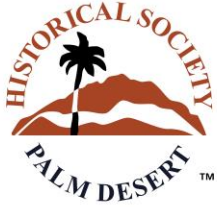


# HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT



## *The Hourglass*



Spring 2023

Ed. Merilee Colton

### Encore: The Mystique of Shadow Mountain Walking Tours 2023

*By Linda Holden Clode*

Once again, and in partnership with Modernism Week, the HSPD sponsored Walking Tours in the Shadow Mountain neighborhood. The Tours, on February 23 and 24, sold out on the first day of posting on the Modernism Week website last November.



We were thankful this year to have the financial support of the City of Palm Desert, which allowed us to provide a booklet, “Encores”, to each participant, containing information about the homes and some of the fascinating stories that accompany them. The “Encores” booklet is now available for purchase at the HSPD Firehouse Museum.

Many thanks to the volunteers, and to the tour homeowners, the owners of the Shadow Mountain Resort and of the Mojave Resort, the City, the HSPD Board, and Modernism Week. Their support ensured that our tours were a great success.

And the weather co-operated. You may remember that week - cold and wet. But the weather held, both Thursday and Friday. Lucky us!

The Walkers arrived at the gates of the Shadow Mountain Resort (once again, kindly provided to us by owners Cindi Calquhoun and Michael McFarlane) in time for registration in the lounge and a continental breakfast catered by Delish. Architectural Historian Steven Price gave us an overview of Clifford Henderson,

known as the Founder of Palm Desert, who built the Shadow Mountain Resort.

The Walkers then met the three Tour Guides, and their Wingmen, and set out on three different routes covering the same houses. The tours ended with a lovely reception graciously provided by the owners of the Mojave Resort, David and Katy Gold, et al, and their staff, in one of the vintage units of the Resort. The Mojave Resort is about to undergo a major update in the Spring, so it was a chance for modernists to see it, largely unaltered from 1957, before the renovations begin. The Golds have proposed a fun ‘before and after’ reveal for the HSPD in 2024.

Along the route, the Tour Guides told the Walkers about the architects who built these unique homes and the fascinating people who owned them. A movie star, a violist, a Governor, many CEO’s, a cowboy, a tennis champion, a tire magnate, a newspaper owner and so many more lived here. The Walkers learned about architects such as William Pereira who



designed one home in Shadow Mountain for Leonard Firestone, and prolific architects Walter White and John Outcalt, whose works shape the look of Palm Desert.

Our homeowners were all wonderfully accommodating. Each has a story about how the home was acquired and how lovingly it has been preserved or restored. Many of these stories are in the Encore booklet. We were fortunate to see inside the Pelletier House (Albert Frey) for the second year. Owner Inna Tuler tells how this was the first house she saw in her search for a desert home a few years ago. Her young grandson loved it and she bought it immediately. She has continued to enjoy her beautiful Frey home, and it is a true treasure.



New to us this year were the Fairway Cottages, the Stanthony House and a home attributed (by us) to Walter White (the Moore House). Owner Larry Richardson was the host; more about this house in the A&D Committee report.

Bob Burdge and Tim Rourke brought their 1961 Richard Harrison Fairway Cottage back to Midcentury perfection while maintaining the original vibe. Bob's sister even stenciled a headboard wall in the bedroom, emulating the wallpaper of the era.

The Stanthony Hospitality House has an amazing history, but the highlight is the re-acquisition of the home to the family by current owners, Cori and Gord German. We so enjoyed Cori's sharing this story with our Walkers when they toured this 1956 William Bray gem.



We look forward to Modernism Week 2024 and the exciting opportunities that await. If you have any ideas about where we should go walking next, please let us know, and stay tuned for updates.

Above, HSPD Vice President David Toltzmann and Tour Guide leading a tour past a John Outcalt-designed house. Right, Steering Committee members (L-R above) Cim Castellon and Linda Holden Clode and (L-R below) Sue Harvey and Karen Prinzmetal, at the Shadow Mountain Resort.

**HSPD MISSION STATEMENT**  
**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**

## President's Letter



Spring is soon to be here. It still feels very much like winter – it is raining today, and cold. In a few weeks the sun will be back, I'm almost sure of it. Speaking of weather, Linda Holden Clode and the Modernism Week Steering Committee had great success with their Walking Tours during Modernism Week in February. The rain stayed away and from what I have heard, everyone had a great time.

