



# The Hourglass

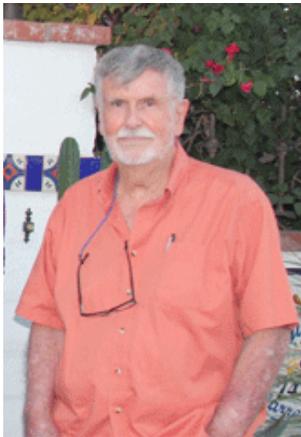
Editor: Bob Tyler

Winter 2018

**We recently lost Bob Pitchford, who was a longtime Palm Desert Architect and enthusiastic HSPD member. This is Bob's Obituary from the Desert Sun Newspaper.**

Longtime desert resident Bob Pitchford left us on Saturday, September 2, 2017, surrounded by his family in Palm Desert. Bob was born in San Marino, California, on February 13, 1928, the fourth child of Garnet and Star Pitchford.

Bob's father was one of our nation's first postcard photographers. In the early 1940's, the Pitchford family built a second home at Lake Arrowhead on Emerald Bay where Bob enjoyed sailing, power boating and waterskiing. A natural talent at waterskiing, Bob formed Lake Arrowhead's first ski club and began competing in local races with great success. He was a two-time winner of the 69-mile Catalina Ski Race, winner of the 100-mile Lake Mead race, and a world record holder in the ski jump. Bob retired from the sport as Pacific Coast Champion with more than 45 trophies.



During the Korean War Bob served in combat as a master sergeant in the California National Guard's 40th Division. After the war, he attended Pasadena City College where he won a coveted Ford Scholarship to Art Center in Los Angeles. There, he specialized in automobile design and graduated with distinction before accepting a design job in Detroit in the Advanced Styling department at Ford Motor Company.

During his college years, Bob met and married Vera Peet, a Jet Propulsion Laboratory tele typist and former Rose Parade princess from La Cañada. Upon Bob's graduation from Art Center in 1955, the newlyweds moved to Detroit and Bob went to work at Ford dreaming up futuristic cars with tailfins and bubble tops. But the two SoCal kids found the harsh Detroit winters unbearable, so they moved back to California in 1957, settling in Rancho Mirage, where Bob's father had recently built the Casbah Motor Inn along with several houses. Bob set his sights on learning the art of building design and accepted a draftsman position for renowned desert architect Jack McCallum. As the desert communities took shape, Bob developed a keen interest in midcentury modern design and set out on his own - opening an office in Palm Desert next to Keedy's in the Patio Shops. He designed a midcentury modern spec house on Fairway Drive in Palm Desert and moved into it with his growing family.

Come celebrate  
Palm Desert's history  
with great music,  
stories and dances  
from each decade on  
Valentine's Weekend!

Palm Desert's

# BLAST FROM THE PAST Party

Saturday,  
February 10, 2018  
5:30 – 8:30 pm



PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

**Admission includes Pizza, Beverage,  
Show, DJ and No Host Bar!**

**Shadow Mountain Golf Club**  
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For more information contact:  
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Register online!\*

**www.palmdesertblast.com**

\$25 per person  
\$40 per couple  
\$10 under age 12

\*Additional \$10 at the door

In the case of inclement weather, this event will be rescheduled.



Over his 60 years in the desert, Bob enjoyed great success as an architect, designing a home theater, bowling alley, bar, and expanded kitchen for Frank Sinatra; a new home for Elliott Roosevelt; a night club for jazz singer and pianist Buddy Greco; several restaurants and commercial buildings; and numerous modern, Spanish and California ranch homes. Bob also served on Palm Desert's Architectural Committee and volunteered for the Palm Desert Historical Society. Bob was loved and admired by all who knew him. A humble man, he rarely spoke of his great athletic and professional accomplishments. He was kind, reserved, quick-witted, deeply sentimental, and deeply devoted to his family.

**These are a collection of interesting stories taken from several informal conversations with Palm Desert Architect Bob Pitchford. These conversations involve the history of Palm Desert and were recorded at the HSPD Museum.**

Henry Bratten was a neighbor of ours in Rancho Mirage, and he had two clients; one was Frank Sinatra and the other was Danny Thomas. Sinatra had no imagination when it came to design, so he wanted to see pictures of everything, and so I had to do a rendering of everything we did. If we remodeled his bedroom, I did a rendering of his bedroom, and since he was into plastic models, I showed a plastic model of the Nautilus Submarine up on the shelf, and so Bratten did a lot of work for Sinatra, and consequently, got to know some of his show-business friends, and then Sinatra finally bought Jimmy Van Heusen's property up at Pinyon Crest.

