



In Search of Eldorado

Link to the Eldorado Song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VczD1olutQ8>



Hello to Family & Friends

Another good night with the river and the frogs.

I haven't used the bike on this trip very much, mostly due to weather, but I plugged it into the inverter all day yesterday and plan to use it today.

I wanted to take a tour of the known houses that Hollywood celebrities owned here in Palm Springs. Joining a professional tour on a bus is \$50. Driving around in the RV and stopping, getting out, taking a photo, getting back in, maybe the street is busy and I can't stop, etc., etc. But on the bike should be a different story. I can take my time, stop where I want, easily park and get off, and so on.

I spent a couple hours yesterday after the tram finalizing a route better suited to the bike than the RV, and from a starting point where I could park most of the day without any hassle. That point turned out to be the Ruth Hardy Park shown above. A very large and really nice park. Tennis courts, volleyball court, some kind of dog show was going on, a group of guys and girls and kids were playing football. And lots of free parking.

I installed the bike battery and voila! No power. The charger was plugged into the inverter, the charger was plugged into the battery, but the power cord had come partially loose from the transformer. After two more hours of charging I had two bars. But since Palm Springs is relatively flat, I used my own leg power like a normal bike and still had two bars at the end.

Day 24
Sunday,
January 26th

Palm Springs,
California

Weather
50's to 70's and Sunny

In Search of Eldorado

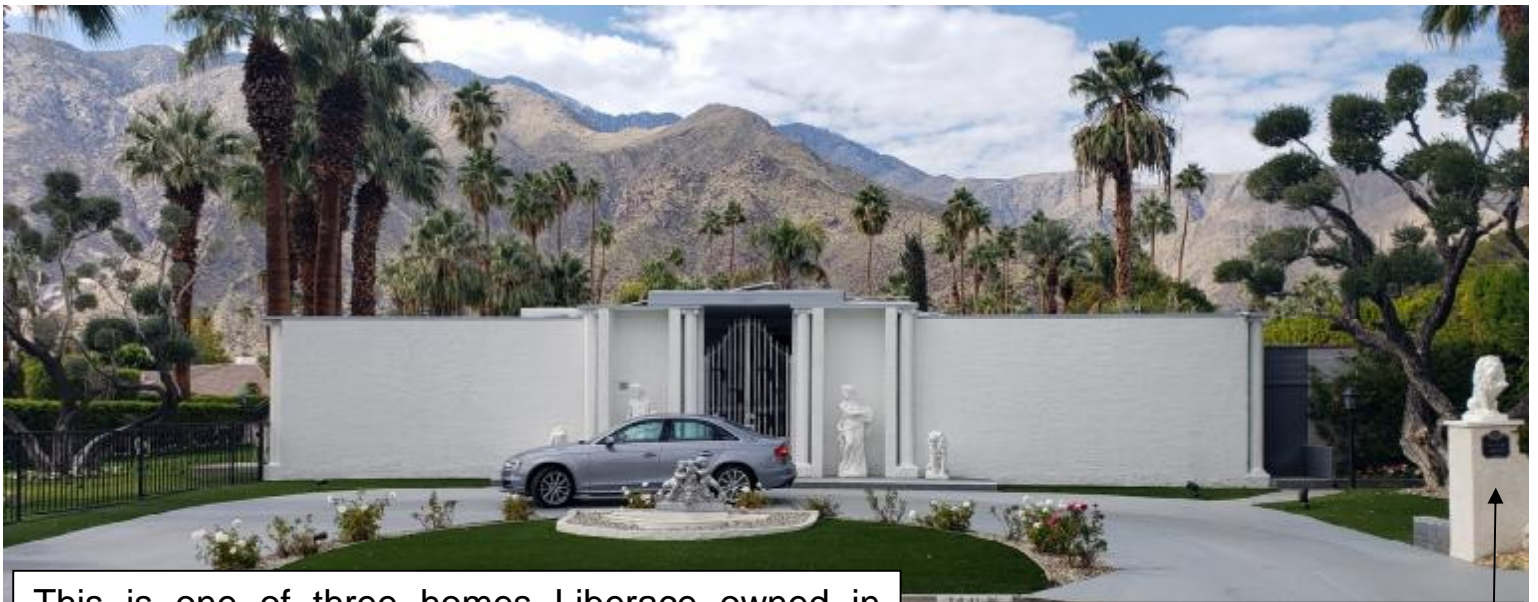
By Edgar Allan Poe

Gaily bedight,
A gallant knight,
In sunshine and in shadow,
Had journeyed long,
Singing a song,
In search of Eldorado.

