

Desert Inn sold, returns to life after contentious shutdown

By **CRAIG CURRIER**
Valley Press Staff Writer

LANCASTER — Nearly nine months after it was shut down and fenced off by city officials, the landmark Sierra Highway hotel formerly known as the Desert Inn is open once again.

Under new ownership and a new name — the husband-and-wife team of Alan and Robin Shen have renamed the property Shadow Park Inn & Suites — the hotel has begun accepting guests, and the coffee shop will reopen soon.

"We expect people will come back here because this hotel gave a lot of people good memories," said Alan Shen, a 49-year-old investment and real estate advisor from Cerritos.

"It used to be the best hotel in Lancaster, and we

want it glorified again as before or even better."

The Desert Inn had been closed July 16, when Mayor R. Rex Parris ordered it shut after former operator Hui Su refused to cancel her agreement to play host to a weekend gathering for hundreds of members of the Mongols outlaw motorcycle gang. City officials said the hotel owed the city \$180,000 in back taxes.

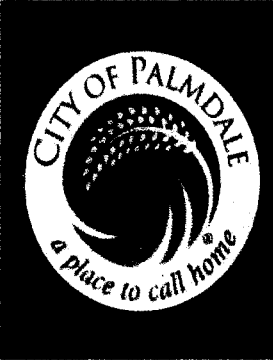
The Desert Inn was called the Desert Motel when it opened with 13 rooms after World War II, when Sierra Highway was U.S. 6 and the main route through the Antelope Valley. The hotel grew larger over the decades, adding a coffee shop in 1950 and, in 1968, the Granada Room restaurant, which for years was the Valley's fanciest.

The completion of the Antelope Valley Freeway in

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