Somewhere I have plans for Bing Crosby's house in Palm Desert, I think I may have given them to the city, although they have probably lost them by now. The Crosby house had been sold to a fellow named James Brown, but while it was in escrow it burned. The house had been built on big "Y" shaped plan and when it burned, the whole center of the house was destroyed. The house was designed by a fellow in Palm Springs, and so I tried to get a copy of the plans from him, because Brown still owned the house, he wanted to rebuild it. So I drew up a plan to restore Crosby's house, plus the additions that Brown wanted, such as an additional servants' quarters.

Since I couldn't find the original plans, I had to go up there and measure everything, and so I was walking around in all this charcoal trying to reconstruct what had once been there, it was becoming complicated, 'cause it was made up of three segments that came together with glue-lams and steel work, and that sort of thing. Then, after the job was done, after the house was restored, I was going through some things, and I happened to walk through the laundry room, and up on a shelf, there was a set of the original drawings that had been setting there all that time. But I was going around and trying to visualize it and then, I think I gave the original plans to the building and safety department, however I do have the original site plans that are a bit charred, which is charming in a way because of the history of the house. There were three homes built up there in 1956; Pete Pettito's, Bing Crosby's, Jimmy Van Heusen's, and they're still there.



I did a set of preliminary drawings for a guy who wanted to build a house in the Silver Spur 2 ½ acre group near Crosby's and Van Heusen's houses. The guy's name was Mikhail Petricci and he'd been a

Messerschmitt pilot during the war, and he had forty-two kills. He was a good pilot and he had a big ego, but a very interesting guy, he was in the manufacturing business up in Chatsworth. He was also a French Chef, and had attended the Cordon Bleu cooking school in Paris. I went up there to have an interview with him and he fixed lunch for me in a kitchen that he had at his manufacturing plant, he asked for my keys and took my car and filled the tank from a gas pump that he had there, he was an interesting guy. He wanted me to build a very special house for him in that group of houses, and which included an air raid shelter. This was in the late 60's and he was convinced that something was going to happen. But the house was never built, his son disliked me and didn't think I was qualified to build the house because I wasn't a licensed architect at that time.

### **Plane Crash on Fairway Drive in Palm Desert**

Ben Arnold was a cashier at the Bank of America, his older brother was a friend of mine from Pasadena. Ben was the first one on the site when that plane crashed on Fairway Drive in 1959. There was once a plaque on a house there, but now they've taken it down. It was on the corner of Deep Canyon or Panorama, Ben lived just a block away. They were having a Beechcraft show at Desert Air Park, and so it must have been a Beechcraft.

This is an article about the crash from the Desert Sun Newspaper December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1959



**Photo of damaged plane that crash-landed on Rio Del Sol after the midair collision**

**“Investigation into air crash continues today; five killed, two men escape death eyewitnesses tell of collision.**

Investigation still continued today into the crash of two privately-owned planes which collided in mid-air Saturday in Palm Desert killing five persons and injuring two others in what was termed by witnesses as a “startling collision.”

The General Safety Office of the Federal Aviation Agency in Ontario, began immediate investigation into the collision which completely destroyed one of the Beechcraft planes in a residential area not far from heavily-traveled Highway 111. Deputy Coroner Robert Drake listed the victims as; Ira C. McElhaney, in his 40s, of 1434 South Van Ness Street, Santa Ana, and his wife, Emma Belle McElhaney, 42. Doris Evelyn Buday, 3 years old, of 1515 West 12th Street. Santa Ana, a niece of the McElhaney's. Harold Schonberg, age unknown, of South Orange, New Jersey. Thomas Ray Patton. 33, of 11962 Hatteras Street, North Hollywood.

Treated and released from Desert Hospital was Richard La Blond of West Covina, who miraculously escaped unhurt, George Nottingham, age unknown, of Pacoima was hospitalized but released Sunday. The wreckage from the planes was strewn over a half-mile wide area as the first one, a two - engine plane, hit in a residential section of Palm Desert and the other landed just off Rio Del Sol Road about three miles from Ramon Road, near Avenue 38. The crash knocked down wires between telephone poles and narrowly missed a house near Juniper Street.