But he grew old—
This knight so bold—
And o'er his heart a shadow—
Fell as he found
No spot of ground
That looked like Eldorado.

And, as his strength
Failed him at length,
He met a pilgrim shadow—
'Shadow,' said he,
'Where can it be—
This land of Eldorado?'

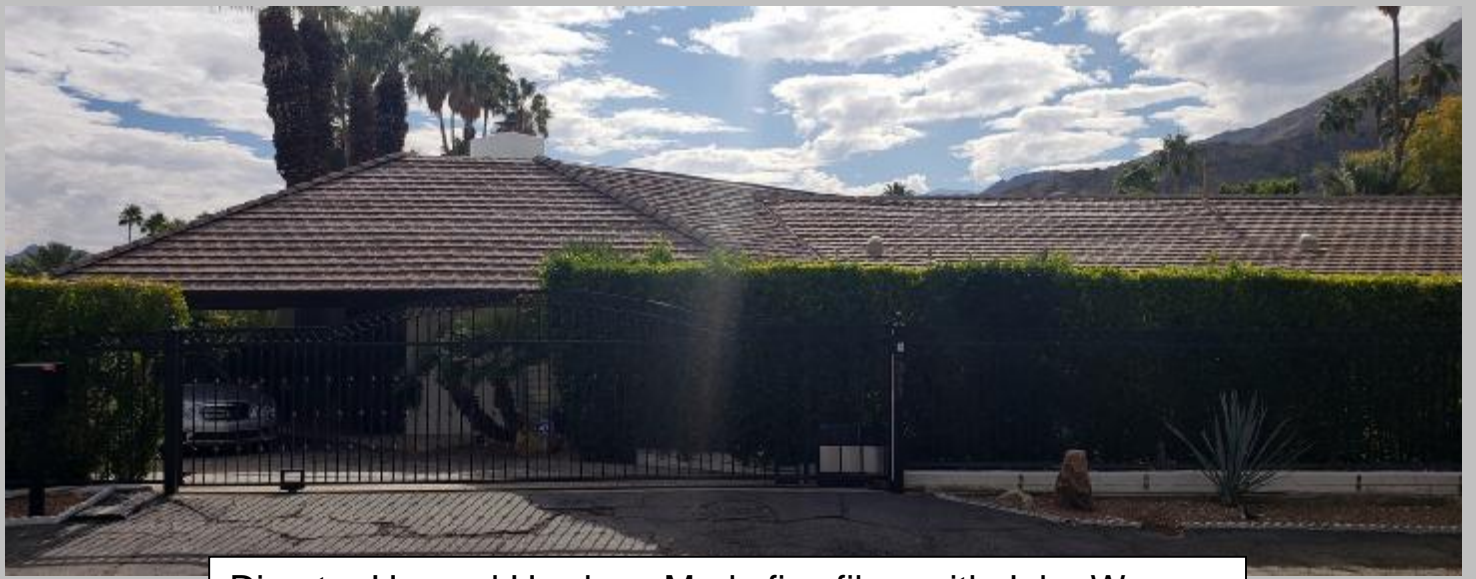
'Over the Mountains
Of the Moon,
Down the Valley of the Shadow,
Ride, boldly ride,'
The shade replied,—
'If you seek for Eldorado!'



This is one of three homes Liberace owned in Palm Springs at one time or another.



You can see just a tiny slice of roof above the door.



Director Howard Hawks – Made five films with John Wayne



This is the Kaufmann house. Supposedly the most famous and most photographed building in Palm Springs. Kaufmann was a Pittsburg department store magnate. This is the only view the public gets of the 3850 SF residence. Without a personal tour I don't really get it. This house was also owned by Barry Manilow.

