



# The Hourglass

Editor: Bob Tyler

Fall 2017

## Museum Fall Opening Reception Saturday, October 7 from 11 AM to 1 PM

### Purple Hills Estates - South Palm Desert Housing Development in the early 1960's By Merilee Colton

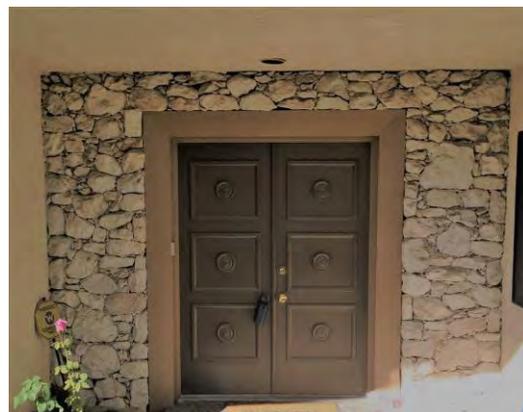
*This article is the third in a three-part series about the Purple Hills Estates homes that were constructed in South Palm Desert in the early-mid 1960s. This series features short biographies about the developer, the builder and the architect. The Winter edition of The Hourglass featured the developer, J.C. Dunas. The Summer edition featured the builder, R. Torrey Spannagel. This article features the architect, Charles E. Du Bois. Research on the Purple Hills Estates homes is a work in progress and anyone with additional information is urged to contact the author through the Historical Society.*

Unlike most of the homes built in South Palm Desert in the 1950s and 1960s, the Purple Hills Estates homes were “tract” homes, albeit designed with a custom look. They came in several façades, and many are similar to homes seen in Las Palmas Summit in Palm Springs. The model home was at 72792 Bursera, and it still boasts its original doors with the iconic stone surround typical of Du Bois here and in the San Fernando Valley.

#### The Architect

Charles Elwin Du Bois (pronounced boyz) was born in upstate New York in 1903 (d 1996). He and his older sister Gertrude were raised by an uncle in Glendale, California. Charles graduated from Glendale High School in 1921 and attended UCLA for a year. He then attended MIT intermittently from 1922 – 1930.

Traveling between coasts and working at different architectural firms throughout the 1920s, Charles Du Bois was a draftsman at Walker & Eisen (1923-1931), at Gogerty & Weyl (1926-1929), and at Horatio W. Bishop (1929). Each of these firms was responsible for notable architecture in Los Angeles and around Southern California at the time. Each firm experimented with different architectural styles and many of their buildings have since been designated historic landmarks. Some of the design styles Du Bois would have been exposed to in his



early career are Spanish Baroque, Spanish Colonial, Mediterranean Revival, Art Deco, Moderne and Beaux Arts.

Walker & Eisen built the El Mirador Hotel in Palm Springs in 1927-1928, and it is tempting to speculate that Charles Du Bois may have visited the desert then. Another desert connection: Hank Gogerty of Gogerty and Weyl built the Desert Air Airpark and Hotel after WWII in what is now Rancho Mirage, near the ranch Gogerty purchased in the 1930s.

Charles E. Du Bois passed the California and national exams in the 1930s and started his own firm in 1938. During WWII, when housing construction slowed, he worked as a Senior Set Designer for MGM at the same time as Torrey Spannagel, although it is not known if they met at that time. Charles Du Bois was an A.I.A. member from 1946-1982, when he resigned his membership to care for his wife, who had cancer.

In the 1950s Charles Du Bois lived in Encino with his family and was employed by various developers including J.C. Dunas, as the post-WWII housing boom accelerated throughout Southern California and especially in the San Fernando Valley. Drawing on his varied drafting experience, he was a versatile designer of homes from storybook to traditional ranch to mid-century modern, and was much in demand. A partial list of his work includes: Hollywood Riviera Estates and Palos Verdes Riviera Beach Estates (Torrance); Fairwood Estates (Granada Hills); Compton Estates; Santa Anita Estates (East Pasadena); and Woodland West (Woodland Hills).



