

Escape from Hollywood

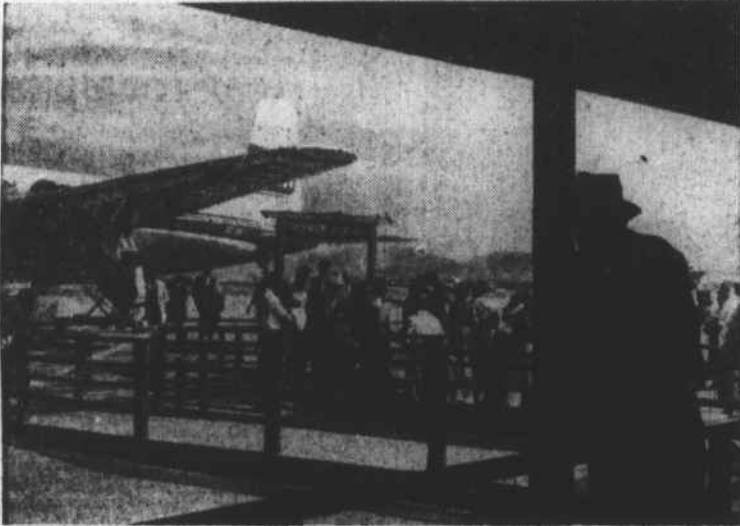
Palm Springs, Calif., a desert oasis 110 miles southeast of Los Angeles, has been described as a seaside resort without an ocean. Some call it Las Vegas without gambling. To many well-heeled individuals it is winter's Garden of Eden.

Hollywood celebrities who want a touch of the film city's Sunset Strip without the smog and congestion flock there between pictures and on weekends.

They find Palm Springs a snow-free playground where you lunch on the patio, wearing a playsuit as you look at the snow-capped mountain peaks, then sleep under three blankets as the chilly desert darkness sets in.

The resort has a fixed year round population of some 13,000, but the winter population is many times that.

Shorts and playclothes are the thing to wear on the main village street, Palm Canyon Drive. Five golf courses dot the resort area. Once a plaything of millionaires, the backyard pool now is almost a must in the design of even a medium priced Palm Springs home. There are more swimming pools per capita in Palm Springs than any city in the United States.



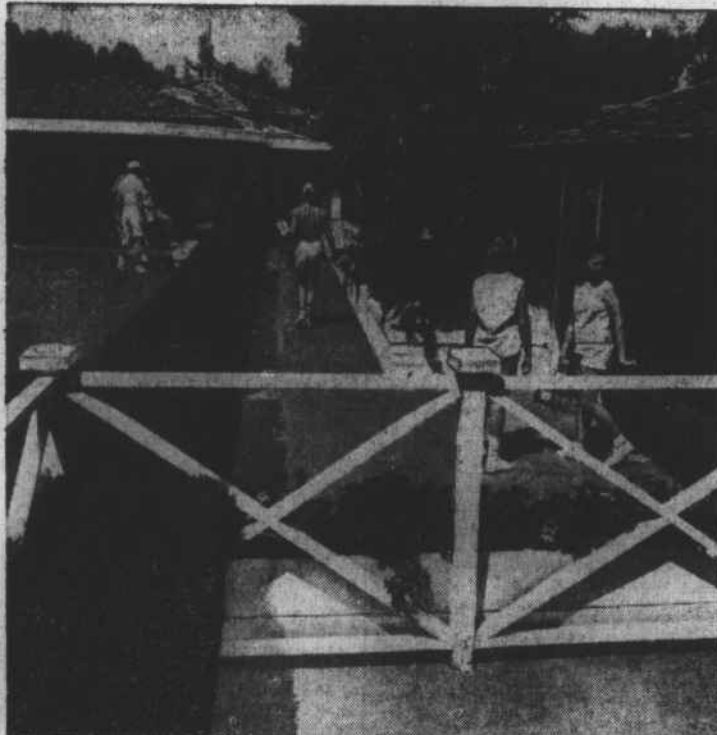
Planes bring hourly the Hollywood celebrities, the rich Easterners and others who find Palm Springs a choice spot for winter fun and relaxation.



Guests bask in the sun at Palm Springs, Calif. Resort has more swimming pools per capita than any city in United States.



Charles Farrell, center, owner of swank Racquet Club, walks across courts with George Cary and Barbara Goldman.



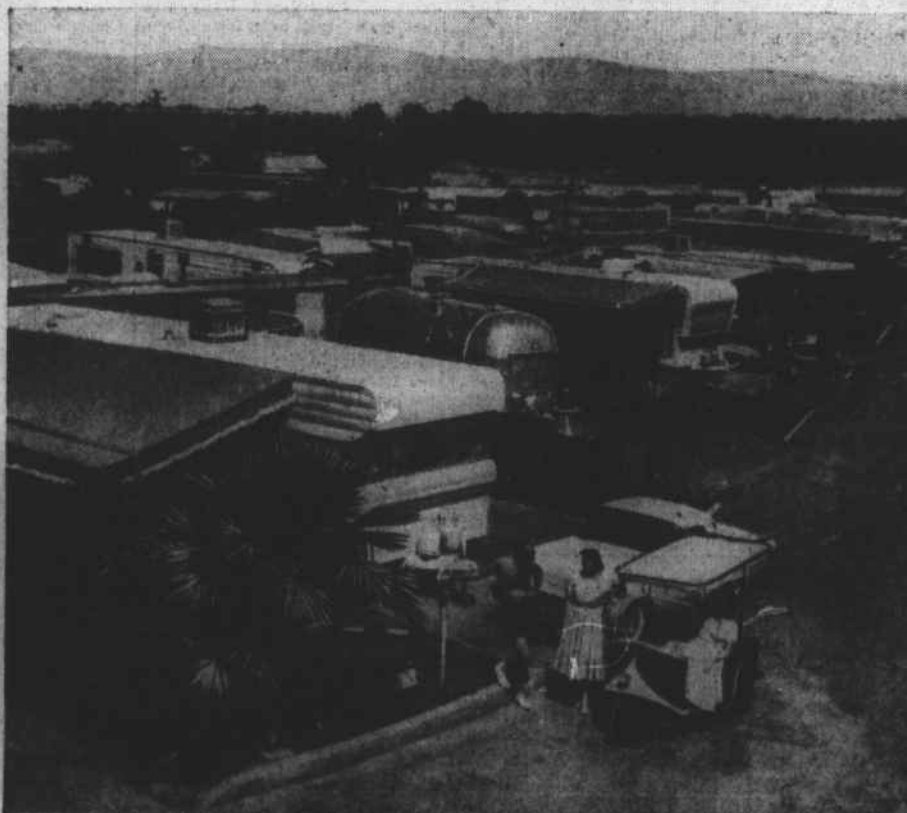
White gate marks entrance to Racquet Club, No. 1 spot of Palm Springs. Its proprietor, Charles Farrell, is also town's mayor.



Weekend vacationers Frank Fehse, left, and Alan Bernard, watch Florine Caplan make shot on shuffleboard court.



Shorts and playclothes are the things to wear on the resort's main street, Palm Canyon Drive.



True Palm Springs devotee does not mention words "trailer" or "motel." They are "mobile homes" and "desert hotels." This one is the Blue Skies.



There's always some festivity going on in the town. Here, the Desert Circus parade goes by.

This Week's PICTURE SHOW by AP Staff Photographer Richard Tolbert