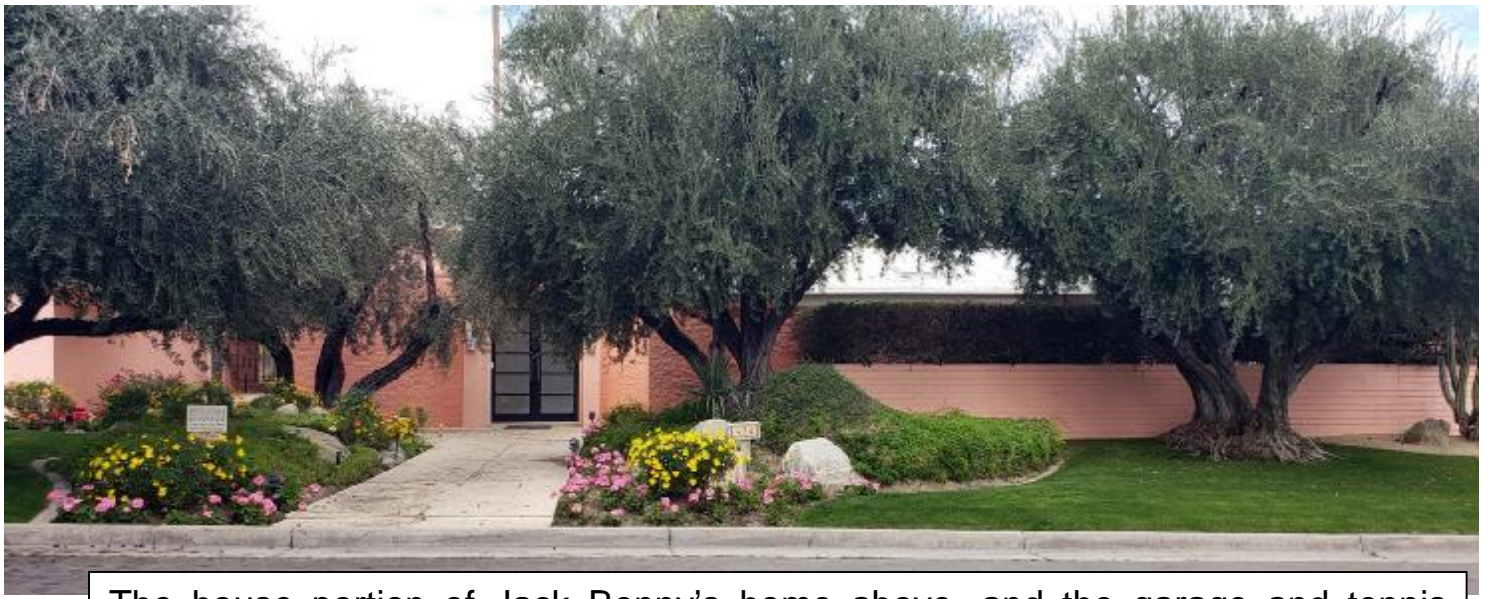
KAUFMANN HOUSE
Richard Neutra, Architect

International Style

Built 1946

Restored 1997

HSPB-29



The house portion of Jack Benny's home above, and the garage and tennis courts below



