possibly the six others to the south) is the work of architect Walter S. White.

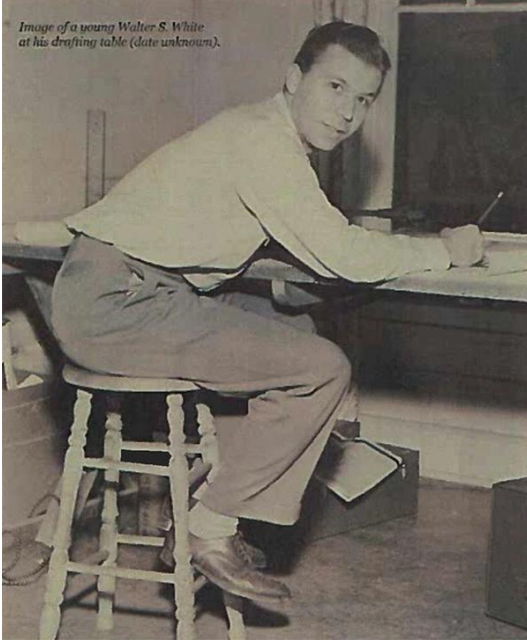
Linda Holden Clode, Chair  
Architecture and Design Committee  
Historical Society of Palm Desert



Photo: Linda Holden Clode

# WALTER S. WHITE

## 1917–2002



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After moving to Colorado Springs in 1960, White designed many of the private residences in the exclusive Kissing Camels Estates. In the 1970s he established a reputation for designs that relied on passive solar energy.

White's career is notable for three major areas of focus: inexpensive, even DIY architecture; innovation in construction and materials; and concern for nature and sustainability. In the early years of his practice, right after World War II, White focused on designing minimal and small, inexpensive houses. These include his affordable wooden cabins for returning G.I.s, small concrete-block houses in the desert, and prefab steel and wood cabins for mountain sites. White had an abiding interest in the construction of buildings and was fearless in his experimentation. He held patents for innovative construction methods, including one for hyperbolic-paraboloid roofs. White's concern for the local landscape and the earth's environment led him to design buildings that took advantage of their natural settings while also caring for nature and sitting lightly on the land. Especially in the 1970s, the efficiency of his buildings and their effect on man's energy consumption became a focus of his practice.

Walter S. White died in 2002, at the age of 85.

Source: Art, Design & Architecture Museum, University of California, Santa Barbara



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

# THE STANTHONY HOSPITALITY HOUSE, 1956

73745 Shadow Lake Drive, Palm Desert, CA



Photo: Linda Holden Clode

The Stanthony house is a 3 bedroom, 3 1/2 bathroom home of 2,592 square feet on a 10,544 square foot lot bordering the Shadow Mountain Club. It was designed to be a showcase of all of the modern conveniences of its time - with state of the art air conditioning, intercom, central vacuum systems, aluminum windows, glass louvered windows, glass block, terrazzo floors, slumpstone, copper ranges, *Chambers* oven in outdoor cook center, *Cooldeck* around the pool, ventilating hoods, microwave, and home incinerators. The kitchen had five cooking areas featuring copper appliances as well as an indoor BBQ.

The double entry doors (unusual in 1956) were aqua with starburst design knobs. The backsplash in the kitchen was also a deep aqua.

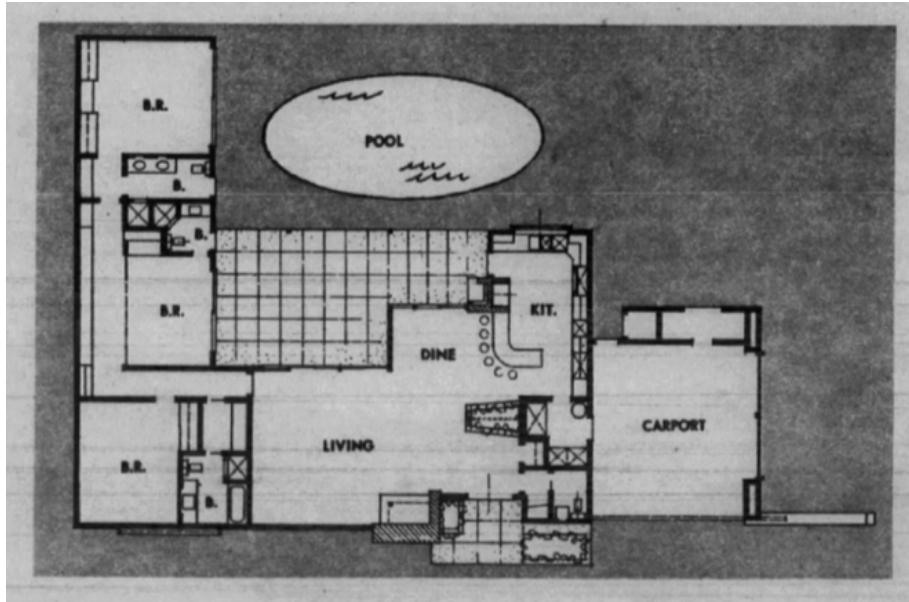
**ARCHITECT:**  
WILLIAM M. BRAY, AIA

**THE BUILDER:**  
EUGENE C. ROBERTS

**THE DECORATOR:**  
BRETT CARLETON,  
CARLETON HOUSE

**ORIGINAL OWNERS:**  
STAN & ANTHONY  
JOSEPH, THE  
STANTHONY  
CORPORATION





Plans: Historical Society of Palm Desert Archives



**SHADOW MOUNTAIN PARK**  
 SETTING THE PACE FOR THE DESERT RESORT AREA

*Preliminary Exterior of Proposed Stantony Show House at Shadow Mountain Park, Palm Desert.* WILLIAM M. BRAY, A.I.A. ARCHITECT

**The SHOW HOUSE** by William M. Bray, Architect

To be erected by [redacted] Corporation and to be displayed at this page — in order — in a Junior issue of Shadow Mountain Park. Shadow Mountain Park was especially selected for this new type of house which stresses "relaxed living" in a house designed for just that kind of desert living.

You too can have such a home in beautiful SHADOW MOUNTAIN PARK — adjoining the new Golf Course.

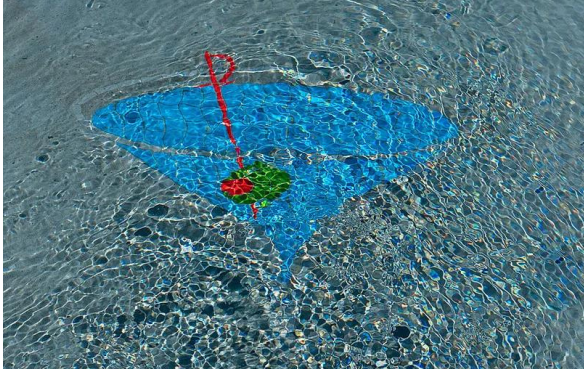
On the grounds and within the shadow of the famed Shadow Mountain Club.

Only a few homesites left for those discriminating buyers who qualify.

Enquire at Shadow Mountain Club for sales representative

• BOB ELLSWORTH • CARL HENDERSON • HARRY HOLT • JOSEPHINE LEMONS • TED SMITH • EDITH EDDY WARD





Photos: Linda Holden Clode and Redfin.com

The original fireplace is still there, as are the large beams in the vaulted ceiling. Terrazzo floors flowed throughout kitchen and living areas. The house's vintage tiles remain including a mosaic tile martini glass complete with an olive and pick on the bottom of the pool!

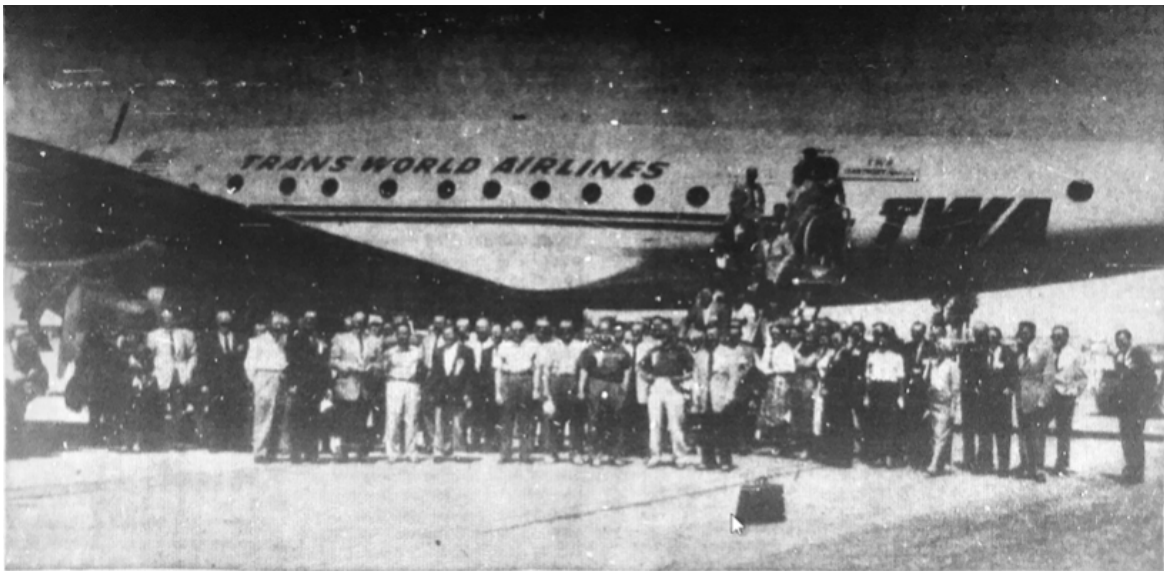




## The Opening 1956

With great fanfare, the Josephs invited the Los Angeles press corps and many dignitaries to the launching of the Stanthony Hospitality Home in March of 1956. A private plane was chartered in Los Angeles and the newspeople were flown out. Greeting the plane were 25 (and the rumor is pink) Cadillacs driven by women of the auxiliary of the Shadow Mountain Club, led by Cyria Henderson, sculptress, President of the Ladies Auxiliary, and wife of Randall.

