

# Tahquitz River Estates Full Of Palm Springs History

By Greg Gilman

Palm Springs is home to 26 organized neighborhoods within the City's Office of Neighborhood Involvement – one of the most historic being Tahquitz River Estates – otherwise known as TRENO.



On either side of the banks of Tahquitz "Wash", just south of central Palm Springs, lies this neighborhood which uniquely represents the past, the present and the future of Palm Springs. It was not always called Tahquitz River Estates.

Located in part of a section made available to non-Native Americans to own, Judge John McCallum purchased this land with a syndicate of others. Not much could be done with it at first because the "river" would carve a new direction each rainy

season.

The first development was called Palos Verdes Estates, in the early 1930s, which is bordered by South Palm Canyon Drive as it makes its 90-degree turn to become East Palm Canyon Drive. This subdivision of approximately 350 large lots is still populated with charming "Old Palm Springs" Spanish revival houses. Some of these bungalow-size houses were under construction before Palm Springs became incorporated in 1938. The largest plot is still the 10-lot estate, between Morongo and Sonora a,venues once owned by Dr. Scholl's and his "famous feet".

Pearl McCallum McManus, daughter of John McCallum, who used to watch the children play and swim in the Tahquitz River Wash, made several attempts to develop more of this land but was hindered by the occasional flooding that would wipe out the bridge. When the county finally stabilized the banks, "Auntie" Pearl teamed with a famous builder from Los Angeles, Paul Trousdale, to develop homes on either side of the banks, between Sunny Dunes and Mesquite Avenues. It was 1947.

More than 200 two- and three-bedroom homes were built in what was then called Tahquitz River Estates. The original sales brochure states: "The lots, averaging 10,000 square feet, are carefully and individually surveyed..... to be earthquake proof!" Each house featured a "lanai", "breezeway" and a "crystal clear wall of glass" in the living room.

Today, McManus's dream has become the dream of several residents of the Tahquitz River Estates Neighborhood (TRENO) Advisory Council who made the project a priority in late 2004.

This could be a place to run, bike, walk and watch wildlife with others in the community -- a gateway to a non-motorized trail that extends to the Salton Sea.

TRENO was then joined by volunteers of the Deepwell, Warm Sands and Historic Tennis Club neighborhood organizations to form the Tahquitz Creek Yacht Club to clean and maintain the wash. The master plan was presented to the Palm Springs City Council and finally passed in April 2010, to open up the project for funding in the future. The beauty of the desert in its natural state will one day become a place for the whole city to enjoy.