Zsa Zsa Gabor



Elvis's desert retreat

One of two for Debbie Reynolds

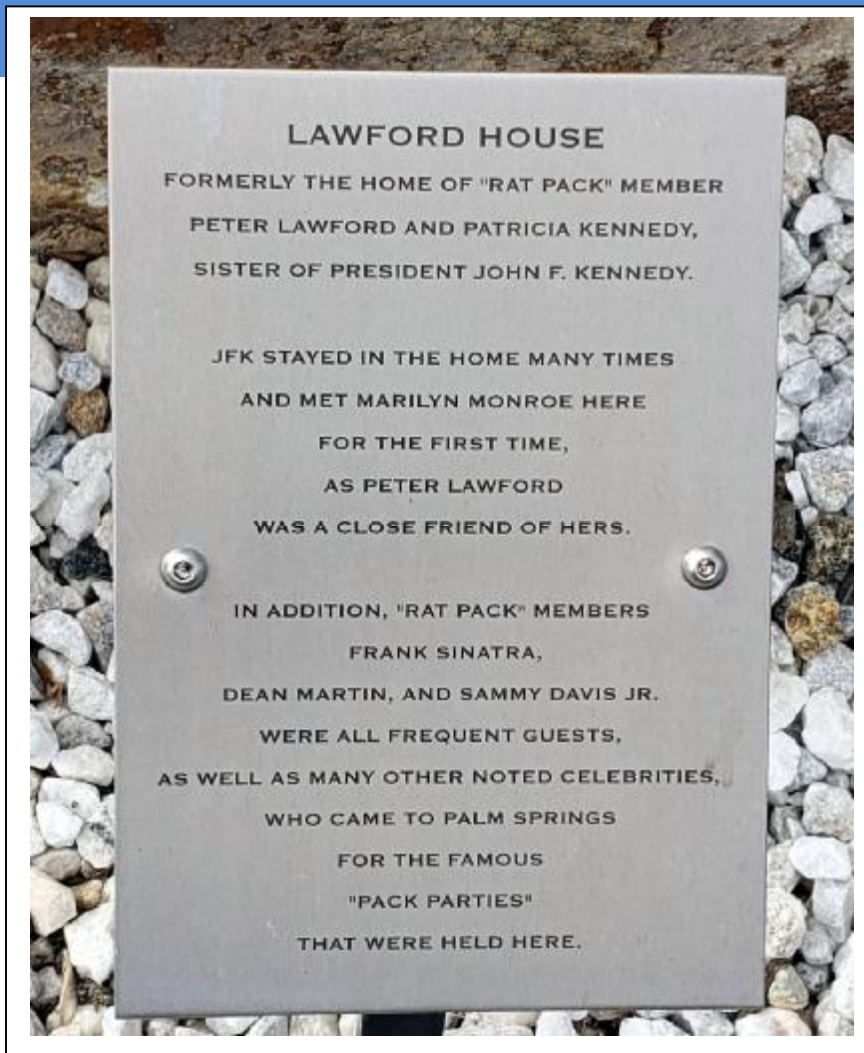




This house was rented to Marilyn Monroe



Elvis rented this house for his honeymoon





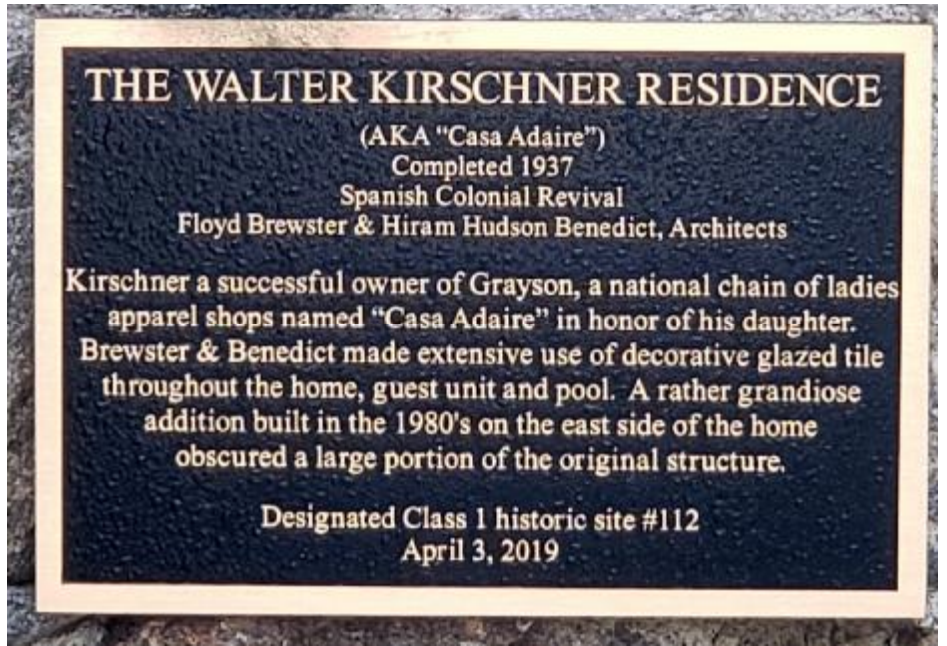
Dean Martin lived on the same street, one block down. That way he could walk home from the parties.



