



# The Hourglass

**Thank you for your continuing support of the Historical Society**

Fall 2014

**We open this fall on Monday the 29th of September and will have our opening reception on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> of October. See you there!**

**M6.0 - 6km NW of American Canyon, California 2014-08-24 10:20:44 UTC - 5 miles south of Napa, CA.**

We live in earthquake country! Or put another way, California has its faults. What are we, what are you doing to be prepared

for our turn with a local shaker? We are physically situated between two significant faults, the San Andreas Fault to the north and the San Jacinto Fault to the south. FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) recently published the following article which is being included in whole.

**FEMA Urges Caution Following California**

## Earthquake

**Release date:** AUGUST 24, 2014

**Release Number:** HQ-2014-67

WASHINGTON – The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), through its Regional Office in Oakland, California, is monitoring the situation following the U.S. Geological Survey report of a 6.0 magnitude earthquake that occurred this morning six miles south southwest of Napa, California. FEMA remains in close coordination with California officials, and its Regional Watch Center is at an enhanced watch to provide additional reporting and monitoring of the situation, including impacts of any additional aftershocks.

FEMA deployed liaison officers to the state emergency operations center in California and to the California coastal region emergency operations center to help coordinate any requests for federal assistance. FEMA also deployed a National Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT West) to California to support response activities and ensure there

*The Mission of  
the Historical  
Society of Palm  
Desert*

*To collect,  
preserve and  
record the history  
of our city and  
communities and  
to provide  
access to the  
society's  
archives and  
artifacts through  
exhibits,  
publications,  
programs and  
events.*

are no unmet needs.

"I urge residents and visitors to follow the direction of state, tribal and local officials," FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate said. "Aftershocks can be strong enough to cause additional damage to weakened structures and can occur in the first hours, days, weeks or even months after the quake."

When disasters occur, the first responders are local emergency and public works personnel, volunteers, humanitarian organizations and numerous private interest groups who provide emergency assistance required to protect the public's health and safety and to meet immediate human needs.

### **Safety and Preparedness Tips**

- Expect aftershocks. These secondary shockwaves are usually less violent than the main quake but can be strong enough to do additional damage to weakened structures and can occur in the first hours, days, weeks or even months after the quake.
- During an earthquake, drop, cover and hold on. Minimize movements to a few steps to a nearby safe place. If indoors, stay there until the shaking has stopped and exiting is safe.
- If it is safe to do so, check on neighbors who may require assistance.
- Use the telephone only for emergency calls. Cellular and land line phone systems may not be functioning properly. The use of text messages to contact family is

the best option, when it is available.

- Check for gas leaks. If you know how to turn the gas off, do so and report the leak to your local fire department and gas company.

More [safety tips](#) can be found at [www.ready.gov/earthquakes](http://www.ready.gov/earthquakes).

### **What is the Historical Society of Palm Desert Doing?**

We have some materials available for the public on preparations for emergencies. We have had several Friday night lectures on the subject of the geology of the area but not necessarily on emergency

preparedness. We do have two outstanding programs (the writer is not bashful) working with our youngsters and the local schools. We invite all of the second grade classes in to come to our facility each year. Half of the time is used to cover the history of Palm Desert with the remaining time spent on fire apparatus and introduction to historical fire suppression. In October of each year in conjunction with the local fire department (City of Palm Desert - Riverside County Fire Department – CalFire)

and with the support of Desert Sands Unified School District, we have our annual Mini-Muster at the local schools.

### **Mini-Muster**

This program was initiated 21 years ago by Jan Holmlund, Dan and BJ Callahan with the enthusiastic support of the fire department and the school district. (Eric Vogt was involved representing the fire department.) Currently it serves five schools: Washington Charter, Lincoln, Carter, Ford, and Reagan. For the last 12

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years, John and Madonna Marman have coordinated the event for us with the tremendous help of Engineer Kevin Merkh. As many of you are aware John had a stroke one year ago. His recovery is going well but, even though Madonna did a great job of filling in for him last year, they feel it is best for someone else to take the reins. Louise Neeley has stepped forward and is moving forward posthaste.

