



# The Hourglass

## The houses and homes of early Palm Desert

*A selection of dwellings from as seen in Sun Spots' 5th Anniversary Home Review of Palm Desert, California as published circa 1951*



*The residence of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Holt.*

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Dear HSPDers,

First off, I want to relay to you that our esteemed president, Brett Romer, will be stepping down very soon. He deserves high accolades as he has been right on the job all year organizing and planning myriad HSPD activities, plus he is our official photographer! A very busy man this fellow. And so generously, he and his dear wife, Rose, treated all of us who attended the lovely June luncheon at the Backstreet Bistro, the outside restaurant across from the Firehouse. Again, so many thank yous to you both! Luckily, we have another wonderful gent, Don Graybill, who is waiting to step into Brett's shoes as president. He is a well known member of our group and has served as vice president this past year. So let's hear it for Brett and his wonderful contributions, and another big hurrah for Don, our incoming prez!!!

The last newsletter focused on many original ads from the very early days of PD. This summer we are again featuring "olde" Palm Desert by showing photos of some original homes built as early as the late 40s into the 50s. Interestingly, they don't look so very different from many built in later decades. Enjoy and remember those lovely OLDE days when life was so much simpler.

Due to my being out of town and Ty experiencing some nasty bug, this newsletter is late, and we are VERY sorry!!

—Duchess

### Event Calendar

#### **Grand Reopening Celebration at the Firehouse**

On Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>  
10 AM to 3 PM

#### **Midsummer Madness/ Summer Potluck**

Mark your calendar, as we will have our third annual Midsummer Madness Potluck.

This has turned out to be one of the best events for bringing the members together for a good time. Kind of reminds you of "Christmas in July." Anyway, we have the facility reserved for July 13 in the evening.

Keep your eye on the web site or watch your e-mail or snail mail for updates as they become available.

Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>. Sounds like that might lend itself to a theme!

#### **Museum Hours**

10 AM to 3 PM  
Monday, Wednesday,  
Friday, Saturday

The Museum reopens on  
Monday, October 1, 2012

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

**T**his is my last letter as president of the society. I must say, it has been a real pleasure working with so many great people. Everybody works well together and seems to enjoy pitching in.

The month of April has been one busy but fruitful period. We have the "Desert Artists: Past and Present" show going on through the end of the season. Harry and Sandy, with the help of others have put together a show that opened with rave reviews. This would not have happened without the generous contribution of Kevin and Diane Stewart. We are certainly fortunate to have such good friends and supporters.

On the fourteenth of April, we also honored the Stewarts with a reception and a honorary life membership for their support of the society. This was preceded by the third Art Appraisal Day featuring Kevin Stewart and Howard Schepp. It was followed by an art demonstration by Terry Masters and the opening of an

art show in the 'barracks' featuring Terry Masters, Elaine Mathews, Andrew Gillespie and Jim Toenjes.

And of course, we ended the month with our Fourth Friday Lecture.

The month of May promises to be fairly relaxing. Nothing big scheduled. And then in June we close down to begin the preparations for the next season. We are always happy to have volunteers come in and help with all of the detail work that needs to be accomplished over the summer.

In July, Don Graybill will take over the reins of the presidency. We are concerned about the possible funding for next year, but I believe we can survive anything. We may have to tighten our belt a bit more, but with good leadership it will all happen. Don, you have a great bunch of people to work with and they will make your task(s) as president much easier and more fun.

—Brett Romer

**The Mission and Purpose of the Historical Society of Palm Desert (HSPD)**

To preserve, record and provide access to its historical collections.

To relate an on-going history of the City through exhibits, publications, media, programs and events.

To support, with volunteer efforts, activities sponsored through the Society and co-sponsorship with other private and public agencies.

HSPD is organized as a non-profit corporation that supports its mission and purposes in a responsible manner. The Society cares for the materials and pieces in its possession as unique and irreplaceable objects of local history and strives to protect and preserve its collections for posterity.

**Executive Board**

**Brett Romer**  
President

**Don Graybill**  
Vice President

**Bonnie Bowie**  
Secretary

**Madonna Marman**  
Treasurer

**Barbara Keedy-Eastes**  
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**Board of Directors**

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Kim Housken  
John Marman  
Louise Neeley  
Adele Sandman  
Harry Quinn  
Hal Rover

**Newsletter**

Duchess Emerson, editor  
Ty Davison, layout

# Newsbits

## **Carl Bray Paintings**

The Carl Bray family has entrusted us with the last of their father's paintings. They have asked that we get the paintings priced and then we will offer them for sale. These are paintings that have never been on display before and with the passing of Carl, the last of his paintings. We are extremely honored that the family chose us to assist them and we plan to have them available when we reopen in the fall. You can see two of them in the new "Desert Artists: Past and Present" exhibit.

## **BNP/Paribas Tennis Tournament**

We had the honor of being invited to show our fire engine at the tennis tournament. We were located close to where the 9/11 flag was on display. Good location and we had some fairly decent traffic. Hal got the engine there (it was a tight fit) and back off of the site while, Hal, John, Madonna, Kim, Barbara and Brett took turns at taking care of the engine.