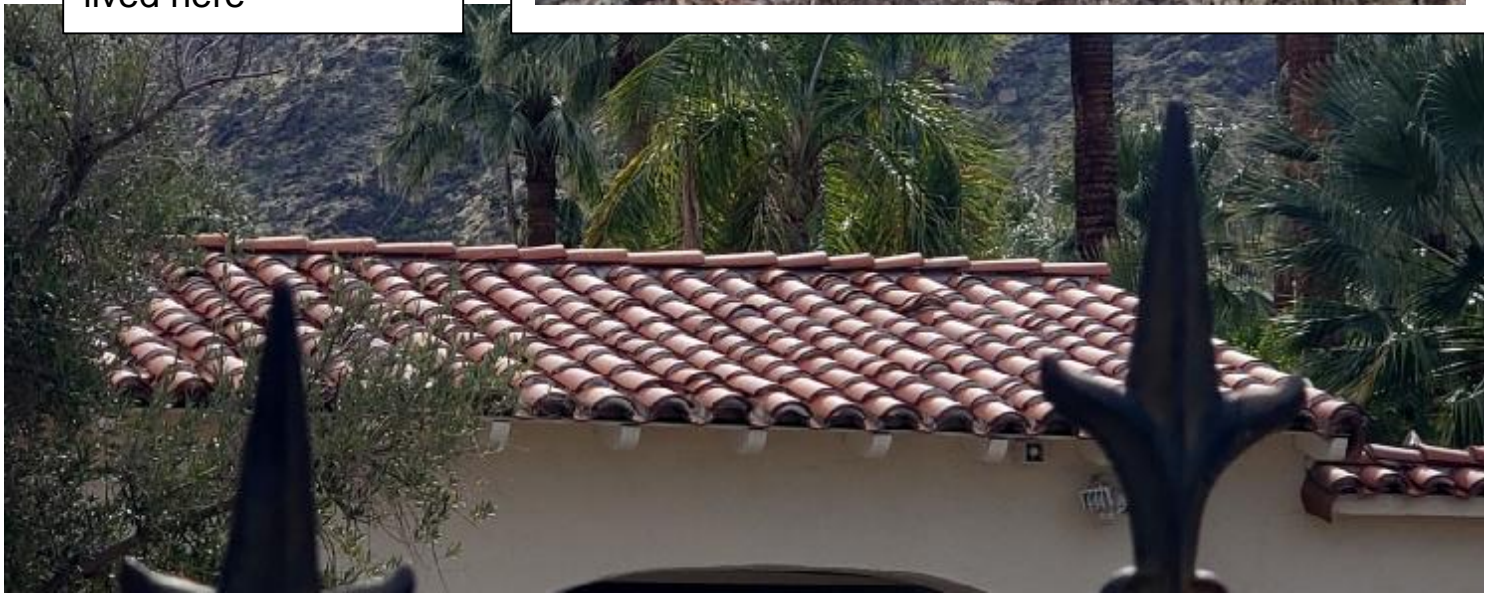
I had to use a panoramic to get all of Ann Miller's house



Dinah Shore lived here



Best I could do. Elizabeth Taylor also lived here



Ronnie and Nancy Reagan



The one time residence of Spencer Tracy and Katherine Hepburn. Pretty rough shape right now, but it's getting remodeled.



At one time this corner was the Cary Grant Estate. How much of the remaining building is original I have no way of knowing.





Clark Gable and Carole Lombard



Sammy Davis, Jr.