As part of the Mini-Muster program the classroom teachers introduce the concept of fire safety into the curriculum in preparation for the event. October is fire safety month. On the designated day we show up at the school, we bring our engine, as does the fire department with a variety of equipment. During the morning the students get to explore the ladder truck, engines, medical units and other equipment as available. In addition several stages are set up allowing the students to learn about using fire hoses, fire extinguishers, safety gear and of course, the bucket brigade. There is much to be learned and even more fun to be had. (I am not sure who has more fun getting wet, students or fire personnel.) Following the morning of exciting and fun activities, everybody gets together for a lunch hosted by the parents and then there is an assembly. During the assembly, the lights



are turned out and two 'firemen' completely outfitted in their protective gear crawl around between the

students. (I can best describe the sounds they make as the sounds one thinks of when thinking of Darth Vader.) The thought is to let the students know that these sounds are friendly sounds and that they are not to hide from them.

This program is extremely effective and remembered years later when the former students, now adults, visit the society. If

you have not been out to participate or just to observe, please do so. Call Louise and let her know you would like to help out.

### **Edith Morré by Ginny Folkers**

Fashion Week on El Paseo has its roots deep within the history of Palm Desert. In 1946 Edith and her sister, Dorothy, moved from Portland and opened a shop for the sale of children's hand-made clothing in Palm Springs. Celebrities with youngsters made their business a huge success.

When Edith married Dr. Robert Morrey, one of the Palm Desert's first physicians, in May of 1952 her life was introduced to the world of leisure. After five years of playing bridge and golf at Thunderbird Country Club, Edith wanted to get back into business.

In 1960 the Moreys built the second building on El Paseo. They used Mediterranean architecture with glass and mirrored walls facing an outdoor patio enclosed with wrought iron gates. Each fall the store opened the social and business season.

It became the birth of fine fashions, basic clothes with the look of elegance and simplicity and shoes, bags and hats to match. Edith designed and sewed most of the clothes and even wove her own fabrics. She hired a full-time cook so customers could have lunch and tea in the Patio Tea Room from noon until 3:00 p.m. Then the Golden Hands Spa offered facials, massage, pedicures and manicures, foot reflexology and diet consultation.

Ms. Morré retired in 1972 and sold the beautiful edifice on El Paseo. At age 102 she still designs and sews her own clothes, paints, creates jewelry, is a nutritionist, and has a busy social life. She lives in a spacious apartment at Desert Island Country Club in Rancho Mirage.

## The Bradshaw Trail by Ginny Folkers

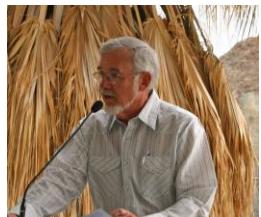


The Bradshaw Trail was originally the Copa-Maricopa Trail. It was used by Mission San Gabriel in 1821 and then closed a few years later. In the late 1840s Paulino Weaver developed roads in the Coachella Valley area. It wasn't until the early 1860s, when gold was discovered at La Paz on the Colorado River, that heavy use of a more direct route was needed. That's when Bill Bradshaw, a former trooper with Fremont, blazed a new trail across the Southern California desert.

Hank Brown developed a good route from the San Gorgonio Pass to the Colorado River. By about 1863 a stage line was organized with stations at Desert Inn, Sand Hole (Palm Desert), Indian Wells, and Taro Spring. Today, Highway 111 follows part of what used to be the Bradshaw Trail.

## Buford Crites by Ginny Folkers

Mr. Crites is a man who has been active in the community and in politics since he moved from Missouri to the desert in 1976.



For 24 years he was a professor of communications in critical thinking and persuasion at the College of the Desert. As a result he is an excellent speaker and has often been invited to use this talent at Coachella Valley events. Buford's home is in the Cahuilla Hills behind St. Margaret's Episcopal Church. It was a five-acre homestead and he has developed his house in an environmentally friendly

way.

