

SHADY DELL

Dot's Diner



Dot's Diner is an authentic diner built by the Valentine Manufacturing Co. in Wichita, Kansas. Valentine had been manufacturing diners since the 1930's without much change in design, which explains the deco style. This diner was originally purchased by John Hart in 1957. It was delivered to the corner of Ventura Blvd. and Topanga Canyon Blvd. in Los Angeles and became "Burger Bar No. 3" (one of three such diners in Hart's first hamburger franchise in the Valley).

John Hart's favorite waitress was his wife, Babe. Although he and Babe owned other diners, this one was their pride and joy, and they ran it for several years. Hart's philosophy was simple: "Most people are lonesome and the most lonely time is when you have to eat alone," he said. "The diner was small and real personal. You couldn't sit at the counter without getting involved in conversation. A guy might come in for coffee but he came back for the company."

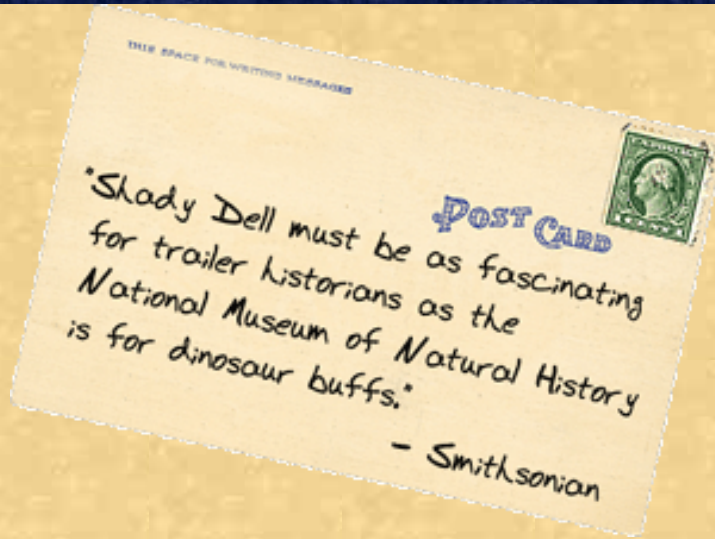


After Hart's retirement, the diner had to be moved to make way for a new high rise savings and loan building. It was moved to a remote Los Angeles canyon and totally neglected for about 13 years. When the current owners found it, it was in need of almost total restoration. It was transported by flatbed truck to the Shady Dell in November, 1996, in the middle of a freezing storm. After six months of restoration, it opened in May, 1997, with Dot Bozeman as chief cook and bottle washer. Since then Dot's Diner has been the subject of several television travel shows and articles

(CBS This Morning, CNN, USA Today, Sunset, National Geographic Traveler, Travel & Leisure, and Gourmet).

Dot retired in May, 1999, but her namesake diner is still going strong feeding all of Arizona 10 stools at a time. The phone number is (520) 432-1112.

Dot's Diner is now open 7 days a week, from 7:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.



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