Both of the planes took off from Desert Air Park, although Federal Aviation Agency officials reported that no information is available on the planes' flight patterns. An eye-Witness account of the collision was given to The Desert Sun by William Tevis, who was playing polo at the Eldorado Country Club Polo Grounds. Tevis said that the planes were not near the polo grounds, they were about a half-mile away when the polo teams had just finished and were between periods. Tevis, who owns a Bonanza himself and who flies down from Oakland each weekend for the polo matches, said that from the grounds the players could see the planes and it looked as if the single-engine plane was going into the sun, which was sinking behind a mountain at the time. The polo player said that it looked as if it hit the back end of the two - engine plane and sheared off the tail. Later, Tevis said, pieces of the planes were seen floating in the air and two boys went out to retrieve them in the residential sections. He said that the account he gave was agreed upon by others, including polo players Lisle Nixon and Bob Smith. “The pilot was flying into the sun, and in all probability the other plane might have come from behind and he raised his plane up and struck the tail.” “It’s something that would only happen once in a billion times.”

The collision occurred at approximately 3:20 PM when the single engine plane piloted by Nottingham collided with a two-engine craft piloted by Patton. The single-engine plane made a crash-landing on Rio Del Sol Road where Thomas B. Summers, who was working on a movie set, said he and others saw the plane land and rushed over to it. Summers and the others said they saw the plane in the air and that it was obvious the pilot of the craft was having difficulty controlling it as smoke was streaming from it, sheriff’s deputies reported.

Summers took the passengers from the plane to Desert Hospital. The pilot had an extremely bad cut on his arm, but the passenger seemed all right.

The passenger was La Blond. La Blond told Mr. Summers that they were flying above the Palm Desert area when something seemed to hit the plane from above, causing the top of the cockpit and Plexiglas windshield to break. Several spectators said that pieces of the plane had fallen into their yards. Law enforcement agencies, ambulances and fire trucks were hampered at the scenes of crash by curious onlookers who milled around slowing efforts of officials and volunteer helpers. The owner of both planes is Norman Larson of 723 Havenhurst, Van Nuys. More than a dozen of the Beechcraft planes had been brought to Desert Air Park in Palm Desert and were on display there for the past weekend.

All of the dead were passengers in the Patton-piloted plane. Besides the cockpit of Nottingham's plane, the butterfly tail assembly was also damaged, and the right-wing tip was missing. Tom Carter of 74-470 Pepper Grass St. in Palm Desert, gave an eyewitness account on the damaged plane, stating that it spiraled in the air about 1,000 feet up and looked as if there was an explosion. "And then it came down through the power lines" Carter said. Coroner Drake said that there possibly might not be an inquest since the FAA is investigating the crash. He added, however, that there might be a hearing later on.

Firemen at the crash from the Palm Desert Volunteer Fire Department were called to pull bodies from the wreckage and deemed the crash one of the worst they'd ever seen, although neither of the planes burned. The McElhaney's had gone up in the plane for a demonstration of the twin-engine job when the collision occurred over the Shadow Hills section. The FAA is expected to quiz the two survivors sometime later this week."

### **A Brief History of the Foundation for the Retarded aka Desert Arc**

Many years ago, Cliff Henderson gave some property on Portola to the Presbyterian Church, and part of the deal was that if they ever left the property and built somewhere else, Cliff would get everything on the property as well as the property back. And so, it happened that when Dwight Eisenhower became president, Eisenhower just happened to be a Presbyterian, just like Gerald Ford just happened to be an Episcopalian. So, along with the Ahmanson people, the Presbyterian Church was able to buy five acres of land up on Highway 74 along with the Episcopal Church, and so they vacated the property on Portola.