Swiss Miss Photo by Jim Riche

In Palm Springs Du Bois designed houses in Vista Las Palmas for the Alexander Company including the iconic “Swiss Miss” houses; in Las Palmas Summit for J.C. Dunas, an Alexander partner; and in Canyon Estates for Roy Fey. In Palm Desert, he designed the Purple Hills Estates for Dunas. Much later in his career, Du Bois and his son Charles Robert (Bobby) Du Bois designed large custom homes in Los Angeles for, among others, Michael Jackson and Van Halen.

J.C. Dunas purchased several dozen lots in Palm Desert in the early 1960s and asked Du Bois to design custom-style homes to be known as the Purple Hills Estates. 20 were built and sold quickly; a total of 47 have been identified to date.

The exteriors vary in style from desert ranch to French Second Empire and Greek Revival to mid-century modern. All have walls of glass, high or vaulted ceilings and interiors designed for indoor-outdoor living focused on the over-sized swimming pools in the back yards. Most have wrap-around hill and mountain views. Marketed as luxury



homes, complete with his-and-her master baths with spa tubs, they were popular with new home owners but not so much with the Palm Desert Improvement Association, which had planned to develop South Palm Desert exclusively with custom homes and avoid any semblance of “tract” housing.



*Fontainebleau*



Charles Du Bois almost disappeared from history until a few interested homeowners in Woodland West and Palm Desert began to research him.

He is known to insiders such as Donald Wexler’s nephew Jason Groman, who cited Du Bois as one

of the “Big Seven” architects working in Palm Springs in the 1950s and 1960s, but to the average person interested in mid-century modern architecture he remains virtually unknown. For many years it was not commonly known that he designed the Swiss Miss houses.



We hope to bring more attention to his work with this article and by encouraging new Du Bois enthusiasts.



*Parthenon*

For more on Du Bois see:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Charles.DuBois.MCM.Homes/>

[https://www.instagram.com/charles\\_dubois\\_mcm\\_homes/](https://www.instagram.com/charles_dubois_mcm_homes/)



Sources: California Digital Newspaper Collection; *Desert Sun* 7/5/2014; City of Palm Springs Citywide Historic Context Statement pp 179-203; AIA Southern California Chapter; KCRW interview with Jason Groman 2/19/13; *Dwell* 3/24/09; [laconservancy.org](http://laconservancy.org); [eichlernetnetwork.com](http://eichlernetnetwork.com); *conversations*, Ryan Harris and Danny Du Bois, 2017. Purple Hills Estates photos courtesy of Kelley Bachli.

## My recent interview with Coachella Valley Pioneer and PDHS Board Member Louise Neeley

By Bob Tyler

Louise - The date palms in the picture had wooden platforms around them, these palm trees were about twenty years old, and the platforms had to be changed about every three years as the palms grew taller. The history of the date industry is really a good history for our valley, particularly how the industry started and has progressed, and what it has become today. The way dates were harvested has changed so much, today they use cherry pickers and they let the dates dry out completely, and then they take them to the packing sheds in large crates. But today we don't have the quality of the dates that we had in my time, because they use to be handpicked. I grew up at Point Happy Ranch which was a date garden with eighty acres of date palms under cultivation, and my family lived and worked on the ranch.



Bob – We mainly want to hear about you and your immediate family.

Louise – My life has been so intertwined with family that I have to include them in the story of the ranch.

Bob – What was your name when you were born?

Louise – My name was Louise Rodarte, but my middle name came later. At confirmation, we were allowed to choose a name, so I chose Mary, and so my married name is Louise Mary Neeley, and my initials are “LMN,” but my maiden name is Rodarte. I was born June 21<sup>st</sup> of 1925, at Point Happy Ranch. My grandmother was a midwife, and so she delivered me, her name was Tomasa Hernandez. My grandmother had quite a story, her mother’s name was “Rafaela”, and I called her “Little Grandma,” because she was very petite. She had been a midwife in Mexico, and she also knew a great deal about herbs, and herbal medicines, and so she had been the doctor for her community there. My grandmother had learned many of those things from Rafaela, and so she delivered me and she also delivered my sister Polly as well as my cousins Simon and Joe Rodarte who also lived on the ranch.

Bob - What were your parent's names?

