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Canyon Estates—Put Together For The 'Tiffany Brigade'

A pride of academy awards, a flock of shiny gold records, and a herd of academy award nominations glow from walls and shelves in Palm Springs. They aren't on display in a movie museum, or available to the public eye, but live with proud owners almost side by side at Roy Fey's Canyon Estates.

Palm Springs has been called the Gold Coast of California, and if indeed it is, most of the gold dust has been drawn to an area of Palm Springs called simply "Canyon". The magnet for the gold was a Chicago CPA and developer named Roy Fewy who came west to build with an uncompromisable conviction that nothing can ever substitute for quality. He had an idea for giving elegance and luxury and a new dimension, and he knew he wasn't building for the masses. His market was the "Tiffany Brigade", and they flocked to his oasis in the desert.

One look at the Fey Canyon Estates explains the mass exodus. The condominiums and homes stretch out in Garden of Eden luxury in green. Richly massive doors slide open to reveal ceilings reaching toward the mountains, oceans of square footage, and closets one could put a putting green into with no discernible problem.

For the interiors, Fey insisted on the best. He sought out the interior designers who are to homes what Rolls Bayce is to cars. Noel Birns — Steven DeChristopher work their unique design magic in rich color and the design-aware flock to see the latest model. Carol Eichen, just as much as household word as Birns-DeChristopher, and the reigning queen of model homes, is also called upon for the Fey homes for the affably affluent.

Canyon Estates homes have style — that unique, undefinable quality that goes beyond luxury, and they attract the apostles of style.

The high priest and priestess of costume design — Charles LeMaire and Helen Rose live within blocks of one another at Canyon Estates. LeMaire was Broadway's darling during the Ziegfeld era when the costume, not the play was the thing. He designed not only the costumes, but the era before coming West to head Twentieth Century Fox's costume department. Hollywood loved LeMaire as New York did, and awarded him three coveted Oscars for The Robe, Love Is A Many Splendored Thing, and All About Eve. When he and his wife, Bebe, came to the desert they came to the Canyon Estates where LeMaire paints his applauded oils and Bebe practices artistry in the kitchen and in planning elaborate parties for which she is famed.

The name Helen Rose is familiar to every woman. Helen Rose was the genius behind the glamour of the Ice Follies, making them pre-Disneyland fantasies for all ages. Rose designs on skates were flashes of beauty and whimsy — swirls flashing by as champagne glasses or swans. From the Ice Follies, she was snatched up by Hollywood to become one of the most famous costume designers the world has cheered. Her Canyon Estates home displays two Oscars — one for The Bad and the Beautiful and the other for I'll Cry Tomorrow.

Another Canyon Estates homeowner styled the music of a decade. Sol Lake, an impressive on the golf course as he is as a composer, was the man behind the sound of the Tijuana Brass. His song, The Lonely Bull, has sold over 16,000,000 copies. Other Lake gold records twinkling from his wall include Mexican Shuffle, Mexican Road Race, Crea Mi Amor, Bittersweet Samba, El Garbanza, and Green Peppers. When Lake isn't composing, he's either on the golf course or enjoying Fey's visionary kitchen for his gourmet food compositions.

Mack David, with eight academy award nominations for the best song of the year, and his wife Beatrice also heard the siren song of Palm Springs and the Canyon Estates. David Kapp the moviegoer whistling his tunes, and singing his praises. He was responsible for, among others, Disney's Bippity, Boppity, Boom; It's a Mad, Mad, Mad World; Hush, Hush Sweet Charlotte, and Hawaii. Beatrice David is noted for her graciousness and outstandingly detailed needlework.

Living close to Mack David, is yet another famous music maker — Hugo Montenegro. The melodious Montenegro music has been a boom to romance and relaxation for two generations. The man is a master of hits art, and the creator of a sound and style that will be as classic today as it will be tomorrow. The musical stylist was charmed by the home building me, and is a staunch proponent of the Fey lifestyle.

Another short walk through the Canyon Estates leads to the door of Lud Glaskin. What Lake did for pop music, David did for movie music, and Montenegro did for stereo, Lud Glaskin did for television. For years the director of music for CBS television, Glaskin collected more of the big awards than Fey has homes, including two academy award nominations for his music. The Glaskins devote their time in Palm Springs to the College of the Desert Cultural Center.

Another homeowner fan of the Fey productions is himself a well known producer. Jan Grippo lives in a Canyon Estates home, and was the producer of the famous Bowery Boy films, including Let's Go Navy. He co-produced with Edward Small the film Valentino for Columbia, and is currently devoting his time to a feature film on the life of Nick the Greek called King of Gamblers. Grippo and his wife, Paula, are involved in many local charities on a volunteer basis.

The list of the famous continues on the mailboxes at the Canyon Estates where the walls were made to hold the awards of the entertainment industry.