The Committee also supplied our speaker for February's Friday Night Lecture on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Steven Price gave a very well-attended talk on architect Harold Levitt, showcasing some of his work here and outside the Valley. If you are in town for our next Lecture on March 17th, Mr. JR Thomas will be speaking about the history of the Thomas family and the origin of golf carts, with which he is still very much involved. Mr. Thomas and I have been great buds since second grade at Washington School.



One other thing I would like to mention: Leslie Roth has been very busy with HSPD's Legacy Interview Project. I have been lucky enough to help her edit these interviews and soon I will be putting them up on our YouTube Channel. Please keep an eye out for those videos. Hope to see you at our Spring Picnic in April!

**Rob Pitchford**

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## ***"Know Your Board"***

### **Rick Holden**



I am the newest Board Member of the Historical Society of Palm Desert, so here is a brief review of who I am.

I was born in Sheboygan, Wisconsin but grew up in the San Fernando Valley. I met my wife in high school there and we were married in 1968, just before leaving for college in San Luis Obispo, where I studied Architecture. I graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture in 1972. While at Cal Poly, by chance I hosted William F. Cody of Palm Springs as well as John Lautner from Los Angeles. Upon graduating, I, along with two of my close friends, received a job offer from the Cody firm and the attraction of Bill Cody and Palm Springs did the three of us in.

I worked, experienced and learned from Bill Cody for about two years, and then moved on to Frank Urrutia's Office in Palm Desert. In 1976 I opened my own firm in Palm Desert, originally on the west side of the Desert Magazine Building. In 1979 I formed Holden & Johnson Architects with a former drafting service partner and friend from San Luis Obispo that came to work at the Cody Firm in 1973, and later with Hugh Kaptur, before forming our partnership. We designed our own offices on Monterey Avenue along with Wayne Connor, Associates and worked with the City of Palm Desert in

creating the Office Professional Area along Monterey. Our practice consisted mainly of large homes in the country clubs of the desert, but a couple of our more public buildings are 1<sup>st</sup> Bank on 111 & Monterey, 1<sup>st</sup> Bank on Hovley and Washington, Imago Galleries and the Steven Chase Administration Building at the Living Desert. I was a member of the Palm Desert Property Owners Architecture Review Committee with Bob Pitchford, as well as a member of the city's Architectural Review Committee, for about 25 years.

Both my son and daughter were born in Palm Springs, graduated from Palm Desert High School and now live in Escondido and Auburn, CA with their families, two grandchildren in each family. Life has been good, and Palm Desert has been good to me.

## Darrell Cozen



I was raised in Pasadena, the son of an electrical engineer and a homemaker and the older brother of three siblings. I graduated from UCLA in Engineering and from Cornell with a Masters in City Planning.

My first urban planning job was in Louisville, Kentucky, where I was very fortunate to meet my wife, Chris, who is a teacher, preschool director and artist. We have two daughters; one lives in Cleveland with her husband and two young sons, and the other is in Fort Collins, Colorado. Six years ago, we moved to Cleveland for the summer months and a year later, moved from Pasadena to Palm Desert for the winter months. Here in Palm Desert, we live in the Sandpiper community near El Paseo. Our condo was built in 1963 and was part of a tour

of six condos in our circle during Modernism Week. Chris is active with the Palm Desert Artists Council.

My urban planning career was enriched by several wonderful opportunities. In Pasadena in the 1970's I was able to supervise the early efforts of the planning department to turn Old Pasadena from a slum into a thriving regional entertainment and dining complex. Later in Pasadena, in the 2000's, I was able to work with Caltech to help them design new buildings that fit into their historic campus.

My passion for historic preservation allowed me to manage those programs in Alhambra, Redlands, and Memphis, Tennessee. Over the years I have had some exciting projects, including helping to initiate the historic preservation program in Redlands in 1984, a program which, at the time, had one of the strongest preservation ordinances in the state (for instance, designation without owner-approval). We moved to Memphis in the 1990's, where we were faced with a desire by the Memphis Housing Authority to demolish the public housing apartments where Elvis had lived when he started his career as a teenager. Even though I worked for the City of Memphis, which generally wanted to support the Housing Authority, I found a way to work (mostly after work hours) with the heritage society and local preservationists to raise awareness in the community, and eventually saw the buildings saved. Now you can go to Memphis as a tourist and sleep in Elvis' bedroom!