My mother's maiden name was Juanita Hernandez, her first marriage was to a man named Herman Granados, but mother was a young widow, she had lost Herman right after the First World War in an epidemic of influenza, she had also lost her two daughters in that same epidemic. That happened in Summertown, Arizona; there was a tremendous number of people who died in that epidemic, but of course they didn't have the medications that we have today. My father's name was Teofilo Rodarte,

and he was a widower, he had lost his wife and had two children, Sam and Mary Rodarte. When he first met my mother, she had five siblings who all lived at Point Happy Ranch, they all had the opportunity to live at that beautiful ranch. Both my parents came here from Mexico, here is the story about how Tomasa, my grandmother, and my mother came across the border. My mother's father was Cipriano, he had a successful business in Mexico and was able to support his family well. Cipriano owned a dairy and so he sold milk, and he also had a business of selling coal, he would use his mules and go dig the coal out of the ground which he sold. My great-grandmother Rafaela had come to the United States earlier because of the many political revolutions that were going on in Mexico, and so she ended up in Douglas, Arizona with her sons. She had brought them there because she didn't want her boys involved with all the political upheavals in Mexico. But then my grandmother Tomasa missed her mother very much, so she convinced her husband Cipriano to move to the US, and so they left their business in Mexico and came here legally. My grandmother had two daughters, my mother Juanita and Francis both came, and the story is that they had to pay six cents to come across the border into Arizona. Then later my grandparents moved to Colorado because Cipriano got a job with the railroad there when they were laying the tracks through the mountains. At that time, my grandparents lived in a tent and it was very cold, and they didn't have the heavy clothing that they needed, and so my grandfather caught pneumonia. They then had to return to Douglas, Arizona, where it was warmer and Rafaela could take care of them.

Bob – How did your mother come to live at Point Happy?

Louise – My mother Juanita had an interesting life, my uncle Fabian Granados, the brother of Juanita's first husband, had come to La Quinta and had told her that there was lots of work here in the desert. Fabian worked for Mr. Morgan who was building the La Quinta Hotel, and was in charge of landscaping, and was planting date palms, grapes and other plants around the hotel. Fabian was very enterprising and spoke both Spanish and English very well, so he also worked as a sheriff's deputy here in the desert. Fabian was married, his wife was named Francis, and they had three boys, Jesse, Joe and Fabian Jr., as well as a daughter Mary. When Mary was a young girl she worked for Mrs. Clarke at the ranch. Fabian's wife died of tuberculosis, so he was a widower too. When my mother came here she did housekeeping, cooking, farm work, and any work that she could find. Since she lived in Indio, she had to find rides to get out to La Quinta every day. She worked for Norman "Happy" Lundbeck who had homesteaded the property near the corner of Highway 111 and Washington, where the present Vons shopping center is located, right where the road is cut through the mountain. Mr. Lundbeck lived there and planted date palms, and actually it was also a water stop for the stage coach. At the time when Mr. Lundbeck homesteaded the property, the road was not cut through the mountain, and so you had to go out around to the edge of the Whitewater Wash, which was the storm drain, and so the old road constantly washed out. I can remember them dynamiting that slot through the mountain so they could build a new road there.

Life was difficult for my mother, but she supported herself and her family, and education was always a priority to her. One morning when she was working for Mr. Lundbeck, who had planted a crop of string beans, and my mother was sorting and packing them, Chauncey Clarke drove up. Mr. Clarke had been visiting Mr. Morgan at the La Quinta Hotel, and introduced himself to Mr. Lundbeck. He asked him if he'd like to sell his property, and Mr. Lundbeck replied that he would if the price was right. So, then they negotiated back and forth for a while, my mother was listening to the conversation, and they finally agreed on a price, and then Mr. Clarke turned to my mother and asked her; *"Would you like to live out here on the ranch until we can build you a house?"* And my mother replied *"Yes!"* She knew that there was a small school at Indian Wells, it was just a one-story schoolhouse but the children could go to

school there. So, then my mother lived at the ranch in a tent for about two years, until Mr. Clarke built her a house. The Clarkes also built a second house for a ranch foreman. They built a two-story house for themselves and lived there at first, but then later it became their guest house. I have a picture of my brother and sister outside the two-story house, it was a very beautiful house with large rooms and a patio, and lots of guests got to stay there. Later it became the house where the Burkett family lived.