Visionaries or builders don't qualify for academy awards. If they did, Roy Fey would have one for outstanding contributions in bringing the gold dust, the stars, and the glamour to Palm Springs.

COLUMNIST VISITS — Roy Fey, developer of the elegant Canyon Estates chats with columnist Rona Barrett.

Fire Protection Checked At The Springs

A group of Riverside County fire officials visited The Springs recently to acquaint themselves with The Springs fire protection system and to coordinate county efforts with those of The Springs security personnel. They were guests of William Hunter, president of Colt Security Systems, who is in charge of planning and installing all security devices at The Springs.

Fire protection, as is true with all alarm systems at the residential community, has at its center a computer located in the central guard location on the property. Each home has three smoke and heat sensing devices; two within the residence and one in the garage. The computer scans each of these devices every second and will report an alarm instantly.

In the event of an alarm, the computer displays information about the alarm on TV-type screen, while at the same time printing out the information. It gives the name of the occupant, the address of the alarm, and the nature of the alarm.

Information is stored in the computer by use of a typewriter-style keyboard and can be changed as often as necessary. In addition to the basic material described above, for example, it can show that a resident is gone for the summer, give the name of a local person to advise of the problem and his telephone number. If there is an invalid or an animal in the house this information can also be shown on the computer display.

Home & Garden

REAL ESTATE

Getting Extra Room? Watch It!

By EMANUEL PARKER
Copley News Service

LOS ANGELES — You expect a lot when you pay $9,000 for a bedroom addition, but some of the things received by Mr. and Mrs. John Schueller were wholly unexpected.

The Schuellers had dealings with a contractor and, according to Mrs. Schueller, it was the most distressing and disillusioning experience of her life.

At the time Mrs. Schueller was expecting a baby, and she and her husband decided they needed another bedroom. They contacted the contractor, who put them in contact with a local loan company. Mrs. Schueller said.

She said she and her husband put $9,000 into an escrow account at the loan company.

It was supposed to make payments to the contractor after being satisfied that the work being paid for was completed, Mrs. Schueller said.

Mrs. Schueller said the loan company released $3,000 to the contractor one week after the money had been deposited, before any work had been done.

Then, she said, began a series of delays, unexpected expenses, workmen failing to appear, the receiving of bills for supplies already paid for, and many other lesser annoyances.

"We specifically asked them not to harm the lawn and flowers," Mrs. Schueller said.

"Before it was over they had crushed the flowers, repeatedly cracked the pavement around the house by backing heavy trucks and equipment onto it, and dumped a big pile of dirt on the front lawn, killing the grass."

Windows at the rear of the house, which workmen had promised would be removed last in order not to leave the rest of the house open to the elements, were removed first, Mrs. Schueller said.

Then, with the work only partially completed, and cold blasts of wind ripping through windows covered only with cardboard, the workmen began to not appear for weeks on end, she said.

Only after frantic calls from her husband would they appear, Mrs. Schueller said, to do a little work and vanish again.

At one point, she said, it began to rain into the house, repeated telephone calls finally got a workman to come and drape a plastic over over the unroofed bedroom addition. The wind immediately blew it off, and her husband had to climb onto the roof and fasten it down again.

Finally a day arrived, Mrs. Schueller said, when the workmen hadn't shown up for weeks and telephoning failed to contact them. They never appeared again and the bedroom was still incomplete.

The couple checked with the loan company and discovered their entire $9,000 had been paid to the contractor. They also began to receive bills from suppliers for goods the contractor had been paid for.

It was also at this time they found they couldn't sue the contractor, Mrs. Schueller said.

A state law, passed in 1965, prevents a general contractor from being sued by a client unless the contractor diverts more than $10,000 from the client. The Schueller's $9,000 was under that limit.

On the other hand, Mrs. Schueller said, she and her husband found that a "mechanics lien law" allows suppliers who haven't been paid by the contractor to place liens on the homeowner's property.

A lumber company placed such a lien against the Schueller's home for a $1,500 lumber bill left unpaid by the contractor, but to whom the money had been given. It cost the Schuellers $1,000 in lawyers fees to defend themselves successfully against the claim.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Schueller said, they had to borrow money to complete the bedroom.

They also found that a hallway in the addition was unlawfully narrow, and it had to be ripped out and rebuilt.

It was also left to her husband to remove the pile of dirt from the now-dead lawn, Mrs. Schueller said. They have now filed suits against the loan company (for paying off the contractor prematurely) and the lumber company (for double billing), she said.

PS Realtors At Seminar

The board of directors of the California Association of Realtors met in San Francisco last week. State directors from Palm Springs headed by board president Les Baker and regional district vice president Myra Goldwater are Emmett Callen, Bill Eveland, Wesley Gover, and Gil Knutsen.

Delegates attending were John Bernet, Jerry Cain, and Don Conway.

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