After touring the home, the reporters had lunch at the Shadow Mountain Club, flew back to L.A. and wrote glowing stories about the home. Visitors to the home continued throughout 1956 and well into 1957.



A CONSTELLATION full of newsmen and writers arrive in Palm Springs to attend the press preview of the Stanthony Hospitality House in Palm Desert. The men and women who flew here from

Los Angeles were hosted all day by Stan and Tony Joseph of the Stanthony corporation. (Desert Sun photo)

**STANTHONY HOSPITALITY HOUSE**  
SHADOW MOUNTAIN CLUB GROUNDS  
PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA

**OPEN HOUSE**  
FOR THESE ARTISANS ONLY

Builders ... Contractors ... Architects ... Designers  
... Plumbers ... Appliance Dealers

**Monday, March 11—2 P.M. - 9 P.M.**

Factory Distributors of:  
Stanthony Ventilating Hoods  
Chiffers Built-in Ranges  
Revco Built-in Refrigerators  
Revco Built-in Freezers  
Tappan Built-in Ranges  
Hacienda Barbecues  
In-sink-erator and Waste King Disposal  
and Automatic Dishwashers

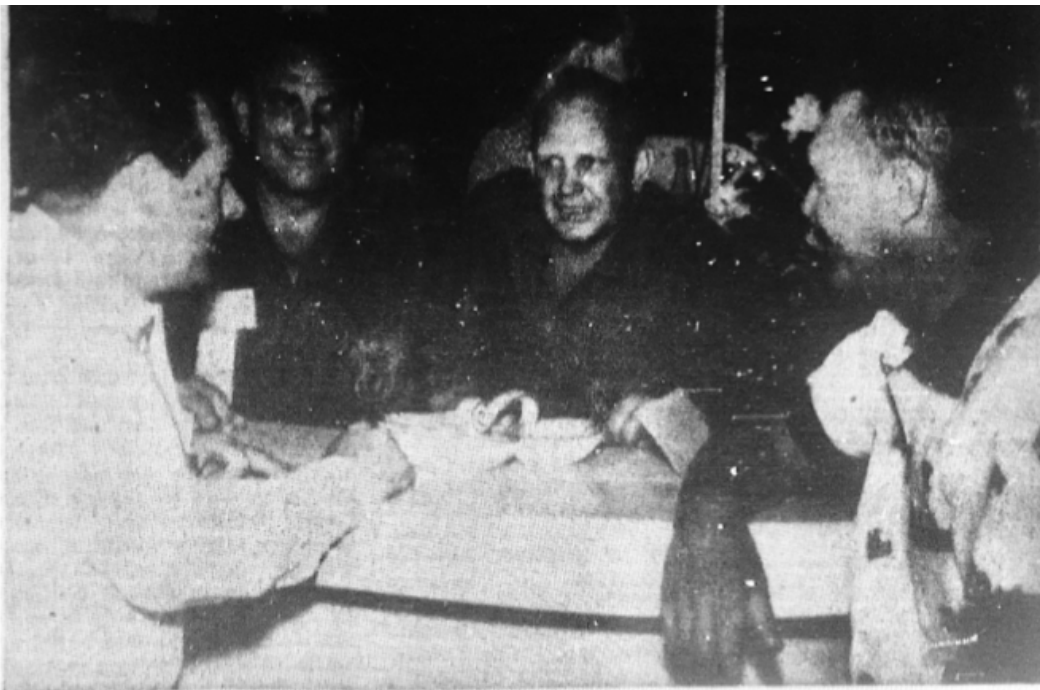
Your Host  
*Bruce Thomas*  
Sales Representative  
CALIFORNIA KITCHENS, INC.  
Evan 492



**LUNCHEON GUESTS** at Hospitality House in Palm Desert recently were, left to right, seated around table, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Perrault, Banning; Susan Staples and Antone Dalu of the Antone Dalu In-

terior Decorators of Palm Springs, and Hoagy Carmichael, president of Barbara Wills, Inc., new decorating firm here, and Miss Wills. Their hosts and hostesses were, left to right, seated on bar stools,

Joe Marsilisi, Mrs. Richard Lehmann, Mrs. Marsilisi and Mr. Lehmann. Behind bar is Bruce Thomas, Johnson Photo).



**CONVERSATION THROUGHOUT** the day seldom left the subject of the home. Newsmen asked thousands of questions and were quickly answered by the men who manufactured the many innovations that were included in the home. Above,

behind the snackbar, Stan and Tony Joseph are talking with Hal Kapp, president of the Palm Desert Chamber of Commerce (left), and Bob Roberts of Roberts Construction Company of Palm Desert, the firm which built the home.

## The Stanthony Corporation

Brothers Stan and Anthony Joseph of the Stanthony Corporation, an appliance company that would become Dacor, commissioned the home as a way to display the latest in modern technology, most importantly, their fans for ranges, barbeques and the like. The home highlighted all that was modern in home conveniences. The house was on display throughout 1956 and much of 1957.

## Ted Lennon and Bob Moller

In 1975 Ted Lennon, manager of the Shadow Mountain Club and other properties (and cousin of the singing group, The Lennon Sisters), bought the house as an investment with Robert Moller, a Canadian businessman, who came to the desert in the winter months. The deal was that Ted would live there but move to another Shadow Mountain property when Bob came down. That worked perfectly for awhile, but eventually Ted's wife tired of the arrangement and Bob bought out Ted around 1985.

## The Moller Family

Bob and his wife Marge, and their family enjoyed the place for over thirty years until Bob sold it in 2016. He recalls great parties and wonderful times with American and Canadian friends and family. Bob remembers the house as being ideally suited to entertaining. Many celebrities lived in the area and friends would wander back and forth between the homes. He set up a karaoke bar in his living room and the music wafted to the huge patio and pool area. He became great friends with neighbor Johnny Prophet, a singer who performed at Buddy Rich's cabaret in Cathedral City and Las Vegas. Buddy was also a Palm Desert resident who lived in the Panorama area.

Bob made many renovations to the home including the addition of a large walk-in bar area that encompassed part of what was the patio off the living room. He also made an addition in the bedroom wing and a fire pit outside.



## Cori (Moller) and Gord German

A few years after Bob sold the Stanthony Hospitality House, his daughter Cori and her husband Gord retired and began looking for a place in the desert. They rented in Palm Springs and Indian Wells but could not find anything to match Cori's childhood desert home.

Then last March, home in Kamloops (B.C.), she got an alert on her phone that the Stanthony was coming on the market. She excitedly texted her family (even Gord who was in the yard) and said, "What do you think, should we buy it?"

"Yes," came back the reply.

So they contacted their agent and on a conference call walked through the yet unlisted house. Cori said that the agent had never seen anything like it where the potential purchaser said, "Turn right, open that door."

In short, they bought it that day.



Homeowners Cori and Gord German

# WILLIAM M. BRAY, AIA

## 1905–1998

William M. Bray, AIA earned his B.A. in art at the University of California, Berkeley in 1928. Upon graduation he worked for a series of architects including Theodore R. Jacobs, Vern Houghton, Arlos Sedgley, Mott Montgomery, and Harry Hadyn Whitely. Bray also worked briefly as an architect for the firm of Wurdeman & Becket in Los Angeles in 1942 and again in 1945.

The Los Angeles-based Bray established his own practice in 1949, specializing in postwar tract housing developments. By the firm's own count, Bray was responsible for over 33,500 housing units throughout Southern California and Nevada. He worked with such developers such as Mark Taper, George Ponty, Nels G. Severin, and M.J. Brock. Bray's subdivisions were characterized by a large number of plans, and his designs were most often characterized by traditional residential styles such as "Cape Cod," "Swiss Chalet," "Colonial," and "California Ranch."

Bray was also known for his upscale custom homes and resort homes designed for famous motion picture, television, and theater celebrities and successful business leaders, including Merle Oberon (Palm Desert), Roy Rogers (Chatsworth), Mary Tyler Moore (Encino), Robert Young (Westlake Village); Shirley MacLaine (Encino), Dean Martin (Beverly Hills), Barbara Eden (Encino), and Mark Taper (Beverly Hills).

Bray's work was published nationally in *House and Home* and *Architectural Digest*, and his tract housing earned numerous awards including a "Homes for Better Living Award of Merit" in 1962. In 1997, Bray was awarded the Presidential Citation from the American Institute of Architects.

