

Adobe

Home Tour

October 14, 2012 12n - 5pm



For 56 years the Escondido History Center has worked to collect, preserve, exhibit and interpret the history of our community.

We are also the steward of Grape Day Park.

www.escondidohistory.org

www.grapedaypark.org



This home was built in 1958 by the Weir Bros. for Julian Kauffman, XETV's first and longest running general manager, and his wife Kath. Kauffman was a pioneer in the San Diego television industry; he won numerous industry awards, including a Peabody and an Emmy. In 2006 he was inducted into the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Gold Circle, a prestigious honor for people with 50 years of service to the industry (also inducted that year were Merv Griffin and Jane Wyman). This home is a bit of a time capsule. The current owners have been in the home for less than six months, having purchased it after Julian died late last year. They are getting to know the home before delving into decorating and renovations. The property includes numerous fruit trees and has 360° views.



The Weir family included 2 sisters and 4 brothers. This home was built in 1966 for one of the brothers, Robert "Bob" Weir. Although less well known professionally than Jack, who served as company contractor, and Larry who designed many homes, Bob was also an important part of the Weir Bros. company. He was the company troubleshooter and was known as someone who could fix anything. Bob and his wife Maria, an Austrian immigrant, lived in this home for about 30 years. A later homeowner was Suzanne Pohlman, longtime CEO of Interfaith Community Services. The current residents have been in the home six years and are the 4th owners.

Rancher Dennison E. Harris and his wife Montez began constructing this home in concrete and wood in the 1939-40 on about 100 acres. But a very large adobe addition (approximately 2/3 of the home) was planned from the beginning. It was built in 1946 with adobe blocks made here on the ranch. Unfortunately, Harris died just 5 years later. Other owners include pharmacist Edward Wheland and his wife, who lived in the home for nearly 50 years. The fireplace in the Great Room was originally outside, but the space was always intended to be enclosed. Three fireplaces, each built with a different shape and surface materials, were all built at the same time, and share the same chimney.



Roland Hotchkiss had this home built in 1962 by the Weir Bros. It was a retirement home for he and his second wife, Donee, for whom the street is named. Hotchkiss had a long career as a Los Angeles detective; he worked on the Marilyn Monroe case, among other high profile cases. It was the first home on this hill, but the couple eventually sold off property and neighboring homes were built. It sits on almost 2 acres with views of the San Pasqual valley. Hotchkiss added on a large family room in 1974, expanding the home to 2800 square feet. The next owners spruced things up, including sandblasting the ceilings. The fourth owners, who have been in the home 10 years, built a garage / office, among other improvements.



A Brief History of Escondido Adobe

Escondido began as Juan Batista Alvarado's rancho called Rincon del Diablo. His 1843 adobe home, and the 1857 home of a later owner of the rancho, Judge Oliver Witherby, were in close proximity to each other. Both were SE of Bear Valley Parkway at Hwy78. The Joseph Snooks adobe was built in 1845 on a hill N of Bear Valley middle school. Additional homes were the 1870 Zenas Sikes Adobe (south of the Westfield mall, and open for tours) and Omer Oaks Adobe (in Kit Carson Park). Originally within the Bernardo Township, today those two would be considered Escondido homes.

Escondido was established in 1886. The city's second City Hall, a WPA project, opened on the city's 50th anniversary in 1938. Referred to as the Adobe City Hall, it was located on Grand Ave (Palomar hospital was built behind it in 1950).

Hacienda de Vega restaurant on S. Escondido Blvd began as an adobe home built in the 1930s. After visiting the home in the late 1940s, L R Green was inspired to form the Adobe Block Company in 1949. Located on 100 acres in what is today Kit Carson Park, the Adobe Block Company produced 3.5 to 4 million bricks using soil from that location. Green used some blocks for his own home construction business. But most blocks were sold to other builders throughout San Diego, Riverside, Orange and Imperial counties.

The Weir Brothers Adobe Construction company moved to Escondido in 1951. They were the most well know adobe home builder in the area. Their office building on S Escondido Blvd still exists today. Because of the ready access to large amounts of adobe blocks, many other local contractors also built in adobe from time to time. Due to 1980s changes in the building code, adobe home can no longer be built in California.

Special thanks to:
Phil and Rebecca Gibbs
Peter and Gretchen Pelletier
Diane Readon and Greg Pearson
Robby and Anne Williams
Hacienda de Vega
Tom McCoy
Nature Concepts Water Wise Landscapes

Present this program **today**
for a free margarita or soda at

Hacienda de Vega
2608 S. Escondido Blvd.
Open Sundays 10am-8pm.