In 1986 Buford was elected to Palm Desert's City Council after having served on the Planning Commission. He is well known as one of the founders of the Coachella Valley Mountain Conservancy. He is also a member of the Sierra Club and the Living Desert Reserve. When he was holding the office of Mayor in July of 1995 he was appointed to the Bureau of Land Management's advisory council to represent elected officials.

Though Buford is now retired, he is still busy serving the Historical Society of Palm Desert. He has been a member of the Society since 1990, and in May of 2006 he was chosen to receive the Founder's Day award. Now we are happy to welcome him as a new member of our Board of Directors.

## Firehouse-Museum

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[www.hspd.org](http://www.hspd.org)  
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Open Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
and Saturday  
10:00 am to 3:00 pm

## Membership Report

We currently are carrying 261 names in our membership file. The break-down is as follows.

Expired	125
Active	136

The active consists of:

Contributing	10
Family	35
Individual	36
Life	17
Patron	1
Special	12
Supporting	20
Business	2
Business Life	3

The 'specials' consist of other museums and entities that we share information with.

You can help by reminding those that have allowed their membership to expire that a renewal would be appreciated, by recruiting new members and approaching local businesses for their support. For the businesses we maintain their business cards on display, recommend them to our visitors and we list them in our newsletter.

### MINING IN THE PINYON FLATS-- SANTA ROSA MOUNTAINS REGION OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

By Harry M. Quinn

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

Editor: I have taken the liberty of making some major cuts to this excellent paper to allow it to fit in our newsletter. The entire paper with references is available on request.

#### ASBESTOS

Robinson and Risher (1993:84) report that asbestos was discovered in the Pinyon Flats area about 1880 and was being mined by the John D. Hoff Asbestos Company of San Diego by 1888. The ore was hauled

out on pack animals until a road was built from Vandeventer Flat over to the mines (*ibid.*). A road already existed from Vandeventer Flat to Kenworthy, then over to Anza, and from Anza down through Batista Canyon to the Railroad siding at San Jacinto (Contreras, personal communiqué). The mines changed ownership in 1890, apparently sold to the Pacific Asbestos Company of Los Angeles (*ibid.*). A Mr. F. M. Casner had been hired by the new owners to build a road over to the mines and was then contracted by them to mine and haul asbestos to the San Jacinto depot (*ibid.*). This road was also used by Bunker and Manual Arniz to haul feed and supplies over to their cattle camps at Pinyon Flats. The two asbestos mines are shown as the Dunn Mine, owned by Elmer E. Dunn, and the Percival Mine, owned by Jim Wellman and Jack Harris (*ibid.*). The Percival Mine was later taken over by members of the Charleboix family (Saul et al. 1968). Two members of the Charleboix family were working the mine when I was going to college and in the early 1960s they let me collect long fiber asbestos samples from their mine to sell to collectors as a way of getting money for text books.

One of the asbestos mines was operated by Mr. Elmer E. Dunn, a prospector, family friend, and neighbor here at Pinyon in the 1940s and 50s. While he held numerous claims in the area, as far as I know he only had the one mining operation. We made several trips with him over to the mine and to other of his prospects to help out with assessment work, but never were involved in any of his mining operations. The mine was a shallow open pit operation and the ore was shipped to the Los Angeles area for use in making tile and roofing paper (E. E. Dunn, personal communiqué). Some of this asbestos may have made its way into plastering operations, as my wife Terry's grandfather was a plasterer and he told me that he would often add asbestos to the plaster to make it trowel easier. He obtained it from a company in Los Angeles where it was supplied to him in 25 pound tubs.

Since asbestos has been added to the hazardous materials list by the EPA, these old mines have become a thorn in the side of the USFS and the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto National Monument.

## BERYLLIUM

Saul et al. (1968) shows a beryllium mine, the Santa Rosa Claim, to be located in section 19, T7S, R5E. However, no additional information on this claim / mine has been found.

## GOLD

Calzia et al (1988:Plate 1) shows the Oro Vista mine in section 28, T7S, R5E, to have been for gold. However, no additional information on this claim / mine has been found.