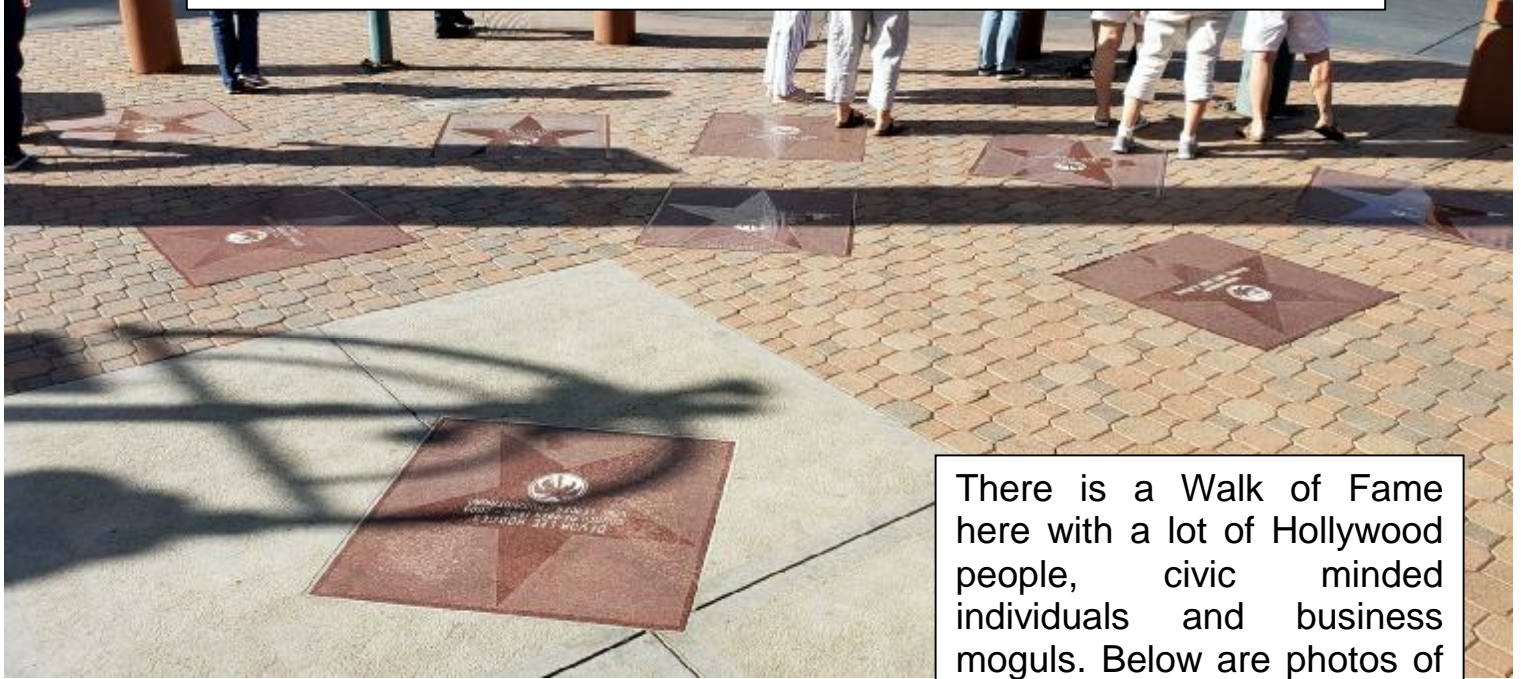


Kenny Rogers might still be living here



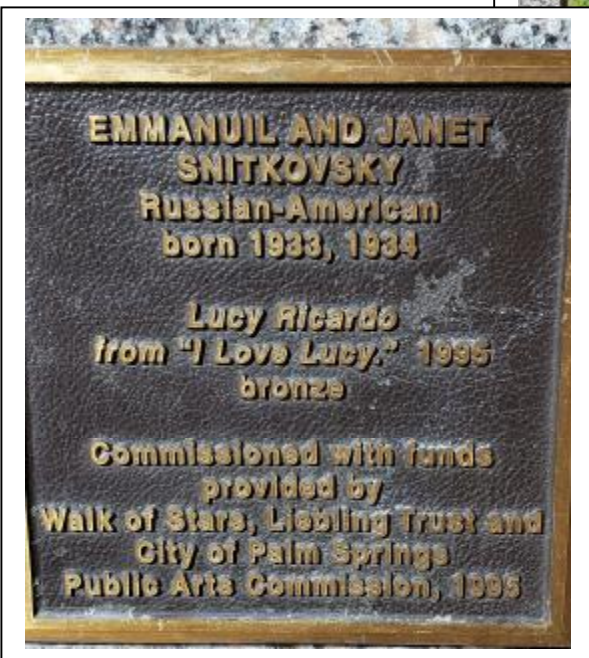
Jean Harlow and Howard Hughes

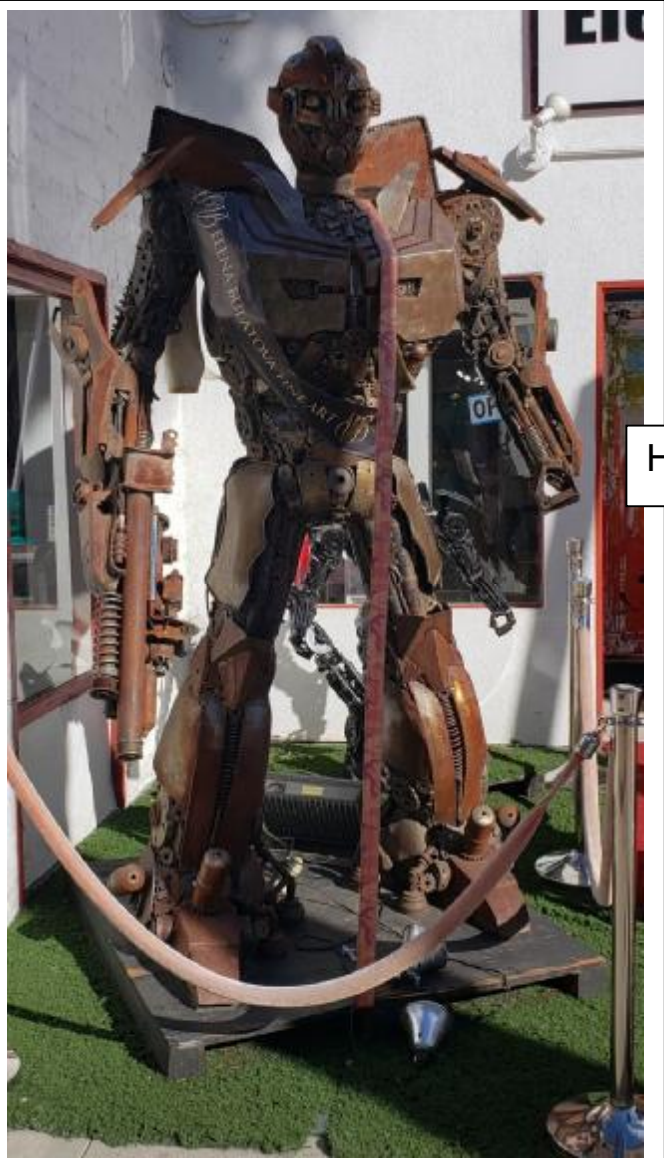
At this point I was in downtown Palm Springs, a neat atmosphere. All the shops were open, none boarded up and just a few for lease; lots of people walking the streets; live music here and there; a couple homeless; lots and lots of restaurants with outdoor seating. I liked it and spent an hour resting my butt by taking to the sidewalks.



There is a Walk of Fame here with a lot of Hollywood people, civic minded individuals and business moguls. Below are photos of all 250 stars. JUST KIDDING!!!

Most of you can probably guess who this is. If you can't, read the plaque below.





Hmmm...Interesting

This Packard was in mint condition, inside and out.





Sonny Bono

I spent about an hour and a half, up one side and down the other, then had an ice cream and saddled up.



Downtown Palm Springs



Another Debbie Reynolds house



Walt Disney



Ava Gabor



SINATRA RESIDENCE
Completed - 1947
ARCHITECT - E. STEWART WILLIAMS
Called *Twin Palms* for its landmark trees, the singer's modern, view-oriented home uses strong horizontal and vertical forms, natural materials and decorative trellis.
Historic Site No. 77 - Class One
City of Palm Springs - March 2011

THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN LISTED IN THE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



The right half



The left half. I had to get the palms in.



This, is Robolights, or what's left of it. Robolights started about 30 years ago as an art students way to celebrate the Holiday Season at his family's home. It grew into a four acre retreat for all sorts of weird artwork. With the lights added, it became a major tourist attraction.

But, not everyone enjoyed it. The neighbors complained to the city about traffic jams, garbage and noise. In 2009 hundreds of thousands of Christmas lights were stolen and vandals damaged several sculptures. In 2012 the artist/owner, Kenny Irwin, had to solicit money online due to the cost of electricity.

