

TO: Members, Advisory Board

FROM: Larry Johnson

DATE: July 9, 2015

RE: Nomination, Featured Members of the Quarter

I am nominating Lynn and Tom Pettit as the first Featured Members of the Quarter. They have lived in the neighborhood for almost 40 years, making them among the longest current continuous owners in Twin Palms.

As highlighted below, she and her husband Tom has seen lots of changes since they moved here in October 1975.

This nomination gives us a chance to not only recognize two of the early residents of Twin Palms, but also to learn some interesting historical information about our past.

Lynn and Tom Pettit—Nomination for Featured Members, August 2015

Lynn and Tom Pettit, along with their two daughters, then aged 9 and 11, moved into their home on Marion Way 40 years ago this coming October. It was a very different neighborhood in 1975.

According to Lynn, there were only a few homes on Marion Way and lots of vacant lots. Most of the homes were occupied year round, with only a few part time residents. It was a very quiet, peaceful neighborhood with almost no traffic, very little crime, and no party houses. Most people did not feel the need to lock their doors during the day. Rabbits and roadrunners were plentiful, as well as lizards of every size and variety.

Twin Palms was a great place for children to play in the 70's and early 80s. There were enough children in the neighborhood for their 2 children to find playmates. There was lots of room for kids to play on the vacant lots along Marion Way.

When they moved here, there was a golf driving range located to the north of Marion Way. Much to the ire of the greens keeper, the neighborhood kids loved to play on the driving range. He was known to turn the water on to get them off the grass. At the time, there was no worry about the water supply! The children were very unhappy that the driving range was eliminated when Canyon South Condos were built by Mr. McCarthy, and the homes at 1160 and 1190 Marion Way were built on spec by Mr. Bond.

Unverified legend has it that their home at 1103 Marion Way was built by a contractor for his own use, and that the street was named for his wife Marion. The second owner was a part time resident from San Francisco. The Pettits are only the third owners since it was built in 1958—almost 57 years ago.

According to Lynn, who has worked in real estate for much of her professional career, the single family homes in Twin Palms have two different legal descriptions. Twin Palms Estates was the original tract name of the 90 homes designed by William Krisel and Palmer, and built by the the Alexander Construction Company. El Camino Estates was the name given to the custom built homes built between Marion Way and La Verne. These homes were built on lots purchased by the owner, or a spec builder. They choose their own architectural plans and hired their own builder. Many early owners in El Camino Estates used the same Krisel/Palmer home plans first built in Twin Palms Estates to built their homes. Thus the distinction between the two areas within Twin Palms is now rather blurred.

Over the past 4 decades, Lynn has been active in community activities. When Lynn, and her husband of 56 years Tom, moved to Palm Springs from Palos Verdes, their daughters had been very active in youth soccer. No program existed in the Coachella Valley, so Lynn started one in Palm Springs as part of the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) and it soon became valley wide. Lynn ran the program as Regional Commissioner for many years and then became Area Director for Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. The Pettit's daughters went on to graduate from Palm Springs High School and the University of California, Berkeley, their mother's alma mater. All three were active in National Charity League and Ticktockers.

In 1987 Lynn was appointed by then Mayor Frank Bogert to serve as one of the 9 directors of the 1988 Palm Springs Golden Anniversary Committee. The committee, chaired by another Twin Palms resident, Barbara Whitney, was responsible for a six month long city wide celebration of Palm Springs 50th year of incorporation. Lynn served as public relations director and also chaired one the the major events, Fun in the Park.

The 50th anniversary gift to the City was the fountain located at Village Green on South Palm Canyon Drive. It is surrounded by inscribed bricks sold to finance the project and purchased by local residents and others who love Palm Springs. The committee was the sponsoring group which opened the long awaited original convention center. A time capsule is buried at Village Green placed there by the committee and scheduled to be opened in 2038.

One thing that has not changed over the decades is Lynn's love of gardening. Something is always blooming in her yard. Lynn continues to tend her roses and a wide variety of plants and one of a kind flowers. They are her top priority for watering.

Tom worked as an independent marketing consultant/program developer for consumer goods companies throughout the country. He closed the business in 2000 and was able to stop traveling. He is active with the Bohemian Club of San Francisco, writing dramatic shows for their theater program and historical essays for their literary periodical. Tom also writes narrative (story telling) poems. One of them, Bedford America, about D-Day, was performed locally at the Camelot Theater with readers, visuals and music. It has also been performed at the Carmel Artists and Writer's Festival.

Two of Tom's books, "26 Poem-Stories About Animals, A to Z" for children, and "Harm's Way Trilogy" for adults can be seen at www.tompettitpoems.com.

We have chosen to honor Lynn and Tom as great examples of the kind of people who, over the decades, have helped to make Twin Palms such a desirable place to live. Our thanks to Lynn and Tom for their part in making Twin Palms the very unique place it is today.