My mother met my father, who was a widower, when they were both living in Indio. At that time, she lived in the "barrio" in Indio, which was located along Towne Street near Highway 111, my grandmother had a little house that she rented, and my dad's mother Maria lived near there too. Maria had a restaurant, and I remember being lifted up to sit on one the stools at her little café, but then my mother got to move out to the ranch until her house was built. Mrs. Marie Clarke had told my mother that they were looking for a ranch foreman, and so she told Teofilo that he should go talk to Mrs. Clarke and apply for the foreman's job. At that time Teofilo and my mother were just friends, but he went to see Mrs. Clarke, and she hired him right away, and so my father became the foreman and he did a great deal to develop Point Happy Ranch. There were a few date palms already there, but then my father got his brother Joe to come to work there, and they planted many more palms as well as irrigating, cultivating and harvesting the dates. There were four fulltime workers who lived on the ranch, or in Indio, my father, my uncle Joe, and also my uncle Marion Hernandez who did electrical work and who was an excellent mechanic. There was also a man who took care of Mr. Clarke's horses.

Bob - Do you know what business Mr. Clarke was in?

Louise – Chauncey Clarke's family had been in the liquor business and owned a distillery back east somewhere, but he himself was a mining engineer. He had mines in Arizona, I believe he had a gold and silver mine there, that's where he met his wife Marie Rankin. I think Mr. Clarke was about twenty years older than his wife. The story was that Mrs. Clarke, who was quite a good horsewoman, was the one who actually transported the gold from the mines, people never thought that a young woman out horseback riding would be carrying sacks of gold with her. The Clarkes had Arabian horses at the ranch too, Mr. Burkett was a carpenter and he had built the stables for Mr. Clarke's horses. Mr. Clarke also had two large garages built that housed their Rolls Royce's and he hired a full-time chauffer who drove and maintained the two cars. One of the cars was a limousine and the other was a smaller car, but they were both Rolls Royce's. I wish I could remember the chauffer's name, he lived in Indio and had a wife and children, but all I can remember was that they called him "Del."

The first large houses that were built on the ranch were very well constructed, they were wood framed houses, and were of the highest quality construction. One of the buildings was the maid's quarters, it was two stories with a large laundry room in the cellar, and there were two rooms upstairs for the maids; each maid had her own room and bath. One of the maids was a housekeeper and there were also cooks who worked during the months that the Clarkes were there, and the Clarke's entertained lots of guests. I remember that Mrs. Clarke had a very large pantry in her house, it was larger than the living room in my house, and had many cupboards and a large sink. She had many different sets of dishes, if she gave a Mexican dinner she had dishes for that, if she gave a Chinese dinner she had dishes for that, she also had fine crystal with the linen table cloths to go with the fine china, she was entertaining guests all the time. The Clarkes were only at the house during the winter months, during the summertime Mrs. Clarke did a lot of traveling, she had a house on the beach in Orange County and there was a Japanese family who were the caretakers of the beach house, and then she also had a house up in Idyllwild.

My mother was the housekeeper, she used the large laundry room, and I remember that there were often many guests, and my mother changed their linens every day. We didn't have a telephone there, but somehow mother always knew when Mrs. Clarke and her guests were going to arrive, so she could have everything ready for them. I think Mrs. Clarke sent my mother a telegram to let her know all the details. I remember going to the guest house and the big house when my mother would clean. My dad earned \$100.00 a month, there were no utilities to pay, no rent to pay, so the money was his, and my uncle Joe was paid the same amount. My mother would also get \$100.00 a month, so we lived very well and we had a good car.

Bob – Did you go to Coachella Valley High School?