## LIMESTONE (DOLOMITIC MARBLE)

The mining of dolomite (limestone) was active during the early to middle 1950s. It boomed along with the development boom in the Palm Desert area. The rock was mined, crushed, sieved, and bagged for transport down the hill where it was used as roofing on the flat topped houses being built down there. Almost every flat roofed home down there had a white dolomite roof. When the Palm Desert building boom went bust, the mine closed down.

The first mining took place in sections 6 and 8, T7S, R5E and these quarries can still be seen today from Highway 74 over west of Pinyon Pines. When better rock was found over in section 11, T7S, R5E, all mining operations were moved over there. These quarries can be seen today down in Deep Canyon, south-southeast of the Sugarloaf Cafe.

I remember one cold, snowy day when we went down to Nightingale's Cafe for lunch. While we were there a group of frozen miners from the dolomite mine came in to warm up. All but one of them ordered hot

coffee and sat down at a table, the one had a cold beer. The beer drinker took a real razzing from the other miners the whole time he sat with his feet up by the wood stove and drinking a cold beer.

## TUNGSTEN

Robinson and Risher (1993:84) report that the Garnet Queen Mine was developed as a tungsten deposit by a Mr. Ellsworth Patrick Steward in 1897. Wright (1946:13) shows the Garnet Queen Mine to be in section 20, T7S, R5E and to have been developed by a vertical shaft about 150 feet deep and an adit stared into the hill at about the 100 foot level that was intended to intersect the shaft. The shaft and adit have since been blasted shut by the USFS to prevent accidents to the public at large.

Calzia et al. (1988:Plate 1) shows the Pigeon Creek mine in section 14, T 7S, R5E to have been for tungsten. As a kid, our family would occasionally go up there to collect garnets. This was basically just a prospect as there were no large workings that would indicate actual mining on a large scale and no apparent mill site. On a flat area up on the hill above the mine was a scattering of old cans and bottles from the old mining camp. There was a trail from the camp area into Pigeon Creek where water could be obtained from a spring.

There was another prospect for tungsten in section 27, T 7 S, R5E, just off the Santa Rosa Truck Trail and below Steve Ragsdale's old log cabin. This was another area that we used to collect garnets and some clinzoisite crystals as well. This prospect is probably the unnamed prospects shown by Calzia et al. (1988:Plate 1) to be in section 27.



Photo by John Fraim

## BUSINESS MEMBERS

The following local businesses have supported the Society by taking out a membership. We encourage you to patronize them throughout the year. Be sure to mention that you know they are Historical Society members/supporters.

### EXPRESS FRAME

44489 Town Center Way, Ste A,  
760.773.9228

### HIDDEN HARVEST

87711 Peter Rabbit Lane, Coachella,  
760.398.8183

### FRESH AGAVE MEXICAN BAR & GRILL

73325 Hwy 111, 760.836.9028

### MANAGEMENT ESSENTIALS

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### STEWART FINE ART

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**These businesses support us so let's support them.**

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[www.hiddenharvest.org](http://www.hiddenharvest.org)

# Fall Yard Sale

## November 15 & 16, Saturday and Sunday

Adele Sandman and her team of hard working ladies, which includes the honorary lady Harry Quinn (Harry has been there every day schlepping everything for them), have been working hard all summer getting items separated and priced for this coming fall yard sale. As you will recall we had so much good stuff that we had to have a pre-sale this spring which went very well. If you have anything to add to the sale give Anne a call at 760.346.6588. If you want to help out, and help is never turned down, give a call to Anne at 760.346.6588 to get your name on the 'good help' list. This is the SOCIAL EVENT of the YEAR. If you need a pick-up of materials, Hal and Harry have their pick-ups ready to go.



## More Things Happening

Check out our web site [www.hspd.org](http://www.hspd.org) for more activities. Coming this fall are the Friday Night Lectures (the fourth Friday of the month), our fall meeting and luncheon for the members (tentative date: Thursday, October 23) and some new displays being put together by Harry Quinn.

Historical Society of Palm Desert  
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