Cliff Henderson then got the property back, and then he tried to make a deal with the local school board 'cause Washington Elementary School was right next to the property. Only that there happened to be a street between the school and the property, and so Cliff went to the county to have Chicory Street abandoned by the local County Supervisor. However, at that time the local supervisor was in Blythe, and he didn't know anyone down here in the desert, and then some of the local realtors talked to him, and got him to vote no. That's where I entered the picture because I was part of the local Foundation for the Retarded. So, I went to Cliff and asked him "Would you sell the property to us? Now that you can't sell it to the school district." He said OK, but there's one problem, I want \$80,000 for it, and so I

said, "OK Cliff we'll pay you the \$80,000 for it. Since we had to start the ball rolling somewhere I said, "Let's go into escrow." But then he said no, we won't go into escrow we'll do a land contract, so we'll make up an agreement and you'll pay me such and such an amount over a period of time with so much interest. So that was it, and I said fine.

So, then we went out and found people to raise the money. The main one who did was a fellow named John Curci, who has the Lucy Curci Cancer Center over at Eisenhower Hospital. Anyway, John Curci was a great friend to the Foundation for the Retarded, and every Thanksgiving he put on a big dinner and benefit, and he'd invite all of his rich friends and then his friends would write checks to us, so when I left in 1992, we had over a million dollars in our account. Mr. Curci also got the Western Italian Golf Association to buy the 7 ½ acres that the foundation owns over on Country Club Drive where they are now.

At that time, we were supported 1/3 by the State of California, and 2/3's by private donations. Later they decided to change the name to "Desert ARC," and I was on the board at that time, so ARC stands for Association of Retarded Citizens. At first the name of the organization was Foundation for Retarded Children, but they didn't like that name because most of the members were adults. I dropped out because the board became very political; when we first started we had no money, no programs, nothing. Back in 1966 nobody wanted any part of it, but once it became popular, everybody liked it, then a bunch of guys from Rotary were on the board, and they said they we're going to take it over and run it, so then all of us old people got voted off the board. Cliff Henderson was always fair with us, he was always up front, if we had a problem making a payment we'd call him and tell him, and he always said; "*Don't worry about it.*" And to make a long story short, four years later we sold the property for \$400,000 to the church that's there now.

### **Cliff Henderson, Leonard Firestone and Howard Ahmanson**

Cliff Henderson met Leonard Firestone, and I'm sure that Firestone put up the money to buy all the land and then Cliff hired the designer to lay out all the lots, and I do know that they had a problem because every time they sold a lot, the title report would come back "*subject to severe flooding.*" So, Cliff went to the Coachella Valley Water District, who at that time were a bunch of good old boys, and who I got to know through Lowell Weeks and John Curci, as well as guys who owned a lot of produce property here in the valley, and then he got them to build the earthen dikes back of Palm Desert. And so that "*subject to severe flooding*" problem went away. And so that made it much easier for them to sell their property.

About 1950 or so, evidently things weren't doing too well here in Palm Desert, and so Cliff Henderson and Leonard Firestone went to Howard Ahmanson who had Home Savings and Loan, and told him that they would like him to buy some of their property. So, then Ahmanson said OK, and he went around and picked out some of their parcels, he picked the area where the Palm Desert Town Center is, then he picked out the area where the Palms to Pines Shopping Center is, and he picked out the area where the two big churches are on Highway 74, he also picked out the area next to the Firecliff Lodge was, I think they were called the "Sun Lodges." Then he told them that he would give them a million dollars for that property. But then Leonard and Cliff started thinking it over, and told him no, that it wasn't quite as much as they wanted to get for all that property. But then a year or so later they went back to Ahmanson, and told him that they'd sell him the property for a million dollars, but then Ahmanson told

them, “Well I’m not going to give you a million for the property now, I’ll only give you nine hundred thousand for it.” And so, they took his offer and that’s how Ahmanson got all that land, and later he said; “*I really stole that property.*” So that’s an interesting tidbit.



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

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

Walter S. White was an unique 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.

### **Miles C. Bates House Historic Designation Imminent**

On February 2, 2018 the State Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO) will review the Historical Society’s nomination of the Bates house to the national register, thus putting the second Walter S. White house in the Coachella Valley (see the Franz Alexander house in Palm Springs) on this register. It is very important to have community support for a successful nomination, so the Board urges all members and others to write letters of support for the nomination. Your letters will be included in the permanent file for this house. You can write to:

State Historic Preservation Officer Julianne Polanco  
Attn: Amy H. Crain, State Historian II  
Registration Unit  
California State Office of Historic Preservation  
1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

Or email your letter to [amy.crain@parks.ca.gov](mailto:amy.crain@parks.ca.gov)

