

331 Marine Avenue The Balboa Island Museum

- Built in 1947.
- Some modifications to original layout (see diagram).
- Kitchen has original tile and ironing board.
- Note the inscription on the cement slab at the entrance.
- The Museum moved into the location in December 2011.

When Herman “Bert” and Frances Pulaski built a little house in on Marine Avenue in 1947, little did they know that one day it would become the home of the Balboa Island Museum. Bert and Frances lived in the house with their son Rolly (who lives on the peninsula today). Rolly lived there until he went to college (about 10 years) and Frances lived there until she sold the house in the mid-1960s.

The two buildings in front of the house were in their current locations. The one on the right was called Washington Cleaners, a company out of Santa Ana. Rolly’s half-sister, Mary owned Mary’s Beauty Shop (where the Museum Store is now).

There have been only a few modifications of the house during the past 65 years. In the beginning, the front portion of the house contained the living room and master bedroom. The living room opened into the kitchen. At some point a wall was taken down and one big space created, which is currently the front part of the Museum. A wall was erected to separate the front from the kitchen area. The kitchen has always been in the same location. There was another bedroom in the back, which is now an exhibit room. There was also a wall in the current hallway so you could not get to the kitchen except from the living room.

The kitchen has the original tile and ironing board. The kitchen table used to be under the window. The stove and refrigerator were against the wall where our white cabinet stands today. Rolly said that the kitchen was the heart of the home. His parents loved to cook and his fondest memories revolve around the kitchen. The kitchen still evokes warm memories for all who visit the Museum.

There is a cement slab at the entrance to the house with the following inscription:

FRANCES
BERT AND
ROLLY LIVE HERE

THE NICEST PEOPLE
IN THE WORLD
WALK THROU THIS DOOR
OUR FRIENDS

Following is a diagram of house from the early days.