My parents bought a condo here in Palm Desert in 1976, and we have come here for visits often since then. At first, the desert was not beautiful to us, but its charms grew on us, especially as water concerns brought desert landscaping even to Pasadena. Currently, I enjoy being the Friday afternoon docent at the Historical Society of Palm Desert's Firehouse Museum. My hobbies are tennis, hikes and walks, reading, swimming, skiing, and international folk dancing, which I do every week in Palm Springs. Want to join me?

*Ed. Note: this is the fifth in a series of biographies about the Board members of the HSPD.*

## Archivist's Corner



Sometimes the archives are asked to answer historical questions. Recently, we were asked a question that caused us to do deeper research.

**Question for the Archivist:** What is the oldest country club in Palm Desert?"

**Initial Answer:** *Shadow Mountain Club* which opened in 1948.

But....when it first opened, it was known as *Shadow Mountain Club*. Country Club was not part of its name and it was advertised as a "social club". We do know that by 1963, the facility became known as the *Shadow Mountain Country Club*. It has since changed its moniker several times and is now known as the *Shadow Mountain Club & Resort*.

### So, what is a Country Club?

A country club is a privately owned club, often with a membership quota and admittance by invitation or sponsorship, that generally offers both a variety of recreational sports and facilities for dining and entertaining. Typical athletic offerings are golf, tennis, and swimming.

But....since Shadow Mountain did not self-identify as a country club before 1963, did some other facility open before 1963 as a country club?

The only other contender I could find was *Palm Desert Country Club* which opened in 1961... but its original name was *Palm City Association*, and it was marketed as a 50+ "retirement community". The clubhouse and adjoining structures were built along with three display homes. It wasn't until 1977 that the name was changed to Palm Desert Country Club.

I also considered some "Palm Desert adjacent" country clubs since Palm Desert was not incorporated until 1973, some country clubs that are now not in Palm Desert did advertise themselves as being in Palm Desert or had a Palm Desert mailing address.

Thunderbird opened in 1951, but while some advertising referenced Palm Desert, it seems to have always had a Rancho Mirage mailing address. Marrakesh opened in 1969, and Ironwood Country Club opened in 1974.

So, in choosing between Shadow Mountain and Palm Desert Country Club, what is the answer? They are both in current-day Palm Desert boundaries. Shadow Mountain used the phrase "country club" first, but doesn't any longer. Palm Desert still uses "country club" in its name but didn't until 1977, so by those criteria, we would have to select Marrakesh, which has used "country club" in its name since 1969. Our vote: "The longest continually open country club in Palm Desert is the Shadow Mountain Resort & Club."

Do you agree? We would love to hear your thoughts. Was there some early country club that we missed in our research? And if you would like to research our collections, a volunteer will be happy to help you. Call 760-346-6588 for an appointment.

**Rochelle McCune, HSPD Archivist**

## HSPD Architecture and Design Committee Report



Here is what we do when we are not in an A&D Committee meeting: look for more examples of significant houses in Palm Desert. We believe we have made an interesting find.

Along the east side of San Luis Rey, ending at Ironwood, is a series of seven small homes built in 1955. Most have been completely altered at the front, and one is undergoing some work. It sits on end to the lot, garage first. Last year we gained approval to check it out from the south (rear) of the house and became intrigued. It appeared to have the hallmarks of a Walter White: large overhangs, a mitered corner window, large floor-to-ceiling windows, board and batten siding and the distinctive 45-degree angle of the corners of the eaves. In fact, it was the eaves that were also spotted on the neighboring home (which turns out to be a replica of this one, flipped 90 degrees) that convinced us to attempt to contact the owner.



Wayne Connor and Larry Richards

After I left a card with the job foreman, the owner, Larry Richards, contacted me. I put him in touch with fellow HSPD Board and Architecture and Design Committee member, Wayne Connor. Wayne is a Landscape Architect and the owner of the Walter White-designed Stewart House.

Wayne noticed that Larry's home had the similar distinctive color palate of the Stewart house. He and Larry have become friends as the house restoration progresses and Larry kindly welcomed the Modernism Week Walkers to his home, with Wayne as docent.

We are attributing this home to Walter White because the original plans have not been found. Palm Desert incorporated in 1973; the house was built in 1955. Records are likely in Riverside, but to date unearthed. More fun for architectural historians!


***Linda Holden Clode, Chair, Architecture and Design Committee***

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**Save the Date!**

The **SPRING PICNIC IN THE PARK** will be held on Sunday, April 2 this year, at Civic Center Park. See you there!






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