### **There will be an exhibition: Architect Walter S. White's Work in the Coachella Valley**

The Historical Society is sponsoring and curating an exhibition of the work of Walter S. White in the Coachella Valley for Modernism Week. The exhibition will be at the Tobin Art Gallery in the Joslyn Center in Palm Desert, from 12-3 PM daily for the entire Modernism Week calendar, February 15-25. This is a FREE event. Featured will be the Miles C. Bates house, the Franz Alexander house (Palm Springs), the Wilcockson house (Indio) and much more, including a model of the iconic Wave Roof. The Joslyn Center is also sponsoring an exhibition reception and fundraiser, to benefit both the Society and Joslyn, on Sunday February 18 from 2-5 PM, tickets are \$75. See the Modernism Week website for more information at [www.modernismweek.com](http://www.modernismweek.com).

### **THE FALL LUNCHEON AND MEMBER MEETING WAS HELD AT MITCH'S RESTAURANT ON EL PASEO DECEMBER 5th 2017**

On December 5<sup>th</sup> we had our Fall Luncheon Fundraiser and Member Meeting at Mitch's on El Paseo, which once again came off without a hitch. The luncheon was well attended with lots of tried and true HSPD members in attendance. Barbara Keedy Eastes gave a short talk on Palm Desert history, and afterwards HSPD President Harry Quinn gave us all a local geology lesson on fault lines and the San Jacinto Mountains. Harry then recognized the board members in attendance, as well as past board members and thanked them for their service and support over the last year. Dick Folkers was in charge of the raffle and awarded bottles of olive oil and wine. There was lots of good food, good conversation and good cheer. HSPD Board members in attendance were: Jean Benson, Gale Broeker, Buford Crites, Dick Folkers, Don Graybill, Mike Lewis, Louise Neeley, Harry Quinn, Brett Romer, Bob Tyler, and Susan Marie Weber.

## PRESIDENTS LETTER NUMBER 5

This is my fifth Presidents Letter since taking office. I've now completed a year and a half as HSPD president, and I must say that it has been quite an experience. I want to express my appreciation to Brett Romer for all his help that has come through useful suggestions, useful ideas, and especially his computer knowledge. His help is greatly appreciated in developing a power point presentation for a lecture I'm giving this month. I couldn't have done it without him!

On Saturday 11/04/17 Sandy and I attended the memorial for Palm Desert Architect Bob Pitchford. It was a very heartwarming reception for the remembrance of a great person, but I now wish that I'd gotten up and talked about his involvement with the Historical Society of Palm Desert, but there were other members there who knew him much better than I, and I thought one of them might get up and say a few words. I only had the opportunity to meet Bob on a few occasions when he came to the museum, or to one of the HSPD functions. I do recall having some interesting conversations with him, as he had a lot of Palm Desert history to talk about. After listening to others talk about their memories of him, I felt sort of left out, as I never had much time with him, and was not aware of his many talents. I'm very happy to have known him and now know where his son Rob gets all his expertise and work ethics, his many talents were unknown to many people, including me. The love and affection expressed by his family and friends showed what an exceptional man he was. The center pieces at each table were trophy's bob had won, most of them for his water skiing ability. In attendance was his commanding officer from his time served in Korea during the Korean Police Action (War). He was a man who touched many lives and will be missed by all.

We've completed our plans for the summer room, and exhibit changes that were submitted by Sid Burks and Christy Lane just before our October 6<sup>th</sup> opening. We owe a lot to them and their helpers for getting the new exhibits up in time for the opening. It's my sincere hope that everyone has enjoyed our new exhibits, and I know I've had a great time as a docent showing off our new exhibits to the people coming into the museum, however the Howdy Doody and Hopalong Cassidy exhibits are only recognized by the older generation.

I would also like to thank all those who worked on the Yard Sale, it was another successful venture. I especially need to thank Adele and her "girls" (Bonnie, Sandy, Kay, and Rose) for their work throughout the summer pricing items, they continued their work right up until the day of the sale. Without all the pricing we wouldn't have been ready for such a big sale. I must also thank Suzanne for all her help, she was instrumental in seeing that everything got out of the bins and into its proper place in the Sales Yard. All her help is greatly appreciated.

