

Paxton Adobe (*Hacienda de Vega*) 1948

Charles Paxton, adobe home contractor, and real estate developer, Lawrence R. Green laid out sections of one to two acres of land in south east Escondido proposing a large housing development. Named *Longview Acres*, restrictions included "Spanish" style architecture and use of adobe block as building material manufactured nearby. In 1948, Paxton completed construction of his model home, thus marking the birth of mid-century modern adobe revival for the Escondido area. After a series of personal set backs, Paxton left Escondido and the home eventually sold.



Paxton adobe, circa 1949. Larry and Pam Paxton Collection

Escondido resident Laurie Johnson Oakland recalls living in the adobe home for a part of her high school years. When her mother, Viola remarried, Laurie moved with her family to Escondido. Viola and Gene Peregoy opened the *Hacienda Nursery* in 1959. Gene was a landscape architect, who had planned to move his business to Poway from Pomona, but spotted the property and decided on this location to open a nursery. The business did not succeed after a few years. Mrs. Oakland has some fond memories of living on the property. Her mother adopted a goat that had raised havoc around the swimming pool. One Halloween, the home and property were decorated in a spooky manner. Long time residents of Escondido describe living along South Escondido Blvd. as, "being way out of town," so that when Laurie's family home provided a space for teenage music jam sessions, there were no complaints from the neighbors.

The adobe home was adapted to serve as Pat Brillo's *Adobe Hacienda* Mexican restaurant. Building permits filed at the Planning Department at the City of Escondido indicate that some remodeling began in summer of 1962. A popular dining establishment in San Diego, Brillo's also became a popular restaurant along Highway 395. San Diego Union advertised Pat Brillo's grand opening in 1963.



DOUBLE CELEBRATION
Grand Opening
- OF -
PAT BRILLO'S NEW
ADOBE HACIENDA RESTAURANT
In ESCONDIDO On Hwy. 395
- and -
ST. PATRICK'S DAY
FRI. - SAT. - SUN. MARCH 15-16-17
FEATURING
THE TROUBADORS
- AND -
Corned Beef & Cabbage & Irish Stew
PHONE 746-0415 For RESERVATIONS
AMERICAN AND MEXICAN FOODS

Ten years later, Benjamin Cueva, Sr. owner of two small eateries in downtown Escondido purchased Pat Brillós, from then owner Marvin Cesehihi. Cueva opened *Los Amigos* restaurant and upon his unexpected passing in 1974, his son, Ben took over and operated the restaurant for many years. Mr. Cueva remembers that when his father purchased Brillo's, a small plant shop still existed in the back lot. The restaurant was very popular, however, construction of I-15 barricaded traffic flow of Highway 395, and closed off access to the shopping mall, business along the old highway dropped drastically and made *Los Amigos* and other businesses no longer profitable.



New sign, 1984. Ben Cueva Photo Collection

Revived once again as a restaurant, many original features of the adobe can be viewed amid the romantic setting of the *Hacienda de Vega*—the former living room with open beam ceilings, a large fireplace; and the restored fountain, outdoor bar, and swimming pool.



Sources:

City of Escondido, Planning Department, Building Permits
Ben Cueva, Jr., personal conversation notes 2014
Laurie Johnson Oakland, phone conversation 2015
Karen Nelson, Email correspondences 2014
Larry and Pam Paxton 2014
San Diego Union on-line Genealogy Bank