## **Desert Artists: Past and Present**

We were extremely fortunate to receive a significant donation from Kevin and Diane Stewart. The donation consisted of two Jimmy Swinnerton paintings, an extensive set of Swinnerton cartoons, photos, and memorabilia including personal letters and several of his pipes. Also added to the show are three paintings by Bill Bender, with two of them available for sale. We also have a John Hilton painting on display and two Carl Bray paintings that have never been shown before.

Can you imagine putting all of that in the old "station office?" Harry and Sandy got all of that, without removing the Nixon organ, into that space and it does not feel crowded. My compliments to them. The first day that the show was open we were getting some outstanding comments on it.

## **First "See Our Story" Walking Tour**

We had our first tour March 22. Suzanne, a newer member and two of her friends met me at the Portola 'library', where we started. Walking by the first church and the first school site, and showing early pictures and aerials along the way, we crossed Portola and entered Shadow Mountain Resort and Tennis Club. Cliff Henderson's 1946 plaque at the first two courts built in PD, the beautiful figure-8 pool and setting, the second-story view of the Santa Rosa Mountains from the snack bar with the enclosed flag pole, were highlights. We also visited the Golf Club with its wonderful views, which has been recognized by the city for its historical significance.

If you are interested in a tour, get in touch with Ann, Don G. or Kim to set one up. We hope to hear from you soon!

## **Picnic in the Park/Spring Meeting**

Just a few minutes before noon, it did not look like there were going to be enough people to turn on the barbecues. By noon we had a full house. This was one of the coldest days that we have had here on the desert, but everybody sat around, bundled up, and started off with a cup of coffee. This is the first time that we have had coffee at the picnic.

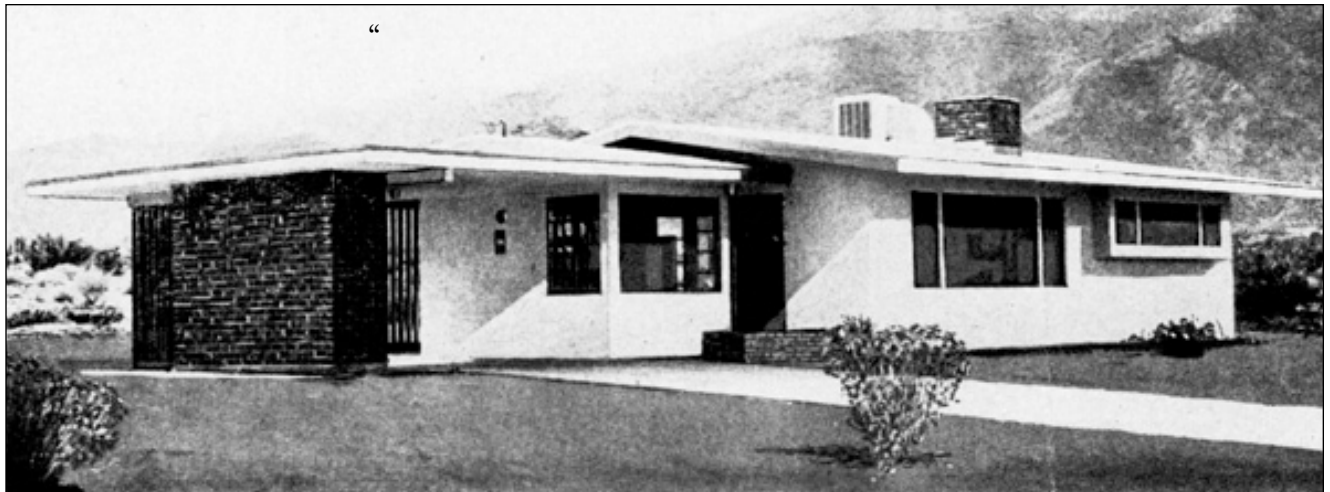
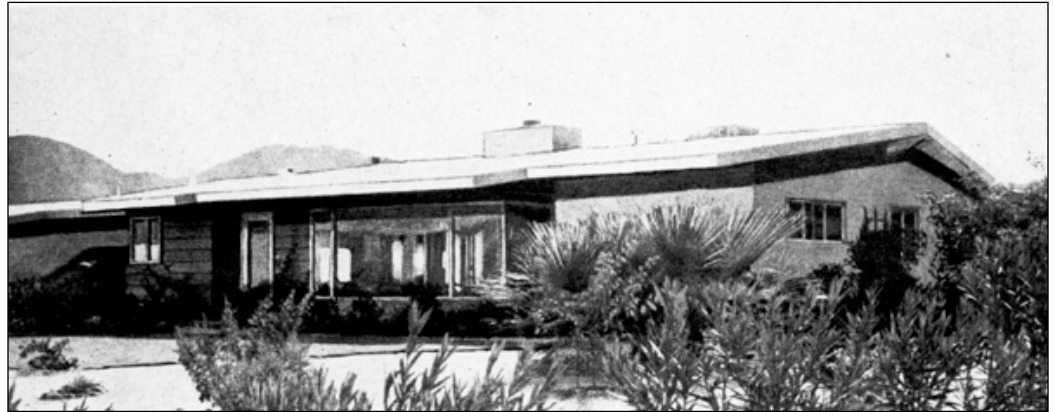
Barbara and crew cooked up some of the best hamburgers that we have ever had. I don't know, maybe it was the cold weather, but those hamburgers were outstanding. There was enough food, the food was outstanding, and the company was even better. I think the cold weather made people sit closer together and enjoy the company of those nearby.

