

# THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES



Desert Circus float, Business Women's Club, c. 1940 COURTESY OF THE PALM SPRINGS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## History: Business women promoted downtown benches and more

**Tracy Conrad**

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In February 1948 The Desert Sun printed a small article headlined "Benches." Its subtitle noted, "Council to Hear From Business Women."

The article explained, "The ever-pressing problem of where to sit downtown in the sun, that is, will be before the city council tomorrow night. At the request of the Business Women's Club the question of return of sidewalk benches in the downtown area, has been placed on the agenda for discussion. Members of the club will be there to listen in."

The Business Women's Club regularly participated in the annual Desert Cir-

cus parade and contributed in a variety of ways to the community. Advocating for a place to sit downtown was only one of their projects.

Pictured here, the Business Women's Club's float in the Desert Circus parade in 1940 and the participants dressed for a charity show in 1954, from left to right, Estelle Schiller, Grace Weatherford, Mary Pickell and Betty Luce.

Thanks for reading. "Thanks for the Memories" will be abbreviated for the next few weeks with the regular column returning Sunday, June 18.

*Tracy Conrad is president of the Palm Springs Historical Society. The Thanks for the Memories column appears Sundays in The Desert Sun. Write to her at pshstracy@gmail.com.*



1954 Palm Springs Business Women's Club: Estelle Schiller, Grace Weatherford, Mary Pickell, Betty Luce COURTESY OF THE PALM SPRINGS HISTORICAL SOCIETY