Louise – I went to high school at a Catholic girls' boarding school at the San Luis Rey Mission near Oceanside. I was 13 years old and ready to go to high school, but my dad said that CV High was too far for me to go by bus, and so my mother talked to Mrs. Clarke about it. My father was a Spaniard, and he thought that his daughter should have a "*Dueña*" or chaperone, and that was in his mind, and he was concerned that I was a young lady and I had to have a chaperone. So, my mother went to Mrs. Clarke and told her that Teofilo doesn't want Louise to go to high school because it's just too far away. So, Mrs. Clarke told her "*Jenny, you go find a Catholic boarding school and I'll take care of it.*" I remember it so well, we drove to San Bernardino, because there was a parochial school there, but it was just a day school. So then, they sent us down to San Diego where there was a girls' boarding school, and the nuns told us "*You know there's a girls' school that's a little closer to you, it's the San Luis Rey Girls Academy by the mission.*" So, we went there and I was enrolled. It was located near Oceanside next to the old mission, and we would walk there every day for Mass, and so I did that for four years. But I still had my friends down here in the desert, the Pippen boys, the Whittlesey boys, the Corona's, my brothers and cousins all graduated from Coachella Valley High School, and I kept in touch with many of the kids I knew from Roosevelt Elementary School in Indio. But three of us girls; myself, Josephine and Polly, all graduated from the San Luis Rey Girls Academy. Nevertheless, I've always kept in touch with my friends and family.

Bob – Can you tell us where you met your husband Charles Neeley?

Louise – My father Teofilo Rodarte died in August of 1943 of a heart attack, when he was 54 years old, and so I had to come home. I was going to nursing school at Mercy Hospital in San Diego, studying to become a nurse, and I had just started there. When I got back to the desert I went to work at Coachella Valley Hospital in Indio as a nurse's aide. That's where I got to know Dr. Wilkins and Dr. Pawley who were the MD's who ran the hospital, and so I worked there for a couple of years and became an LVN. Part of my job was to instruct the new nurses' aides coming in on how the rooms were to be cleaned before the next patient arrived, so I did well there, and I got raises quite often. But I still lived out at Point Happy and I would drive to Indio every day. My godmother Margaret worked for the farm labor camp out on Van Buren Street, she was the bookkeeper there, and Charles Neeley was the manager. Margaret told me that he was looking for a clerk typist and she knew I could type, so she asked me if I was interested in the job. I went for an interview and I got the job, and that's how I met Charles. When I worked for Charles at the farm labor camp I decided that he'd make a good husband, and I soon forgot about all my other boyfriends.

When I was dating other boys, my mother always chaperoned me, and since we lived on the ranch there weren't very many boys around, but I met a nice young man who was stationed at the Thermal Air Base, we met at the hospital, and since I was driving and I had a car, I ended up taking him to the Air

Base in Thermal, and then he came by the ranch to visit me, and my mother liked him, but she always chaperoned me. One time we drove to Palm Springs to have dinner and see a movie, and my mother went with us, we all had a very nice time, and later she let us go out on a date by ourselves. The young men didn't seem to mind and I didn't know any different. With my husband Charles, it wasn't really love at first sight, he was nine years older than I, but I respected him and I liked him, and I liked the way he managed the farm labor camp. They had separate groups of people, but Charles treated them all alike. He kept the people from Texas separate from people from other parts of the south, different groups were kept separately in their own unit so they felt comfortable together, and because if they didn't there would be problems. If there were problems, such as gambling or fights, what I saw was that Charles treated them all alike. He commanded respect from the tenants, and he got respect from them because of the way he treated the people. If the sheriff had to be called they were in trouble for not obeying the rules. Charles was respected because he treated everyone at the camp fairly, and they knew he meant business.



Charles and I were married for 54 years before he passed away. We got married in Yuma Arizona in December of 1945, and we had our honeymoon in Julian, which is a nice little town up in the mountains and they grow a lot of apples there. At that time, there were lots of soldiers who were getting out of the military, and many places were still crowded. Later Charles went to work for radio station KREO in Indio where he wrote radio advertisements, he was good at writing quick copy, and so if they needed an advertisement, Charles could put one together right away. Later, Charles got a job with a radio station in Twin Falls Idaho, and so we moved up there. My son is also named Charles

and was born in Oregon in 1948, and I'm very pleased to say that Charles Jr. has many of his father's traits, he's a teacher and has two masters' degrees. Chuck just loves his job, he's so fortunate to work at something that he really enjoys. I've had a blessed life.