### The Builder:

Eugene C. Roberts - in the construction business since 1938 in Southern California. Beginning in 1950, The Roberts Construction Company worked exclusively in the Coachella Valley.

### The Decorator:

Brett Carleton, owner of Carleton House in Beverley Hills, California, designed custom homes interiors for industrialists and celebrities.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

# THE MOJAVE RESORT "GALA VILLA", 1957

73721 Shadow Mountain Drive, Palm Desert, CA



Photo: Linda Holden Clode

The 24-unit Gala Villa was built in 1957 by builder Layton Waterman of Arcadia and his sons, Alan and Andrew for a total budget of \$250,000. At the ground breaking ceremony, Mrs Georgina Waterman told the Desert Sun that the name was chosen as it contained the first initial of each member of the family.

The Gala was renovated in 2001 and renamed the Mojave Resort. San Francisco interior designers, Candra Scott & Anderson refurbished the units using a 1940's motif but retaining the 1950s architectural elements.

**BUILDER:**  
LAYTON WATERMAN

**ORIGINAL OWNERS:**  
LAYTON, GEORGINA,  
ALAN AND ANDREW  
WATERMAN





The 24 rental units surrounded a pool and were available to rent by the week or the month. Some of the units had small kitchenettes.

There were many small inns in the area habited by winter vacationers. Their close proximity to Shadow Mountain made them ideal, particularly when the Shadow Mountain Golf Course opened in 1958.

Desert Sun articles include many references to pool parties and gathering at the Gala Villa.

One notable gathering reported in the November 1958 Desert Sun noted that Georgia and Layton Waterman of the Gala Villa are hosting a fullhouse over Thanksgiving weekend. Included among their guests are Mr. and Mrs. Orville Routt of Bel Air. Mrs. Routt is the former social secretary of Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Also Mr. and Mrs. Stanly S. Simonson and Stanly, Jr., of Pebble Beach, where Mr. Simonson is well known in financial circles, and Dr. and Mrs. S. Burton Martin of Encino.

**VISIT**

**PALM DESERT**

*Home of the World-Famous*  
**SHADOW MOUNTAIN CLUB**

Take Highway 111—12 Miles Southeast  
of Palm Springs

 **HOTELS**

\* \* \*

**FIRECLIFF LODGE**  
El Paseo Street — Phone FI 6-6134  
Cliff Henderson

\* \* \*

**GALA VILLA**  
At Gates of Shadow Mt. Club — Phone FI 6-6121  
Layton and Georgia Waterman

\* \* \*

**GATES OF THE DESERT LODGE**  
73-771 Larea — Phone FI 6-6573  
Helen and Orvil Franklin

\* \* \*

**PALM DESERT ADOBE**  
45-406 Palms to Pines Highway — Phone FI 6-6283  
Jim and Marilyn Harstad

\* \* \*

**PALM VILLAGE GUEST COTTAGES**  
Highway 111—Center of Town — Phone FI 6-8244  
Oscar and Betty Hurley

\* \* \*

**SHADOW MOUNTAIN TERRACE**  
73-922 Shadow Mountain Drive—Phone FI 6-6252  
Mrs. Hudson B. Werder

\* \* \*

**SUN & SHADOW HOTEL APARTMENTS**  
San Luis Rey — Phone FI 6-6380  
Mike and Susie Kelleher

\* \* \*

**THE DESERT PATCH**  
Shadow Mountain Drive, Phone FI 6-6821  
Mary Lou and Dick Clevering

\* \* \*

**THE PARKERS**  
Larrea Street — Phone FI 6-6390  
Virginia and Willard Parker

\* \* \*

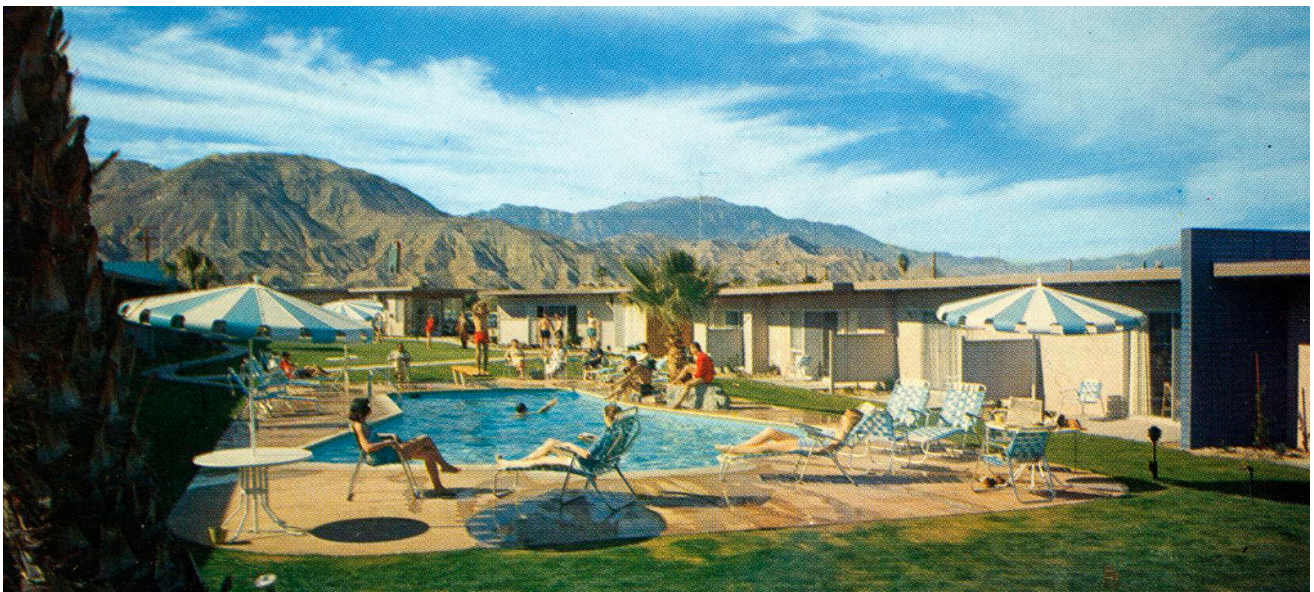
**WHITE CHIMNEY APARTMENTS**  
44-710 Rafael — Phone FI 6-6237  
Richard and Ethel Adams







Vintage Postcards and Desert Sun article March 20, 1957







Photos: [www.mojaveresort.com](http://www.mojaveresort.com)



The Mojave Resort has lush vegetation. Many of the plantings are original including some large palm, citrus, myrtle and melaleuca trees.

The caretakers have been with the Mojave Resort for over twenty years and their dedication to the resort and its landscaping is evident.



Whilst renovated in 2001 using a 1940's motif, the hotel retains its distinctive 1950s features.

New owners continue to welcome guests much as has been done over the years in Shadow Mountain. They plan a complete renovation of the Mojave Resort in May of 2023 and are passionate about maintaining the mid-century design and ambiance.



Photos: [www.mojaveresort.com](http://www.mojaveresort.com)

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

# THE ROBBINS HOUSE 1958

46215 Goldenrod Lane, Palm Desert, CA



Photo:Linda Holden Clode

This recently renovated 2 bedroom plus den, 3 bath 2,327 square foot home sits on a .51 acre lot in South Palm Desert.

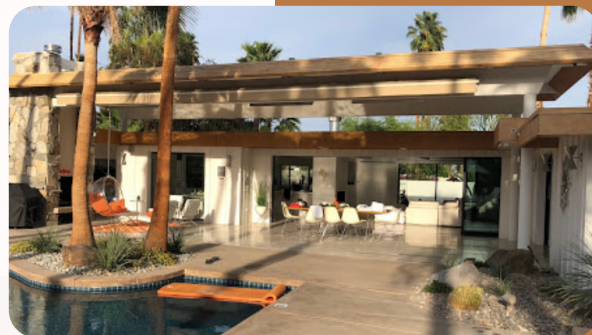
The designed is attributed to Harold Bissner Sr. who worked extensively with the original owner and contractor, Lloyd Robbins.

This house features a massive dual sided fireplace, extensive glass walls out to a beautiful pool area and west-facing mountain views.

**ARCHITECT:**  
HAROLD BISSNER SR.  
(ATTRIBUTED)

**BUILDER:**  
LLOYD ROBBINS

**ORIGINAL OWNERS:**  
MR AND MRS LLOYD  
ROBBINS







Photos: Linda Holden Clode



## Lloyd Robbins

Lloyd Robbins was a prominent builder/contractor active in the Palm Desert area in the 1950s and 1960s working frequently with Harold Bissner Snr..

Mr and Mrs. Robbins were active in the Shadow Mountain Club and Mrs. Robbins was the recording secretary of the inaugural Garden Club of the Desert which was chaired by Mrs Carl Henderson.

It is believed that Bissner designed this home for Mr and Mrs Robbins.



Mrs. and Mr. Lloyd Robbins (left) at the Garden Club of the Desert's Fall Fiesta, Desert Sun Nov 19, 1969

# HAROLD BISSNER SR., AIA

## 1901-1988

Harold J. Bissner Senior was a well-known Pasadena architect best known for Spanish Colonial Revival and Monterey Revival style residences build in the 1920s and early 1930s in Los Angeles and Pasadena.