It is interesting that despite the cold weather, everyone really enjoyed the get together.

We did have one item of business: Harry Quinn's name had been in error left off of the ballot for next year's officers. The board took action to appoint Harry to the extension of his current position and this was announced at the meeting with the unanimous approval of those present.

“HOUSES AND HOMES”  
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*Residence of Commander  
and Mrs. Eugene L. Walter*  
(Photo by Lee Wenzlick)



*“Charming one-bedroom residence in Shadow Mountain Vista—typifying the beauty of the smaller home.”*



*“Architecturally and structurally, this 3-bedroom residence in Shadow Mountain Estates has exceptional appeal.”*



*Residence of Mrs. and Mrs. E.W. Bollinger*

Leonard McCulloh

*“Residence owners never tire of the beauty of the setting and environment. Architectural detail blends with the desert and mountain landscape.”*



*Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Royer*

Leonard McCulloh

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“HOUSES AND HOMES”  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5



*Residence of Mr. and Mrs. H.D. Landes*

Leonard McCulloh

*“Whether it is a large estate residence or the more modest desert cottage, prospective purchasers in Palm Desert are assured of an exceptional selection in the type of home and price range—either in Shadow Mountain Estates area or Shadow Mountain Vista.”*



*Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur S. Bear*

Leonard McCulloh

## Obituaries *Notable Palm Desert lives remembered*

### JOHN WASHINGTON MARZICOLA

John Washington Marzicola, 94, a resident of Rancho Mirage, passed away on June 12, 2012, after a brief illness.

He was born, in Chicago, IL, the eldest of four children, to Italian immigrant parents, Oreste and Carlotta Marzicola.

John was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 46 years, Patricia. He is survived by by a brother, George, also of Rancho Mirage, and five children from a former marriage to Jean Krouse Marzicola and their spouses: John, Steven (Maria) Jo Ann (John), Linda (Tim), Laurie (Kevin), twelve grandchildren and seventeen great grandchildren.

John graduated from Austin High School in Chicago in 1936, served in the Army Air Corps for seventeen months. He attended U of Illinois until being offered a position in San

Diego in 1942 as an aviation stress analyst for Consolidated Vultee Aircraft.

In 1945 he built houses for a brief time. In 1952 he joined Zenith plastics, where he was Senior Project Engineer for the design of plastic hull Aircraft in Culver City. During this time he received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Mechanical Engineering from USC. He then taught engineering and math at COD.

John was a sociable and civi-minded fellow, and all who knew him found that his associates soon became his friends. John was president of the board for Harvest Wellness Foundation, Good Neighbors of the Desert, regional Director of United Good Neighbors of the Desert, and an active Rotarian. He leaves behind many friends who will miss his keen mind, his easy laugh, and his love of life.

## HSPD Art Events

The Historical Society is becoming known as a center for desert art. That reputation was reinforced on Saturday, April 14th, as the HSPD again hosted Appraisal Day with Kevin Stewart and with Howard Schepp joining the event this year. The event was a presentation in cooperation with Desertsapces, the valley wide arts celebration hosted by the City of Palm Desert and other organizations.

Since the appraisal events began two years ago, there's always a waiting list for members and others to have their treasures evaluated. On a cool morning with new snow on the hills, there was an Antiques Roadshow excitement in the air as guests lined up with their mystery items. The appraisers could not be stumped, no matter what was placed before them --- including an antique doll, a bear jaw knife and a desert painting by the early botanist Edith Purer---among dozens of disparate items.

After the appraisals wound up, guests crowded into the back room as first-time curators Harry Quinn and Sandra Craig presented a new exhibit on early desert painters Jimmy Swinnerton and Bill Bender.

Another new exhibit opening the same day featured five contemporary painters who are leading a renaissance of desert art---Elaine Mathews, Terry Masters, Lisa Spencer, Jim Toenjes and Andrew Gillespie. On crutches due to a recent golf accident, Terry Masters was determined to give his painting demo despite pain---a testament to the indomitable spirit of the Smoketree School of desert painters past and present.

## Business Members

We are fortunate to have the support of several local businesses. We encourage you to visit these businesses and when you do, please let them know that you appreciate their support of our Historical Society.

*Backstreet Bistro*

*Casuelas Café*

*College of the Desert Alumni  
Street Fair*

*Desert Map and Aerial Photo*

*Hidden Harvest*

*Jeff Frisco for Hair*

*Jillian's*

*Robert D. Reed, D.D.S.*

*Shadow Mountain Resort & Club*

*The Inn at Deep Canyon*

*Wayne Connor & Associates*

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