### **Walter S. White, Architect - Miles Bates House**

Walter S. White was an experimental architect who built over 50 structures in the Coachella Valley, mostly in Palm Desert, in the mid-1950's-early 1960's. He is especially known for his original roof designs and corner windows. In June, the HSPD conducted a successful fundraising campaign, "Save *The Wave*," to support the nomination of the Walter S. White - Miles C. Bates house on Santa Rosa Way to national historic designation/landmark status. The nomination application was sent to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in Sacramento recently. After a review period, the SHPO will forward the nomination to the federal level for review and approval. The consultant preparing the nomination has prepared many successful national designation applications in the past, including for a Walter S. White house in Palm Springs in 2015.

The house is an asset of the city's defunct Redevelopment Agency and must be sold by June 30, 2018 or it will be taken over by the county and sold at auction. The land is more valuable than the structure and the house is in danger of being destroyed should an investor purchase it and build apartments. The

city would like to ensure the house is purchased by someone who would restore it to its former glory, and hopes that such a person will come forward. The HSPD shares this desire.

**Upcoming:** The city and the HSPD are working with Modernism Week to link two events at and about the Bates house to Modernism Week Preview in late October, to try and reach a wide audience interested in mid-century modern architecture. One event will be a lecture by Professor Volker M. Welter of the UC Santa Barbara Department of Art, Design and Architecture, which will take place from 1-2 p.m. at the Joslyn Center theater on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. Professor Welter's research in the Historical Society's archives and the book he subsequently wrote brought attention to Walter S. White's work. Tickets are free and can be obtained at the Modernism Week website beginning September 1<sup>st</sup>. The other event is an Open House at the Bates house, 73697 Santa Rosa Way in Palm Desert, from 12-3 on both Saturday and Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Several Board members will be there as docents. You will be able to view the inside of the house, which has been closed to public viewing for many years. This is a drop-in event, no tickets required, so please join us and come see this unique building.



Photo courtesy of the Art, Design and Architecture Museum, UC Santa Barbara

#### **PRESIDENTS LETTER NUMBER 4**

This is my fourth Presidents Letter since taking office. I have now completed more than a year as HSPD president and I must say it has been quite a year. With the state, county, and Matson house issues, it has been a very interesting adventure over the past twelve months to say the least. Thanks to Merilee and Susan Marie it appears that these issues are taken care of, or at least in check. I can

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*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.*

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only hope that things have been working well for everyone, especially those on the board, and that the next year will be smoother.

We are now officially out from under the Matson House. We owe Donna Matson a great debt of gratitude for her generous gift. We now need to make very good use of that money as it is not a forever thing. We need to treat it with care and compassion and not waste it. I want to personally thank Merilee Colton and Susan Marie Weber for all they did in getting this house issue taken care of. Special thanks also go to HSPD member Mr. Bill Waring for his help in handling the sale of the house and very special thanks for the services he donated to us. I also want to thank all those who worked on the Estate Sale at the house before it was sold. Everyone did a great job!

We have successfully completed our first year of coordinating our lecture series with the Friends of the Desert Mountains. Last season's lectures were a great success with interesting subjects, talented speakers, and donations for both parties. We owe a great deal of thanks to the speakers who presented these lectures, which include Sandra Craig, Michael Mirelez, Judy Stapp, Daniel McCarthy, Tony Soares and myself. We might consider partnering with the Friends of the Desert Mountains again next year, but that will be up to the new Lecture Coordinator, Sid Burks.

We have also completed our first Symposium partnering with the Coachella Valley Archaeological Society. This Archaeological-Historical Symposium drew a very nice crowd and I think we should consider doing another joint symposium with them next year. We had nearly a full house and our opening blessing was conducted by Ernest Siva. The blessing was followed by four speakers, Steve Freers, Tiffany Arend, Dr. Barbara Roth, and Sid Burks.

On Friday July 14<sup>th</sup>, we completed a very successful Midsummer Pot Luck. Thanks to a great attendance and the work of Louise Neeley and her crew, everyone had a good time. The members attending really went all out as we had enough food to supply a small Army. I want to personally thank Rob Pitchford and his group of Boy Scouts for all their help. They were great at setting up and taking down the tables and chairs, helping with other chores, and did a fantastic job of presenting our flag.

I also need to send a special thanks to Nerl Porras and the Palm Desert Country Club for allowing us to hold our Pot Luck at the club facility. It is very nice of them to help us out with our summer event.