E. Lawrence Brown House, Pasadena, 1928. Photo: Richard Horn

As a middle-aged man he enlisted in WW2, as did his son, Harold Bissner Jr. (1925-2020). Both were stationed in the South Pacific. Bissner Sr. spent time in Japan which had an immense influence on his architectural style. When he returned to Pasadena after the war he began to design modern residences with a distinctly Asian influence. The Belle Grove Apartments (right) in Pasadena are an example of this change of style.



After the war, Bissner Jr. joined his father's practice. In 1951 he established his own practice and went on to prominences as a commercial architect, designing the production facilities, corporate offices and restaurants for Van De Kamp's Holland Dutch Bakers and Restaurants, Baskin- Robbins Ice Cream Company Worldwide, JBL/Harman International Speakers, Royal Industries and many other international companies.

In 1958 Harold Bissner Sr. opened a Palm Desert office. His most prominent works in Palm Desert include the Halekulani Apartments (1958), Village Green (1961), Sands and Shadows (1963), Maui Palms (1964), Mountain Shadows (1964) as well as numerous single-family homes in Palm Desert and Pinyon Crest, where he worked with contractor Lloyd Robbins.

The Robbins house on Goldenrod Lane is believed to be designed by Bissner (1958).

**Realty Board  
Members Visit  
New Halekulani**

PALM DESERT — Members of the Palm Desert Realty Board were guests of honor at a reception and private showing of the new "Halekulani at the Desert" apartments here Thursday.

The affair was hosted by Harold J. Bissner, owner of the attractive new, Hawaiian units, and Roy St. Leon, exclusive leasing agent.

Bissner, who moved to the desert some six months ago, is a member of the A.I.A. and still maintains offices in Pasadena as well as Palm Desert. A graduate of the University of Washington, he has designed many outstanding homes and schools in Southern California.

Roy St. Leon, a seven-year resident of the desert, was former manager of the Ronald Button properties in Rancho Mirage. Last year he opened his own general real estate brokerage office in the Palm Springs building.



**LAST-MINUTE PLANS** for the opening of "Halekulani of the Desert," fashionable new rental apartment building, are discussed by owner-builder Harold J. Bissner, left, and Roy St. Leon, Palm Desert Realtor, exclusive agent for rental units. Bissner was also the architectural designer of the beautiful 16-unit Halekulani. (Sun Photo).

Desert Sun , 1958



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

# THE HALE HOUSE 1958

46260 Goldenrod Lane, Palm Desert, CA



Photos: Linda Holden Clode

This 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 2,980 square foot rancher built on .45 of an acre backs onto the Shadow Mountain Golf Course.

The flat roof is covered with reflective white stone and has large overhangs on all sides. The profusion of rock which faced the exterior of the home and was replicated inside, became a trademark of Outcault's, as was his signature curved driveway.

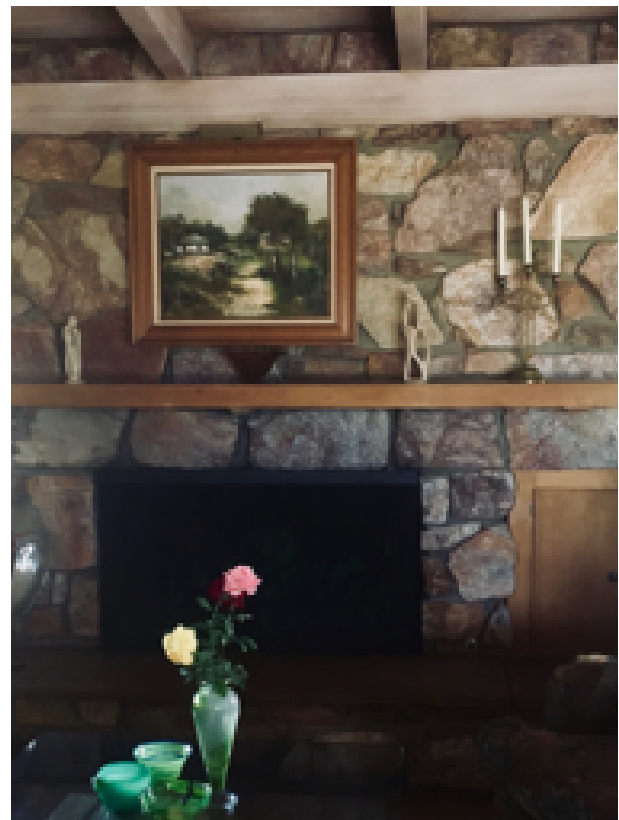
**ARCHITECT:**  
JOHN OUTCAULT, AIA

**THE OWNER:**  
MR & MRS RALPH HALE





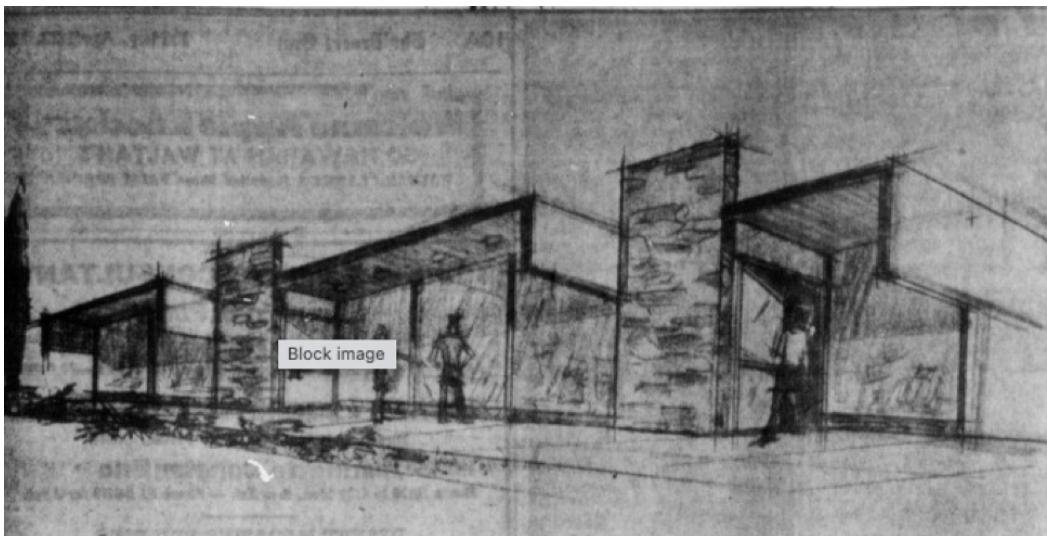
The custom woodwork, rock fireplace, beamed vaulted ceiling remain, as well as the original woodwork.



Photos: Linda Holden Clode

## Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hale

The house was built for Mr and Mrs Ralph Hale, owners of the "Hale's Men's Wear" in The Patio Shops, located on the south side of Highway 111 in the 73000 block of Palm Desert. The shop was built by William Boyd "Hopalong Cassidy", as one of his investment properties in Palm Desert.



**DESERT-ORIENTED STORE** building to be erected by William Boyd, the "Hopalong Cassidy" of movie and television fame, will be located between the Palm Desert Shopping Center and the Patio Shops on Highway 111. The building, with 3,300 square feet of floor

space, is designed with front and rear entrances, with parking area in the rear. Hales' Men's Shop owner **Ralph Hale** is leasing the building. (Media Photo).

Desert Sun April 22, 1960



Desert Sun May 8, 1959

Mr and Mrs Hale were active members of the Shadow Mountain community and there are many references in the Desert Sun social columns to parties at their home.

**AMONG THE GUESTS** at Palm Desert's "Cocktail Party of the season," staged at the home of Mr. and Mrs. **Ralph Hale** (seated) were, left to right, Willard Parker, Mon Wallgren, Virginia Field Parker and Cliff Henderson. Some 160 guests attended the evening cocktail party at the Hales'

new Goldenrod Lane Home, overlooking a section of the Shadow Mountain golf course. An April moon and terrace lights illuminated the poolside party scene, centered by a colorful hors d'oeuvres table. (Desert Sun Photo)



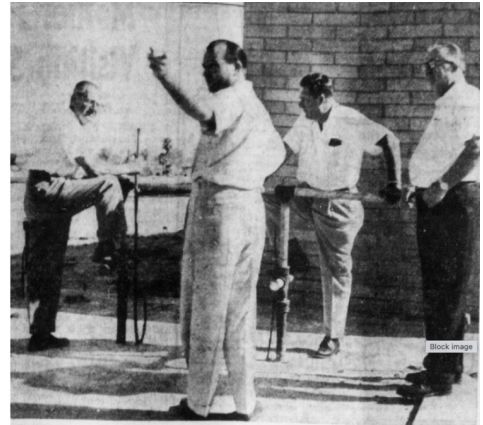
# JOHN OUTCAULT, AIA

## 1927-1998

John Outcault was born in 1927 in Chicago, Illinois. His parents moved to Palm Springs in 1936. They owned and operated the Townhouse Hotel (now the Avalon). He graduated from Palm Springs High School in 1945 and served in the U.S. Navy in 1946.