My thanks must also go to Merilee for her help running the Yard Sale and for her work cleaning up the office files. It was a very busy summer for her and Susan Marie and their work hasn't stopped yet.

Some special thanks to Merrill, Richard and Hal for doing pickups, to Don for placing and removing tables and doing yard cleanup; to Rob and the Boy Scouts for their work carrying peoples purchases out for them; to those who brought food for the crew; to Adele for getting the Pizzas, and to all those who worked at the Yard Sale.

I need to thank Barbara Eastes for all her help putting together the Fall Luncheon at Mitch's on El Paseo. They again provided us with great food and a delightful place to hold our meeting. This was one of our most successful luncheons in some time. I need to provide an additional thanks to all those people who helped and attended the event.

We now have a member, Christy Lane, who is trying to get us more publicity and increase our membership. Her first big project has been to get businesses to help develop a Palm Desert Historical Map, and hopefully this will help bring in some new members. Hopefully this has highlighted our Historical Society and helped make our Fire House a "Hot Spot" for Palm Desert tourists. Christy is presently putting together the "Blast from the Past" Party to be held at the Shadow Mountain Club in February. We thank for her for all her efforts.

If I've missed any personal thanks to anyone I am sorry. I will try to keep things running smoothly and I look forward to your help in doing so.

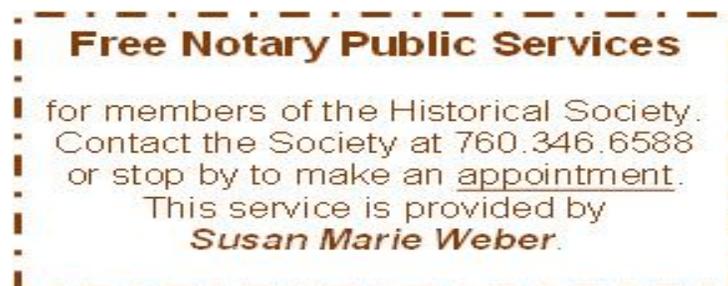
Harry Quinn

**Historical Society of Palm Desert presents "BLAST FROM THE PAST PARTY" at the Shadow Mountain Club Golf Course on February 10<sup>TH</sup>!**

What was Palm Desert like in the 1940's? 50's? 60's? 70's? 80's? 90's? Come and find out as we celebrate the city's past and present in an entertaining show highlighting each decade with stories, music, and dances! This fun outdoor show will be held at the famous historic Shadow Mountain Golf Course on Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> with pizza and drinks at 5:30 pm, show at 6:30 pm and DJ dancing at 7:30 pm.

So, bring your family, your friends and/or your significant other to the "heart" of the desert and celebrate Valentine's Day in a one-of-a-kind event! You will be amazed and intrigued by the history! Admission includes pizza, beverage, show, DJ, and no host bar. Only \$25 per person, \$40 per couple and \$10 for under age 12. (Additional \$10 at the door). The historical landmark golf course is located at 73-800 Ironwood Street in Palm Desert.

For more information and tickets go to [www.palmdesertblast.com](http://www.palmdesertblast.com) or call 760-346-6588 and get ready for some great fun! (Due to space, ticket sales are limited, so don't delay!) Proceeds benefit the Historical Society of Palm Desert, a non-profit organization dedicated to collecting, preserving, and recording the history of Palm Desert.



## 2017-2018 LECTURE 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 showing between 6:00 and 7:00 PM. This event is open to the public

**Friday January 26<sup>th</sup>** - Mr. Phil Brigandi will speak on Randall Henderson, A Founding Father, Publisher and Dreamer

**Friday February 23<sup>th</sup>** – Mr. Paul F. Clark will speak on the Gasoline Cowboy: The Early Years of Motorcycle Recreation in Southern California

**Friday March 23<sup>th</sup>** – Mr. Steve Lech, will speak on the Palm to Pines Highway, the Story of Highway 74.

**Friday April 27<sup>th</sup>** – Kim Housken, Merilee Colton, Mark Zimmer and Rob Pitchford will speak on saving the Bates House.

