

EAGA Business Builder

Volume 14

Issue 28

eaganm.com

July 10, 2018

Today's speaker was Guy Berger—Palms Trading Company



Mr. Berger is a New Mexico native. He has been since 1959. All his lower and higher education were completed here as well. St. Mary's in downtown Albuquerque for the early years; West Mesa High School (yes he is one of those guys); and University of New Mexico for his higher education. Guy has been happily married to Danielle for 35 years, and they have two children—Peter and Diana. Diana is a graduate of Gonzaga University and Peter is a graduate of St Mary's (that is the college in

California, not Dad's grade school). Palms Trading, in one form or another, has been owned by Guy's family for three generations. The history of Palms - from the early 1930s Beer Garden; to the Food Store; to the Trading Company is full of interesting people, events and situations. There is a condensed version on the Palms Trading Company website; and short version with a few more interesting tidbits in the August 8, 2017 EAGA Bulletin; and a very detailed version available whenever you can corner Guy for a long lunch; dinner; or few glasses of wine or beer. The Palms Trading of today is a well known and well respected purveyor of Native American crafts. They have a huge selection of jewelry, rugs, artifacts, and pottery. Check out a virtual tour of their expansive facilities via the "360 virtual tour of our store" link on their website www.palmstrading.com. That tour is relatively new and was constructed by WSI. Today, Mr. Berger was kind enough to provide us with a very interesting presentation about the pottery. He brought many examples of the pots made by the crafters around our area. He explained the detailed intricacies of each pot, and a bit about the individual craftsman. Guy noted that a good way to tell ceramic pottery from the real handmade items is to look inside. Ceramic version has a white interior, while the handmade ones have an inside that is more off-white, and with small specks of material from the firing of the pot. Some of the other information provided during the talk: Handmade pottery is a work of art from the very beginning. The clay is ground up; put into a bucket and worked to get out all the impurities; then molded into rope-like strands that are coiled up to form the pot. None of the Pueblo potters use wheels. Their pots are shaped by hand - with a tremendous amount of skill - so that each pot is well shaped and not crooked or distorted. All of the painting is done by hand, using a variety of brush like instruments. One potter dips two strands of her son's hair into the dye, then drags them across the item to make a 'triangles within triangles' design. Another craftsman uses yucca leaves for a brush. Many of the pots had intricate designs; others had carved out patterns; still others had characters and symbols. One of Guy's pots had drawings of skeletons and a funeral scene. It had a hearse carriage with a horse, owls and other creatures, and even tiny grave stones with names—Guy speculated that, knowing the humor of the potter, one those tombstones would have the craftsman's name on it. There were other stories and histories of the pot makers: One is know as "Frog Woman"; another as the Feather Woman; and their pots are signed with those symbols. Maria Martinez has signed her pottery with seven different signatures between the 1930s and 1980s - depending on the period in her life. Her work can, therefore be quite accurately dated based on the signature used. Often family members will carry on the pot crafting tradition, but the work will naturally change as each generation develops their own style. Pot making is a dying art though. Younger folks have developed different interests, potentials and plans for their future...and less and less of those plans include crafting pottery. The examples that Guy presented were tremendously interesting. Many of them were also quite valuable (from a few hundred dollars, to some quite a bit more than a few hundred dollars), so another amazing part of the presentation is that Guy trusted the clumsy EAGA members to actually pass the pottery around the room for better viewing. You should make a point of going to Palms Trading Company to see the many, many items that they have available for sale. The story behind the pottery is part of the value you will receive when shopping there. To get a personal tour, or to get that detailed potter information, contact Guy at 505-247-8504. His education did not stop with that UNM degree. It is obvious that Mr. Berger has acquired a tremendous amount of knowledge from his personal research, experiences and conversations with craftsmen. He knows a lot about everything that he sells. It will be interesting to find out this week, whether or not he is also a good judge of character (or characters). We will see if all the pots that he brought were still in the room after the members left the meeting.

◆ First announcement of a potential member representative change:

NM Solar Group

Representative change to: Nicholas Kadlec

Title: Sales Representative

If you have an objection to this representative change, or if you have information that you feel should be considered during the application review process, please contact Membership Committee Chairman, Jack Zipper (jdzipper@comcast.net or 505-259-5959) as soon as possible.

Contact information for Executive Director: Kevin Lorenzen

Phone: 505-771-9393

email: eagaed@gmail.com

Address: 8100 Wyoming Blvd NE;

Suite M-4 #345

Albuquerque, NM 87113

Business Leads:

Webster University at 4775 Indian School NE is closing that location.

- Lionel Specter—Zeon Signs

Reciprocity:

Thank you to Bobby Jackson for the repair to my daughter's sunroof.

Thank you to Chuck Mitchell for the outstanding service with one of our vehicles.

- Mario Hernandez

Thank you to Manny Ortega for the great service and \$20 discount.

- Jack Zipper

◆ First announcement of a potential new member:

French Funerals & Cremations

Representative: Glenn Rosenbaum

Category: Death Care

Sponsor: Kevin Lorenzen

If you have an objection to this company becoming a member, or if you have information that you feel should be considered during the application review process, please contact Membership Committee Chairman, Jack Zipper (jzipper@comcast.net or 505-259-5959) as soon as possible.

Upcoming EAGA events:

- * Our annual Jim Fanning Memorial Trap Shoot will be Friday, September 14th at 8:00 am.
- * Balloon Fiesta tent event will be the evening of Saturday, October 13th.
- * Annual Christmas Holiday Party will be Saturday, December 8th, at Hotel Albuquerque.

Badge Board Greeters

July 17th	Paul Losey—Covenant Schools
July 24th	Robert Biernacki—WaterQuest Landscaping
July 31st	Lou Rodges—Retriever Merchant Services
Aug 7th	Raul Rodriguez—Kings of Wrap
Aug 14th	Scott Wilson—Crane Services, Inc
Aug 21st	Steve Grant—Downtown Historic Bed & Breakfast
Aug 28th	Tim Baca—Kangen Water
Sept 4th	NO MEETING _ LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

Upcoming Speakers

July 17th	Scott Wilson—Crane Services Inc
July 24th	
July 31st	Guest Speaker - Steven McKee of McKee Wallwork and Company
Aug 7th	Scott Lardner—Rocky Mountain Stone
Aug 14th	Joel Sanchez—Paylocity
Aug 21st	
Aug 28th	Raul Rodriguez—Kings of Wrap
Sept 4th	NO MEETING—LABOR DAY

Contact information for Executive Director: Kevin Lorenzen

Phone: 505-771-9393 email: eagaed@gmail.com

Address: 8100 Wyoming Blvd NE; Suite M-4 #345 Albuquerque, NM 87113