Outcault attended the University of Southern California School of Architecture in 1946-1952, graduating with a Bachelor of Architecture. While he was a student he apprenticed in the offices of Clark and Frey in Palm Springs. Before opening his own practice, Outcault worked in several different offices including the State of California Division of Architecture (1952-1953), in New York (1953-1956), and Clark, Frey & Chambers of Palm Springs in 1956. In that same year he opened his architecture office in Palm Desert. Outcault received his California license in 1957.

Between 1957 and 1998 Outcault designed many commercial, public, and residential buildings, most of them located in the Coachella Valley. He was very prolific. Not only did he design many custom homes, he also was responsible for the many commercial buildings along El Paseo where he had his offices on the corner of San Luis Rey and El Paseo. The buildings at the Living Desert were designed by Outcault over a 20-yr period. He also designed several small condominium projects mainly in the Shadow Mountain area. As well, he was often contracted to do additions or remodels of existing buildings. In particular, he did modifications to homes designed by Walter S. White.



**THE BEAMS** go here, points out architect **Outcault**, AIA, to Supervisor George Berkey, on the left. Hal Kapp, president and Carl Jensen, vice president, of the

Palm Desert Community Library Association also listen intently to the architect's outline.

Desert Sun July 27, 1962

He served on the Board of Trustees of the College of the Desert, was active in the development of the Living Desert Reserve, and involved in the growth and incorporation of the City of Palm Desert. It is generally agreed that Outcault shaped the look of Palm Desert. John Outcault died in 1998.

(Overview based on the Archives at UC Santa Barbara where his work is located)

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

# SHADOW MOUNTAIN GOLF CLUB 1958-2021

73800 Ironwood St, Palm Desert, CA



Photo: GolfPass.com

The Shadow Mountain Golf Course was the first golf course in Palm Desert. It was developed by Shadow Mountain Park Inc., which was the group of Shadow Mountain Club members that purchased the Club from the Palm Desert Corporation around 1955.

Legendary and famed golfers Gene Sarazen and George Von Elm envisioned the course to be the design of the future.

Their plan was focused on providing a balance between being player-friendly and yet not overtaxing golfers.

**GOLF COURSE DESIGN:**  
GENE SARAZEN  
GEORGE VON ELM



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Shadow Mountain Gold Club 1958. Photo: Historical Society of Palm Desert Archives



Shadow Mountain Golf Club, 2022. Photo: Desert Sun



## The History of the Golf Course

Originally the golf club was affiliated with the adjacent Shadow Mountain Club (now Shadow Mountain Resort and Club); it is now privately owned and run by its equity members. In October 1968 the resort and golf course were split and members had a choice to belong to one or the other. Upon separation the golf club received part of the structure to provide a clubhouse, pro shop, and enough land for a parking lot and access to Ironwood St.

In the late 1960's the two nines were switched. A new irrigation system was installed and protective screens were added around many greens and tee boxes.

In the early 1970's the clubhouse was redecorated and a small kitchen, which was called the "Pantry Kitchen," was added to provide short order lunches.

In 1976 heavy rain broke a dam support at the top of Highway 74 and tons of sand, rock and debris raged across the course. It took a concerted effort of the members' labor and dollar donations to restore the course to a playable condition.

In 1987 the Club purchased the Filmer mansion that occupied a large piece of property in the middle of the course. Purchase of this property allowed lengthening of the 15th, 17th and 18th holes.

The City of Palm Desert designated the Shadow Mountain Golf Club as an Historic Landmark in 2010.

In 2021 the Club was purchased by Palm Desert local, Lindi Biggi.



Photo: Desert Sun

# GENE SARAZEN

## 1902-1999

Gene Sarazen (Eugenio Saraceni) was born to Sicilian immigrants on February 27, 1902 in Harrison, New York. He began caddying at age ten at local golf clubs, and in his teens took a series of club professional jobs in the New York and Pittsburgh area. In April 1922 Sarazen visited Skokie Country Club to practice on the course that would hold the US Open; in July, he won the tournament. He then became a 'touring' golf professional and later that summer, he won the PGA Championship.

Sarazen became one of the great American professional golfers in the 1920s and 1930s, winning seven major championships. He, along with Ben Hogan, Gary Player, Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods are the few players to win the Career Grand Slam - PGA Championship, U.S. Open, Masters and British Open.

Sarazen hit "the shot heard 'round the world" at Augusta National Golf Club on the fifteenth hole in the final round of the Masters Tournament in 1935. It remains one of the most famous golf shots in golf history.

Sarazen played well into the 1960s, and occasionally into the 1970s – still wearing the knickers, or plus-fours, which were in fashion when he broke into the top level.

Sarazen claimed to have invented the modern sand wedge, which he called the sand iron. Every top golfer since has utilized this wedge design and technique. It also began to be used for shots from grass, leading to a revolution in short-game techniques, along with lower scoring.

He also helped to popularized the sport with his role as a commentator on the "Wonderful World of Golf" television show, and was an early TV broadcaster at important events. He also had what is still the longest-running endorsement contract in professional sports – with Wilson Sporting Goods from 1923 until his death, a total of 75 years.

Sarazen died at age 97 in 1999 in Naples, Florida.

The legendary Gene Sarazen crafted just eight golf courses in his Hall of Fame career.

They are:

- Chateau Elan Golf Club, Braselton, Georgia
- St Andrews – The Kittingtons Course, St Andrew, Fife, Scotland
- Island Country Club, Marco Island, Florida
- Onward Talofoto Golf Club, Talofoto, Guam
- Shadow Mountain Golf Club, Palm Desert
- Slammer and Squire Golf Course, St Augustine, Florida
- Sunny Hills Golf Club, Sunny Hills, Florida
- Sunset Hill Golf Club, Brookfield, Connecticut

Sarazen is quoted as saying: "The new modern course of this type is shorter than most but is not easier to play," Sarazen said of his architectural aims for Palm Desert's first course, opened in 1958. "It will give the golfer who uses his brain a chance against the competitor who hits with power, and I think it will be one of the sportiest and most challenging courses in the entire area." (Source: Golf California.com)



Photo: Hulton Archive/Getty Images



# GEORGE VON ELM

## 1901–1961

George "Gix" Von Elm began his golf career as a caddy at the Salt Lake Country Club in his native Utah. His golf skills developed quickly; in 1926 he won the U.S. Amateur title and tied for third in the British Open. In the 1930s Von Elm turned professional playing out of Los Angeles and winning the 1936 Southern California Open and the 1938 California State Open.

Von Elm moved to the Lakeside Golf Club in the late 1930s where he oversaw the reconstruction of five holes following damage caused by flooding. In the late 1940s, he consulted to the City of Los Angeles, in the development of the Rancho Park Golf Course.

From 1950 to 1953, he was the head professional, as well as the head greenskeeper, at the Hacienda Country Club in Los Angeles, then moved back to Utah where he designed and developed, and then was the professional at the Blackfoot golf course. Von Elm is also credited with designing the Airport Golf Course in Idaho (1957), the Mount Ogden municipal course in Utah, the original nine holes at Sun Valley, Idaho, Shadow Mountain Golf Club in Palm Desert (1958), as well as the Juniper Hills and Highland courses in Idaho.



Photo: UCLA, Library Special Collections,  
Charles E. Young Research Library

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

# THE PINKLEY HOUSE 1959

73165 Fiddleneck Lane , Palm Desert, CA



Photo: L. Holden Clode

Featured in Architectural Digest's Spring 1961 issue, this 4-bedroom, 3 bathroom, 4121 sq. ft home sits on .5 of an acre. It was also featured during Palm Desert's Modernism Signature Home Tour 2018.

One of the home's distinctive features is the 1'x1' windows on the south wall. Inside, vaulted redwood ceilings frame the expansive living and dining rooms and highlight a spectacular rock fireplace. The curved driveway is a signature Outcalt feature.

**ARCHITECT:**  
JOHN OUTCAULT, AIA

**INTERIOR DESIGN:**  
MARY AYER SCHWYZER,  
AID

**ORIGINAL OWNERS:**  
MR & MRS VIRGIL PINKLEY



Source: Architectural Digest  
Spring 1961  
Photographer Maynard L. Parker





Entry Lattice Wall, Photo: redfin.com

Another interior feature is the geometric wood wall screen in the entry.

One of the original bathrooms features pink tile.

As the editor of newspapers, Mr. Pinkley had a beautiful birch library built to store his book and periodical collection. The secluded den has a secret room where published works by prior owners are on display.



Secret Room off the den, Photo: redfin.com

## Virgil Pinkley

Virgil Pinkley was raised in San Bernardino. He graduated from the University of Southern California in 1946 and was named its outstanding alumnus that year.

As a news editor and journalist, Pinkley was the head of the United States press operation in Europe, during WWII. He served with the United Press for 20 years and during that time he worked in all parts of Europe covering the Italian invasion into Ethiopia, the Spanish civil war and the day and night blitzes in London.



"Virgil Pinkley, United Press European manager and staff correspondent, inspects a machine gun in a Malay thicket during a visit to one of the British regiments that have poured into Singapore to bolster its defenses. Pinkley is on a globe-girdling tour, studying news coverage preparations during the war." Desert Sun, October 25, 1941

Returning to Los Angeles after the war, Pinkley became founding editor and publisher of the Los Angeles Times-Mirror News as well as a local radio news program and two TV community service programs.