I also want to thank and honor the present and past Palm Desert City Council Members who were in attendance. Without their help and support the HSPD would probably not exist today. It was nice to see several of them there.

I also want to thank Dick Folkers and Larry Krikorian for handling the opportunity drawing of donated prizes. I also need to thank all those who donated the prizes for that drawing. All in all, I think we had a very successful summer event and I thank all of you who worked on it and all of you who attended.

As your president, I must apologize for not being such a good politician. However, when I look at Sacramento and Washington, D.C., I find myself not being much interested in becoming a good politician.

We have faced a very interesting summer with lots of needed work and not many people to do all the work. We still have lots of Yard Sale work that needs to be done, and there's much that is in progress by our Yard Sale team headed by Adele Sandman. The work is progressing nicely and they have not fallen behind.

We have a plan for the summer room and exhibit changes submitted by Sid Burks, and as of now have found ourselves at least two weeks behind. If we are going to be prepared for our October 6<sup>th</sup> opening, we still have a lot to do. I want to thank Rob Pitchford and some of his Boy Scouts for offering to help us with some of these summer changes, but they only have weekend time available.

While progress has been slow, we are making some headway. The main exhibit room has been somewhat cleared and painted, as well as the new computer room for Brett. These rooms have had the electrical systems and lighting redone so that they can hopefully perform as needed. The side wall has been removed in the Founders' room and the painting and electrical changes are complete. The new exhibit walls have arrived and are being put up. New exhibit pictures are being chosen and they will need to be printed soon. We are making good headway and hopefully will be up and running by opening day. I hope to see many members at our opening weekend, October 6th-9th.

We have completed the first year partnering with the Friends of the Desert Mountain on our Friday Night Lecture Series. We look forward to working together with them for many more years. We also partnered with the Coachella Valley Archaeological Society this year hosting the first combined symposium on the archeology and history of the desert.

Harry M. Quinn

## **HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT AND THE FRIENDS OF THE DESERT MOUNTAINS**

### **2017-2018 LECTURE SERIES**

This six event lecture series will be a joint effort between HSPD and FDM and will be used as both an Informational and Docent Training Series. The lectures are held at Palm Desert Community Center, 45-480 Portola Avenue, Palm Desert (N/E corner of Portola and Shadow Mountain Drive) at 7:00 PM. Coffee and cookies are served, with a recommended donation of \$5. For additional information call the Historical Society at (760) 346-6588. A slide show of historic photos will be showing between 6:00 and 7:00 PM. This event is open to the public.

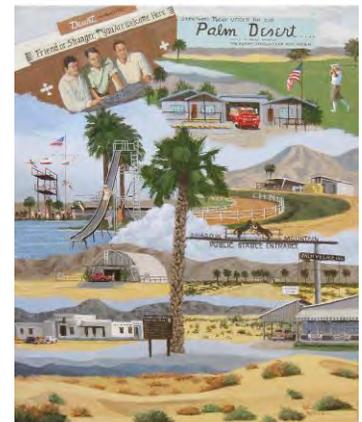
The first lecture will feature Michael Ables, Executive Director of the Patton Museum.

**Free Notary Public Services**

for members of the Historical Society.  
 Contact the Society at 760.346.6588  
 or stop by to make an appointment.  
 This service is provided by  
*Susan Marie Weber.*

**BIRTH OF A TOWN**  
 Painting by Ron Backer

The Historical Society recently purchased the original of the adjacent painting. We had 25 original copies (20" x 24") of the painting made for resale as a fund-raising activity. There will only be 25 copies and they will all be signed with a certificate of authenticity. The purchasers of the first 10 copies will have their names on a plaque associated with original which will hang in the museum. The purchase/donation price is only \$250. We will have the picture on display the museum and all other activities until the 25 copies are sold.



**PALM DESERT'S ORIGINAL PLOT PLAN**



Copies of the original Palm Desert plot plan with updated overlays are available at the museum for \$40. These reproductions are 23" by 28". This is the plan as originally drawn by Tommy Tomson and then updated with additions showing, for example, the fire station added in 1951, as well as the names of the original property owners.