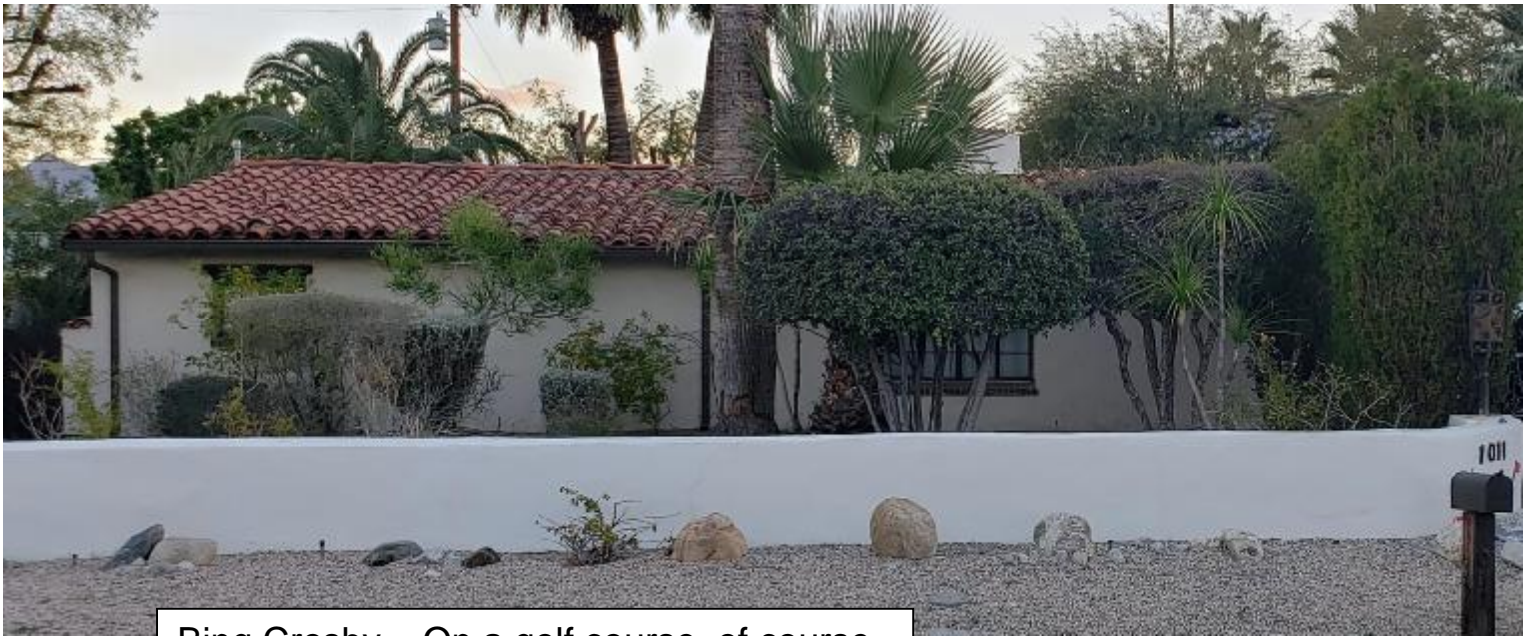




After the 2018 season he agreed to shut the project down rather than be cited by the city for non-compliance with safety regulations. Kenny plans to reopen Robolights on 10 acres he purchased in Desert Hot Springs, and make it even bigger and better. No comment.



It was at this point where my phone battery died. I had been using it for photos and as the GPS from address to address, so it had been running pretty solid for 4 hours. Without the phone I had to ask for directions back to the parking lot and the RV. Fortunately, I was only about 3 blocks away. I plugged in the phone and drove back to Robolights for the shot above, then onto the last three houses.



Bing Crosby – On a golf course, of course.



I got a laugh out of Kirk Douglas's place, nothing visible whatsoever



Sonny & Cher used to live here.

There were some I passed on which I would liked to have seen – Jack Warner, several authors, Donald O’Connor. Bob Hope’s place is 24,000 SF, but in a gated community, as is the Lucy & Desi place. Kirk Douglas had another home he built here, where Michael Douglas grew up.

I was surprised at the small size of a few of them. Several are called estates so there is no knowing what lies behind those gates and walls.

Well, I hope you enjoyed your tour of the History of Celebrity Homes in Palm Springs. I think it was 10 or 12 miles on the bike and another mile walking downtown, so some good exercise today.

Tomorrow will be a little more scenic.

Until next time.....