Pinkley's first wife died in 1964; he married a Mrs. Margaret Edith Smith of Winnipeg, Canada, and Palm Desert in 1965.

Pinkley was editor and publisher of the Indio News, the El Centro Post and Imperial Valley Press, the Brawley News and formerly was vice president and general European manager of United Press, renamed United Press International. Pinkley retired in 1967.



Missouri Valley Special Collections,  
Kansas City Public Library

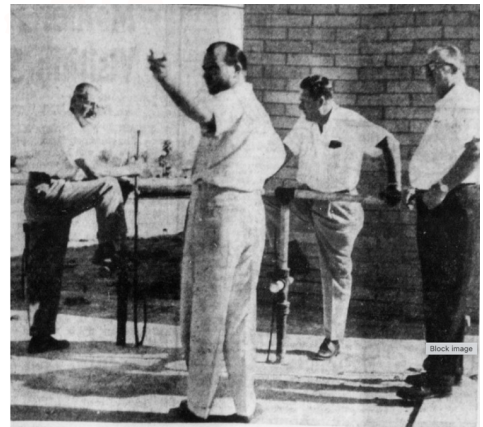
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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

# THE SELINE HOUSE 1959

73218 Fiddleneck Lane, Palm Desert, CA



Photos: redfin.com

This recently renovated 3 bedroom, 2 bath 2,800 square foot home sits on a .39 acre lot in South Palm Desert.

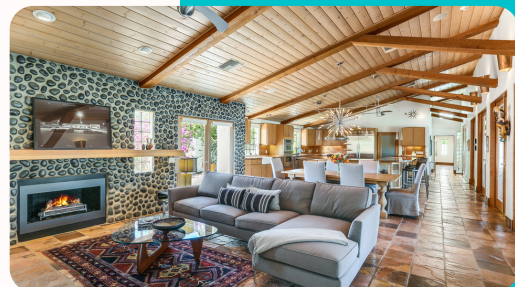
The design is attributed to Harold Bissner Sr. who worked extensively with the contractor, Lloyd Robbins.

While it has been extensively renovated over the years, in a Maynard Parker (Architectural Digest) photo of the Pinkley House across the street, it seems this house originally had Bissner's signature roofline.

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HAROLD BISSNER SR.  
(ATTRIBUTED)

**BUILDER:**  
LLOYD ROBBINS

**ORIGINAL OWNERS:**  
MR AND MRS W.M. SELINE



Official Modernism Week Event



Photo: Linda Holden Clode



Photo: redfin.com



## William and Gertrude Seline

The first reference to the Seline house is found in the June 1959 edition of the Desert Sun which reported that a building permit with a value of \$29,988 had been issued.

There are also references in the Desert Sun to Mr William Seline, a prominent Palm Desert businessman, although there is no reference to the nature of his business.

A William Marshall Selene and Mrs Gertrude Martin married in 1953 and resided in Rancho Santa Fe, California in the 1950s and 60s.. Mr Selene died in 1960 in Palm Desert and is buried in San Diego..

After 1960 all references in the Desert Sun social columns refer only to Mrs Gertrude Seline who was active in the Shadow Mountain community throughout the 1960s.



Photo: redfin.com



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E. Lawrence Brown House, Pasadena, 1928. Photo: Richard Horn

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Desert Sun , 1958

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

# THE FAIRWAY COTTAGES 1961

Fairway Lane, Shadow Mountain Resort & Club, Palm Desert, CA



Photo: pscondo.com

The Fairway Cottages were a dream of Cliff Henderson made reality by architect Ric Harrison and developer Adrian Schwilck.

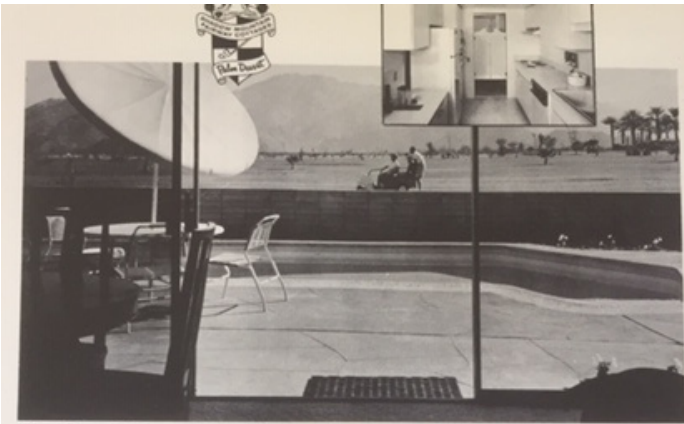
The 54-unit development meant to hug the just completed Shadow Mountain Golf Course, was built along Ironwood Street and on the 11th and 18th fairways of the course.

The two bedroom, 2 bath, 1,715 square foot cottages are characteristic of the Wexler and Harrison style, with Harrison's signature design elements of palm trees perforating a low-slung roof.

**ARCHITECTS:**  
RICHARD HARRISON, AIA  
WEXLER & HARRISON

**BUILDER:**  
ADRIAN SCHWILCK





*Shadow Mountain Fairway Cottages*  
*for that feeling of luxurious care-free living*  
 OWN YOUR OWN GOLD MEDALLION ALL-ELECTRIC HOME



Located in Palm Desert on the beautiful Shadow Mountain Golf Course with breath-taking views in every direction. Your front lawn is the immaculately kept lush green golf course. The balance of the property is beautifully master landscaped and a resident manager will be there to care for your needs and relieve you of many annoying problems in maintaining your home. All of this adds up to gracious, care-free living in a beautifully designed and appointed home with every comfort and convenience.

**FAIRWAY COTTAGE HOMES FEATURE:**

- 1715 sq. ft. of living space
- Two bedrooms, den and 2 baths
- Luxurious dressing room
- Carpets and drapes
- Landscaped and maintained
- 495 sq. ft. covered patio
- 12' by 22' enclosed carport and storage
- All electric Westinghouse kitchen
- Heating and refrigeration for year-round comfort, 5 ton Westinghouse heat pump
- Underground utilities

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**Shadow Mountain**  
**Fairway Cottages**  
*Carefree Luxury Living*  
 On The Fairways of Famous  
 Shadow Mountain Country Club  
**Westinghouse Gold Medallion**

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**Shadow Mountain Fairway Cottages, Inc.**  
 73-650 Ironwood, at San Luis Rey, Palm Desert



Looking across to the golf course from unit 46200A Cottage Lane  
Photos: Linda Holden Clode



Homeowners Bob and Tim





The spacious floor plan has a centre open concept with a combined living room dining and an additional seating area facing on a 'L' facing the pool. Some units have enclosed this area to create a third bedroom. The two wings flanking the center core each contain a bedroom and bathroom.



Unit 46200A Cottage Lane  
Photos: Linda Holden Clode



The 'wallpaper' in the bedroom was hand stencilled by the current owner's sister.

Tile lines the walls of one bathroom.



This unit has its own pool and spa  
Photos: Linda Holden Clode

# The History of the Fairway Cottage

by Tracey Conrad, Desert Sun Jan. 24, 2021  
(condensed and abridged)

Sometimes architectural history is planned, and sometimes it just happens. One such story is a twisty tale of an unlikely alliance featuring three desert characters who, without aiming to, nonetheless created architectural history in south Palm Desert. The three characters were businessmen and developers Adrian Schwilck, Cliff Henderson and architect Richard A. Harrison.

Henderson, the founder of Palm Desert, before moving to the desert, lived in Pacific Palisades, along the pleasant coastline of Los Angeles County. The leafy town of large lots and custom-built homes was inspiration for his plans for Palm Desert, surrounding its signature centerpiece, the Shadow Mountain Club, allowing only the building of prestigious, one-of-a-kind homes on sprawling parcels owned by the gentry of the club's membership.

But a decade after launching that vision, Henderson had bought 50 acres next to the club where he expected to build a lush 18-hole golf course dotted on its borders by cottages.

By 1958, Cliff Henderson had completed the golf course. However, the cottages, or "apartment units", as they were then called, proved controversial with the Shadow Mountain neighbors. These were the people who had kicked in on his risky wager to build a showcase of a new desert town. Henderson faced the wrath of area homeowners, one calling the project "proposed barracks."

Richard Harrison and Adrian Schwilck would provide Henderson's solution. Schwilck, a young developer, owned lots in Silver Spur Ranch which he cashed out in order to buy Henderson's "apartment unit" dream - land, plans and name, letting Henderson off the hook. In turn, Henderson guided Schwilck through the minefield of rezoning and approvals with one of his edicts being that Schwilck had to hire an architect of appropriate talent and prestige to ensure a development worthy of its neighbors - Richard Harrison.

The Shadow Mountain Fairway Cottages, one of the Wexler-Harrison firm's last commissions, was an immediate and resounding success. Harrison's spectacular designs created enabled Schwilck to buy back Silver Spur Ranch. He hired Harrison to adapt the multi-unit designs of the Shadow Mountain Cottages into duplexes and houses for Silver Spur, filling in every undeveloped lot and building an entire street of Harrison-designed homes on Feather Trail.