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS FY18**

Date	Event
September 19	Board Meeting 9:30 AM
September 21	Indian Wells City Hall Fire Prevention Month Declaration Ceremony 1:30 PM
September 28	Palm Desert City Hall Fire Prevention Month Declaration Ceremony 4 PM
October 3	Mini Muster at Abraham Lincoln
October 5	Mini Muster at Gerald Ford
October 6	Opening Day
October 7	Opening Day Reception 11-1
October 10	Mini Muster at George Washington
October 12	Mini Muster at Ronald Reagan
October 17	Board Meeting 9:30 AM
October 17	Mini Muster at James Carter
October 19-21	Modernism Week Preview – Walking Tour of South Palm Desert/Shadow Mountain 9:30-noon
October 21	Modernism Week Preview - Bates House Lecture by Volker M. Welter at the Joslyn Center 1-2:30
October 21, 22	Modernism Week Preview - Open House at the Bates House 12-3
October 27	Friday Night Lecture - Portola Community Center 6-8 PM - Michael Ables, Executive Director, Patton Museum
October 29	Golf Cart Parade with Fire Truck 1 PM
November 11-17	Yard Sale Prep
November 17	Friday Night Lecture - Portola Community Center (early re: Thanksgiving)
November 18, 19	Yard Sale Fundraiser
November 21	Board Meeting 9:30 AM
December 5	Fall Luncheon and Member Meeting, Mitch's on El Paseo 11:30 AM
December 19, 2017	Board Meeting 9:30 AM
January 12-15, 2018	Desert Arc Art Show and Sale (tent.) 10-3

Date	Event
January 16	Board Meeting 9:30 AM
January 26	Friday Night Lecture - Portola Community Center 6-8 PM
February 10	Blast to the Past fundraiser dinner and dance at Shadow Mountain (tent.)
February 15-25	Modernism Week – Double-Decker Bus Tour of Palm Desert architecture
February 15-25	Modernism Week – Walking Tour of South Palm Desert
February 17	Modernism Week - Bates House Lecture by Volker M. Welter at the UCR-Palm Desert Theater
February 17, 18	Modernism Week - Open House at the Bates House 12-3
February 20	Board Meeting 9:30 AM
February 23	Friday Night Lecture - Portola Community Center 6-8 PM
February 24	Modernism Week - Bates house sold at the Galen (tent. location)
March 2–9	Coachella Valley Watercolor Society Art Show and Sale (tent.) 10-3
March 20	Board Meeting 9:30 AM
March 23	Friday Night Lecture - Portola Community Center 6-8 PM
March 25	Picnic in the Park Fundraiser and member meeting – Civic Center Park 11 AM
April 8	Desert Artists Art Show and Sale - Hilton/Bray (tent.) 10-3
April 17	Board Meeting 9:30 AM
April 21	Appraisal Day Fundraiser (tent.) 10 AM
April 27	Friday Night Lecture - Portola Community Center 6-8 PM
May	Second Grade Tours begin
May 15	Board Meeting 9:30 AM
May 29	Closed for the summer (last day open is May 28, Memorial Day)
June 19	Board Meeting 9:30 AM



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Executive Director

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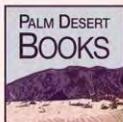
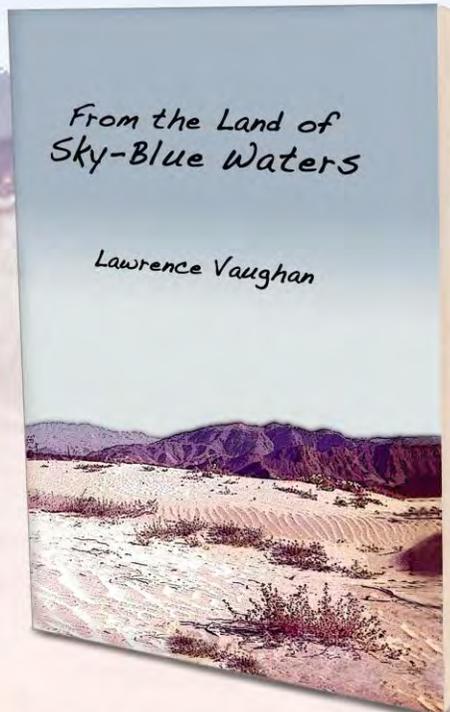
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