## COACHELLA VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGIC SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE AND GUEST SPEAKERS FOR 2018

Meetings are held on Thursday nights at the Portola Center - 45480 Portola Ave., Palm Desert CA at 6:30 PM

**January 18, 2018** Our January 18, 2018 meeting guest speaker is Archaeologist, **Alicia Olea**. She will give a presentation on "Ancestral Lands of the Mesa Verde National Park." Since June of 2016 she has been an Ancestral Lands Intern at the Mesa Verde National Park. Alicia is from our local Santa Rosa Reservation on Santa Rosa Mountain.

**February 15, 2018** - Daniel McCarthy – Anthropologist – will talk on the Archaeology of the Santa Rosa Mountain Area.

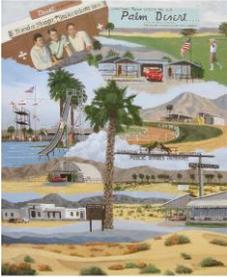
**March 15, 2018** - Don Liponi - Rock Art Researcher – La Rumorosa Rock Art Along the Border: California, Colorado River Corridor, Arizona and Baja.

**April 19, 2018** – Stephenie Slahor - MOJAVE DESERT—from volcanoes to minerals, from Amboy to the Cady Mountains, from US Cavalry camels to the Pony Express, the Mojave Desert is filled with a rich history of people and places. This is a look at a desert that is much more than something to —crossll on the way elsewhere. The lecture includes geology, archaeology, botany, zoology, and human history.

**May 17, 2018** – Anne Stoll – Archaeologist – An Archaeologist's View of Brazilian Street Art – it's Rock Art, Right?

## 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 at the Backer show in the city's gallery, the Friday night lectures, 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.



## Election of Officers

Your Board Elections will be coming up soon, watch for your ballot, which will be mailed in February. The results of the election will be announced at the Spring Picnic and Member Meeting, March 25. We do have openings on the Board, so if you are interested in running for office please contact a member of the Nominations Committee, Brett Romer, Hal Rover or Merilee Colton for more information, or call the Firehouse at 760-346-6588 and leave a message.



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

Date	Event
January 12-15, 2018	Desert Arc Art Show and Sale Fundraiser 10-3, Reception Saturday 11 AM
January 26	Friday Night Lecture - Portola Community Center, 6:30-7 PM slide show, 7-8 PM lecture: Phil Brigandi on Randall Henderson, A Founding Father, Publisher, Pilot and Dreamer
February 10	Blast from the Past – Dinner, Show and Dance Fundraiser, Shadow Mountain Golf Club, 5:30-8:30 PM
February 15-25	Modernism Week - Walter S. White Exhibition at the Joslyn Center 12-3 daily
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 22	Modernism Week – Self Guided Tour of South Palm Desert Significant Architecture sponsored by KUD Properties
February 23	Friday Night Lecture - Portola Community Center, 6:30-7 PM slide show, 7-8 PM lecture: Paul F. Clark on The Gasoline Cowboy: The Early Years of Motorcycle Recreation in Southern California
February 24	Modernism Week - Bates house auction at the UCR Palm Desert Theater, 2-3 PM
March 2 - 19	Coachella Valley Watercolor Society Art Show and Sale 10-3
March 23	Friday Night Lecture - Portola Community Center, 6:30-7 PM slide show, 7-8 PM lecture: Steve Lech, Palms to Pines, the Story of Highway 74
March 25	Picnic in the Park Fundraiser and Member Meeting – Civic Center Park 11 AM
April 8	Desert Artists Art Show and Sale Fundraiser - Hilton/Bray (tent.) 10-3
April 21	Appraisal Day Fundraiser (tent.) 10 AM
April 27	Friday Night Lecture - Portola Community Center, 6:30-7 PM slide show, 7-8 PM lecture: Kim Housken, Merilee Colton, Mark Zimmer, Rob Pitchford on Saving the Bates House
May	Second Grade Tours begin
May 29	Closed for the summer (last day open is May 28, Memorial Day)



**The Riverside County Heritage Association is proud to announce the opening of registration for the March 3, 2018 Riverside County History Symposium.**

Our sixth history symposium will be better than ever, and will take place in the historic Benedict Castle in Riverside. Your registration will include 4 great talks on local history, a continental breakfast, lunch, and a great behind-the-scenes tour of Benedict Castle in the afternoon. You won't want to miss this!

**[www.RiversideCountyHeritageAssociation.org](http://www.RiversideCountyHeritageAssociation.org)**

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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.

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