# RICHARD HARRISON, AIA

## 1924-1995

Richard Arnett Harrison, AIA was born in Los Angeles. Harrison studied aeronautical engineering in the Navy and went on to study architecture at the University of Southern California. Harrison worked for William F. Cody from July 1951 to February 1953, where he worked with his soon-to-be partner Donald Wexler. Wexler and Harrison went on to build custom homes and several tract home developments in Palm Springs. The Fairway Cottages were designed by Harrison in the final year of their partnership which dissolved amicably by 1961, as Harrison preferred to concentrate on residential projects and Wexler was interested in civic projects.



Donald Wexler and Richard Harrison, Source: US Modernist



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

# THE DIGGLE HOUSE 1962

73300 Fiddleneck Lane, Palm Desert, CA



Photo Courtesy of Zillow.com

Completed March 14, 1962, this 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom 3,800 square foot home, sits on a .44-acre lot.

The home was designed by Ross Patten of Patten and Wild. The upturned corner eaves provide a nod to the Hawaiian modern trend of the 1960s.

**ARCHITECT:**  
ROSS PATTEN  
PATTEN AND WILD

**CONTRACTOR:**  
ALBERT "DUKE" WILD

**ORIGINAL OWNERS:**  
PAUL WARD & BEVERLY  
DIGGLE



Photo: Linda Holden Clode



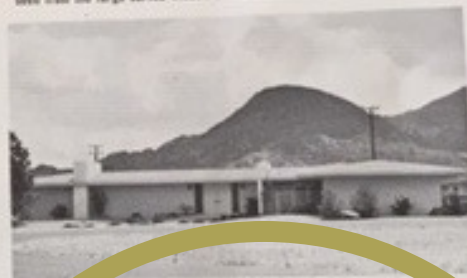
## Builders of Excellence



The beautiful La Muir Terrace home of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Tashman served President Lyndon B. Johnson as his Desert White House recently. The 10,000 sq. ft. house has a total roof area of 18,000 sq. ft. Wide expanses of glass allow the Tashmans' uninterrupted views of a wide segment of the desert. Other features of the house are the generous use of carefully selected Ponce Verde stone laid without mortar, 16' ceilings and the beautiful hand carved front door.



The Thomas Grilling hilltop residence in Southridge designed and built by Patten-Wild, Inc. Perlette marble was used throughout the large entry hall and dining area in this fine home. Views of the golf courses below and wide swms of the desert as far as the lower end of the valley can be seen from the large curved window at the dining room.



The Palm Desert home of the Charles E. Evans features a master bedroom completely separated from the master wing affording complete privacy to the family and the parents.



Since 1958 Ross Patten and Albert "Duke" Wild have been building quality homes on the desert. Here Wild, left and Patten are discussing the plans for Thunderbird Heights home of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Peurich. Landscape will include a series of jets that spray 18 feet high; nine different reflecting pools; and the built metal gates are heavily plated a dull bronze. Three hundred tons of white styx was used on the exterior. Exotic woods and imported marble is used throughout the house.



The Paul Diggle residence is on Fiddleneck Lane in Palm Desert. This house features a terraced patio of native stone, special golf cart storage, oriental roof lines and mortarless stone walls and fireplace. The home contains two bedrooms and a den plus three bathrooms.



# PATTEN & WILD, Inc.

BUILDERS

73-730 Highway 111, Palm Desert, California

Telephone FI. 6-1718





Photos: Linda Holden Clode



## Paul and Beverly Diggle

Diggle was an engineer, a developer, and the President of the Viking Automatic Sprinkler Company of San Francisco. He and his wife Beverly spent 30 years wintering in Palm Desert before his death December 29, 1988.

The Diggles were both active members of Shadow Mountain Golf Club. Many Desert Sun articles highlight their involvement in the Shadow Mountain community. Mr. Diggle was President of Palm Desert Improvement Association and a member of the committee that led the incorporation of Palm Desert, the 1966 Scope and Purpose Committee. He also served as a director for Shadow Mountain Golf Club, while Beverly was a member of Palm Desert Women's Club.



Desert Sun



**EYE IT OR NOT**—It's the Hap Ballards, left, and the Paul Diggles, who staged a party in Palm Desert last weekend. Theme of the fete was "old clothes" and

hard times," hailing the end of the season and the end of winter wardrobes. It took place in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Diggle on Fiddleneck Lane.

Desert Sun, May 19, 1966

The Diggles were socially active in the Shadow Mountain neighborhood and numerous newspaper articles mentioned their parties. A typical event was a "Hard Times" Party hosted by the Paul Diggles and Hap Ballards at the Diggles home on Fiddleneck Lane.

*"With wigs, painted teeth, trick glasses and other disguises, many of the guests were hardly recognizable as they arrived for the fete. Greeting couples at the door, the hostesses were dressed in matching sugar sacks, and their husbands wore matching shirts, suspenders, and top hats."*

(Thirza Williams, Desert Sun, May 19, 1966)

# PATTEN & WILD

Ross Patten and Albert "Duke" Wild were a Palm Desert design and build firm. Both men served in WWII and were from well-known Los Angeles building families and started their business in Palm Desert around 1958.

In the Palm Springs neighborhood of Southridge, they built a home for Max Stoffel (a Swiss Textile manufacturer), as well as one for Tom Griffing as well as the Taubman house where President Johnson and Lady Bird Johnson resided while visiting the desert.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Penrith commissioned the team to build their new home in Thunderbird Heights using 300 tons of white onyx and black marble in their 20' x 40' swimming pool. The pool also featured a fountain with jets that sprayed 18 feet into the air!

Patten & Wild also built commercial properties, (including the Canon Building in which their offices were located), as well as many homes in South Palm Desert. Frank Sinatra's sprawling estate, "Villa Maggio", in Pinyon Crest off Highway 74, was completed in 1970 (below).



Photo: [www.listingzen.com](http://www.listingzen.com)

Patten was president of Palm Desert Rotary Club, secretary of Palm Desert's Architecture Committee and a member of Shadow Mountain Country Club architecture and tennis committees. For a time, he also served as a director of the Palm Desert Chamber of Commerce.



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

# THE KEMP "LOST KRISEL" HOUSE 1963

73140 Fiddleneck Lane, Palm Desert, CA



Photo by James Schnepf

The house is 3,500 sq. feet, and remains true to its original design by William Krisel. There are three bedrooms and baths each open to an outdoor space with striking desert views. The home still has the 10 foot tall spacious living room.

*"The height of the room should be in scale with the width of the room. All the rooms have high windows. You can see the mountain ranges and the tops of the trees and sky. I like to bring the outdoors in, not only at eye level, but at sky level." William Krisel.*

**ARCHITECT:**  
WILLIAM KRISEL, AIA

**RESTORATION (2012-2013):**  
SEAN LOCKYER, AIA

**THE CONTRACTOR:**  
WILLIAM KEMP

**LANDSCAPE DESIGN:**  
WILLIAM KRISEL

**INTERIOR DESIGN:**  
POSSIBLY VEE NISLEY

**ORIGINAL OWNER:**  
WILLIAM KEMP

## Lost and Found

This custom home was hiding in plain sight all along. A bit tired and faded, it was rediscovered by architectural historians Jim West and Karen Prinzmetal.

They approached Bill Krisel who confirmed that it was, indeed, a "Lost" Krisel. (Palm Springs Life, February 2012, [p.p. 54-59])

The home found new life by knowledgeable owners and their architect, Sean Lockyer, of Palm Springs and Los Angeles, who knew that the bones were that of a masterpiece.

In the early 1960's Krisel had drawn up plans for his client and partner in the Sandpiper Condominium project, William Kemp. Built in 1963, Krisel was unaware of its construction.



Karen Prinzmetal, Sean Lockyer & Jim West,  
Photo by Linda Holden Clode



Sean Lockyer & Jim West (above)  
Karen Prinzmetal (below)  
Photo by Linda Holden Clode



As Krisel said to Jim and Karen:

*I must tell you, in all my 70 years as an architect, this was a unique situation. You kind of think about it over the years and ... boom! - it happens. Someone says "I saw your home!" And then you discover it. And that it's doing well. It's like finding one of your children that got lost.*

**A Lost Krisel found! A happy ending**





Photo: Tom Brewster, Palm Springs Life



Photo: Michal Utterback



## William Kemp

Kemp was a Sandpiper Condominium owner who took over the completion of the Sandpiper Projects, Circles 5-12, under his company, Sandpiper Builders, Inc.. He was both the contractor and the original owner of the "Lost" Krisel.

In the early 1960's Krisel had drawn up plans for his client and partner in the Sandpiper Condominium project, William Kemp. Built in 1963, Krisel was unaware of its construction.

A July 5, 1963 article on building permits issued notes that a permit valued at \$35,500 was issued to William Kemp for the property at 73140 Fiddleneck Lane.

The Kemp family's primary residence was in the Friendly Hills area of East Whittier.



**AWARD—J. W. McFadden, right, Southern California Edison Company district manager, presents Medallion Award to William Kemp, developer of The Sandpiper, and Barbara Sumrall, sales manager. Award recognized electrical excellence of new complex located at 72533 El Paseo, Palm Desert.**

Desert Sun 22 November 1968

# WILLIAM KRISEL, AIA 1924-2017

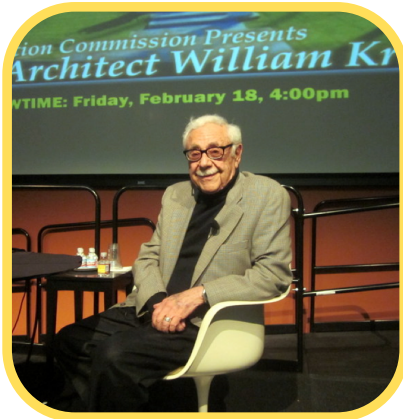


Photo by Linda Holden Clode

William Krisel was born in Shanghai, China in 1924 to American parents. Bill grew up immersed in the culture and language of China as well as being exposed to the glamorous lifestyle of the movie stars of early Hollywood when the family moved to Beverly Hills in 1937.

He graduated Beverly Hills High School at the age of 16 and entered the USC School of Architecture. After serving in the military intelligence as a Chinese interpreter in WWII, Krisel returned to USC in 1946.

In 1950 Krisel partnered with Dan Saxon Palmer to form Palmer and Krisel, A.I.A. They believed in the promise of modern architecture and that everyone was entitled to good design.

In the mid-1950s Palmer & Krisel began working with George and Robert Alexander in Palm Springs. The team created homes that were simple and clean in design and feature open plans that connect to the landscape. Krisel was also a landscape architect.

In 1958 Krisel was selected to design The Sandpiper in Palm Desert. At the time, Krisel was designing homes all over Southern California, including several in Silver Spur, Palm Desert. His work shaped much of the modernist oeuvre in the desert.





Photo by Linda Holden Clode

## SEAN LOCKYER

In 2012-2013 Sean Lockyer reimagined the home adhering to the ideals of Krisel.

He has been creating many modern custom homes for the past several years including some specular homes in Yucca Valley.

Sean is the founding principal and lead architect for Studio AR&D Architects. His choice for the direction of the firm has always been one that speaks to the craft and alliance between both architecture and the landscape. Since its inception, the firm began to truly explore the poetic relationship of space and materiality amongst interior and exterior environment.

Sean continues to develop the deeper relationships and coexistence of material and space and their influences on our everyday lives. He has helped cultivate a body of work that is deeply influenced by the environment and the sense. He enjoys the time within the firm's offices as much as on the construction sites working closely with the builders and craftsmen breathing life into the firms designs.

Source:[www.studio-ard.com](http://www.studio-ard.com)



## VEE NISLEY

It is possible that Vee Nisley, who did the spec homes and many others in the Sandpiper, was the Interior Designer for the "Lost" Krisel. The photo on the left is the 2012 reimagined kitchen.



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

# THE GREGORY HOUSE 1986

73550 Pinyon Street, Palm Desert, CA



Photos by Linda Holden Clode

Completed in 1986, this 3-bedroom and 4-bathroom home, with 3,750 square feet sits on a large corner lot.

Known as "The Berm House", it is an early Palm Desert example of passive solar design and remarkable desert landscaping.

**ARCHITECT:**  
IRA "BUD" JOHNSON, AIA

**LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT:**  
RON GREGORY, ASLA

**OWNERS:**  
RON & MARCY GREGORY



## A Note from Owner & Landscape Architect, Ron Gregory

In 1984, with our second child on the way and our house on Old Prospector Trail becoming too small, my wife Marcy and I purchased a large lot on Pinyon Street on which we planned to build a new home. We wanted a lot of outdoor space for the kids to play and also to have some fun with landscaping. We were enamored by the concept of passive solar mitigation, and I bought several books on architectural design which addressed differing means of shielding the structure from the sun.

It became apparent that our best approach might be to design an underground house, but a design that radical would likely be frowned upon in our neighborhood setting, not to mention that it would be prohibitively expensive to construct. With the front of our proposed house facing south, we decided that a compromise approach might work.

We had seen a home in Indian Wells which had a berm out front with a tall retaining wall holding back the berm about ten feet short of the house, creating small, shady courtyards between the retaining wall and the house. This approach, while screening the house from the sun's rays, didn't take advantage of the cooler soil temperature a few feet below grade, so we decided that our house would have a berm but we could make the retaining wall part of the house structure itself. In this manner, the cooler underground soil of the berm would abut the wall and transmit the lower temperature directly into the house.

We also considered other means of providing passive solar mitigation, including architectural "eyebrows" over the windows, a separate roof which would provide shade over the actual roof (we scrapped this idea because of the additional cost) and also planting large trees and palms on the south side to cast shade over the house.

I had initially been encouraged to move to the desert in 1977 by Ira L. "Bud" Johnson, a local architect who complained that there weren't enough landscape architects in town. He hired me to work part time for him, with the rest of my time directed to starting up my own landscape architectural practice. In gratitude to Ira, we engaged his services to design our new home. Bud was proud of his reputation for designing rounded-corner buildings, and our house was no exception.

Bud came up with the idea of a zig zag entry walk cutting through the berm, with retaining walls holding back the grade. This made the entry to our home more mysterious, an important tenet of Japanese garden design. As our property is located on the corner of Pinyon and Burroweed Streets, we faced the usual concern of a large area to landscape with limited usability. We decided to run a retaining wall inside the corner in a manner to carve out a large side yard off our family room. Over the years we have enjoyed privacy from the streets and unimpeded views to the west.

Our neighbors to the north, Mr. and Mrs. Clow, had lived in their stunning Walter S. White house (since torn down) for thirty-five years. When Mrs. Clow saw me standing high above her on our newly installed pad, she objected to the way she felt our property loomed over hers. Due to chronic flooding problems, the City had recently issued an ordinance requiring all newly developed lots to raise the finish grade six inches above the top of the step closest to the front door.

To make her happy, we got permission from the City to drop our pad to the same elevation as the top curb and then we had to rely on subsurface drainage to convey water from our entry walk to a lower point along Burroweed.

When we commenced construction on our house, another neighbor, Marian Henderson, wife of the founder of Palm Desert, developer Clifford Henderson – and herself chairwoman of Desert Beautiful, complained to me that our house was an eyesore and was totally unacceptable on her street. Our house was the first new house built on the block and with its raised grade and giant berm in the front yard, it was no doubt an appalling sight to her. I explained that people have different tastes and that our house would look less weird as the planting grew in.

She was never pleased with our house, but her attention thankfully was diverted to a two-story condominium development she called “The Chainsaw Massacre” on the corner of San Luis Rey and Shadow Mountain, which she REALLY detested.



After we ran out of money building the house, I assigned a paltry budget of \$10K to do all the front yard landscaping. We purchased several 15-gallon trees, which are now the huge mesquite trees and I planted them myself. We were fortunate to purchase some bearded palms from the City of Rancho Mirage after they decided not to build their new city hall. We planted a handful of small date palms on the corner, and I raked into the berm a big bag of mixed native flower seeds from S & S Seed Company. Our irrigation system was a rudimentary Rainbird spray system (water was not an issue then), and I'd haul out a hose when I got home from work to spray the missed areas. The new landscape was spectacular when it bloomed, providing a striking burst of color in the spring, but eventually I tired of having to manually water all the dry spots. Additionally, the Brittle Bush got out of control and took over the landscape, so we knew that we'd have to plant different materials, and even now we'll need to address the plantings on the east side of the entry walk after having the now huge mesquite trees trimmed."

(Source: Ron Gregory, October, 2021)



## Ron Gregory

Ron Gregory founded RGA Landscape Architects in Palm Desert in 1977. In the course of the next 42 years, RGA became recognized as the leading landscape architectural firm in the desert. RGA has since merged with MSA, where Ron continues as Director of Landscape Architecture.



Photo by Linda Holden Clode

Mr. Gregory has been the Principal in Charge for well over 2,000 landscape projects in the Coachella Valley and the desert Southwest. He has been the liaison for the planning and public works departments in all cities within the Coachella Valley, as well as most water districts in the region. His projects have included large scale resorts, golf courses, parks, residential and commercial development and custom homes. (Source: [www.msiconsultinginc.com](http://www.msiconsultinginc.com))

## Marcy Gregory

Palm Desert resident Marcy Gregory is an artist who gives scrap wood and recycled cardboard a new life, reducing disparate shapes to an abstract uniformity, where shape and shade are of paramount importance.

Her introduction to the medium of discarded wood began in 1995 at the Palm Springs Art Museum in the adult artists' workshop taught by the talented artist and teacher Florence Treatman. Since the mid-90s, Ms. Gregory has amassed a seeming forest of wood in her studio. Also a contemporary realist portraitist, her commissioned paintings and sculptures have been featured in juried art competitions and museums, sold at auction and in galleries, and found in private collections. (Source: [www.marcygregory.com/home.html](http://www.marcygregory.com/home.html))

# IRA "BUD" JOHNSON, AIA

Ira Johnson, architect, studied under William F. Cody and worked in his office early in his career. His homes include homes in the Eldorado Country Club as well as a replacement of the Cody designed Malone House in Palm Springs.



Architect Ira Johnson with contractor Arthur Press outside 73-895 Highway 111, Palm Desert, Desert Sun, March 1964