

Historical Hi-Lites

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Message from the President

Bob Price, President

An objective look at our society can easily observe that whatever progress we are making comes from the work of the officers and the committee chairmen. So at mid-year let's recognize and give special credit to these people, each a leader in their own right. This is not to praise one above another, but rather to have all members increasingly aware that some things are being done well, others not yet too well, and others nothing at all. It is the results that count—the accomplishments that are the life blood of the organization.

Riding high for such acknowledgment on our part is the consistent work done over the years by our Treasurer, Bob Dozier. There is no greater presidential headache than to have this job done poorly. We, and especially the president and board, are indeed very fortunate in having Bob at the helm in this work. It is repetitive, grinding, even thankless work, but it is an absolute must. Thanks, Bob Dozier!

Next to mention is the work of Archives Chairman Claire Still. Those of us who have been in this from the beginning can recall our struggle to put some sort of system into the accumulation of written materials and artifacts. We struggled valiantly, not without results, but it took Claire to get us organized and aimed in the right direction. Now that we are several years old, this work is vital and currently is heart and soul of our service to the community. Our storage locker is an organized place, not just a random depository. Documents in the office have a filing pattern and are neatly and knowledgeably assembled. This work is increasing and is becoming a real challenge for continuance and further growth as material comes our way from the community and is placed in our trust for perpetual care. Thanks, Claire Still!

Space does not permit me to go further in detail, but I ask that all members join in appreciation of the work of these leaders and their fellow committeemen. Add to the list in brevity, the work of Tracy Strevey - Publications Chairman, Cushman Clark - Membership Chairman, Evelyn Shopp - Secretary, Blanch Miller - Staff, Rex Perkins and Dick Hauptfleisch - Development, Mary Drane - Reflections, Marian Fox - Volunteer Emeritus, Cliff Johnson - Publicity, Margaret Waterman - Volunteers, and Toby Neremberg - Oral History. My personal thanks to each and all and a challenge to the rest of us that we have just begun. There is much work ahead and a great need for more leaders and helpers in the months and years ahead. Let every member take note and share the challenge.

Archives Committee Acquisitions Policy

The purpose of the Leisure World Historical Society, according to the Articles of Incorporation, is "To collect, preserve and own such records, books, manuscripts, charts, maps, photographs, films and other materials pertaining to the history of Rossmoor Leisure World of Laguna Hills and its surrounding environs in Orange County, California, to engage in research in connection therewith and to disseminate information to the public so as to foster knowledge and appreciation of the people and events that contribute to such history—"

In order to accomplish this purpose an Archives Committee has been established and will use the following guidelines concerning what materials should be retained, in what quantity, etc. These guidelines include the following type of acquisitions:

SUBJECT FILE: clippings and flyers from Airplane Crash, 1967, to material regarding James H. Zumberge. The file includes Biographical material, copies of profiles of notable residents as well as Oral history tapes, some of which have been transcribed. The file is cataloged with easy access to finding the material wanted.

CLUB FILE: File of material regarding the 150 to 200 clubs in Leisure World from AARP to the Writers & Publishers Club of Leisure World. The file contains histories regarding many of the clubs, both currently active and some of which are no longer in existence.

PERIODICALS: Included here are copies of the Annual Reports of the various mutuals, as well as a limited number of current historical publications such as "The Californians" and "History News."

PHOTOGRAPHS: This file contains photographs in acid-free envelopes filed by subject from Aerial views of Leisure World to the Twentieth Anniversary celebration and Veterans of World War I. There is an alphabetical list of subjects for easy access to the file.

SCRAPBOOKS: We have a number of scrapbooks from various clubs including the Naturalist Club, the Organ Club, Opera 100 and the Stamp Club. Also a number of club directories and/or rosters are included.

There are also scrapbooks of publicity related to the Leisure World Historical Society and other scrapbooks of clippings related to the community in general.

LEISURE WORLDER OF THE MONTH: We have Annual volumes of the Leisure Worlder of the Month containing a black and white photos of those honored since 1976 when the program began as well as albums arranged alphabetically of the colored photos.

Archives Committee Report CONTINUED. . .

MEMORABILIA: In addition to the above we have some flags, plaques and trophies.

NEWSPAPERS: We have files of Leisure World News back to vol. 1, no. 1, March 17, 1965. These are stored in acid-free boxes to preserve them as long as possible and are kept in our storage annex on Moulton Parkway.

In addition to all the above we have some collections of special people like Marjorie Jones who was instrumental in founding the society and M.H. "Jim" Waterman, President of the society from 1980 to 1984.

Claire Still, Archives Chairman

Leisure Worlder of the Month by Editor

The Leisure World Historical Society deeply appreciates the opportunity to cooperate closely with Home Federal Savings and Loan Association in the "Leisure Worlder of the Month" program devoted to the recognition of residents of our community.

In January, 1976, this program was initiated by Rossmoor Corporation. The presentation is accomplished at a public ceremony to which all residents of Leisure World are invited. The portrait and testimonial are made available for public viewing for one month. When the next Leisure Worlder of the Month is honored the portrait and testimonial are presented to the previous one as a gift.

In August, 1981—after some 67 ceremonies had been held by Rossmoor Corporation, Home Federal Savings and Loan Association took over the program, thus assuming the responsibility of presenting the honorees, preparing the portrait, and doing the necessary public relations.

At this time the Leisure World Historical Society was asked to consult and recommend the selection of honorees. This has been accomplished since then through an anonymous committee whose names are kept secret. The society also participates in the monthly ceremony with one of its members serving as chairman or moderator.

It is the mutual desire of both Home Federal Savings and Loan and the Leisure World Historical Society to continue this program. With residents from around the world, with distinguished careers before and after coming to Leisure World it is only fitting that we recognize those qualities of service and leadership that contribute so much to our community.

Below is a list of Leisure Worlders of the Month for the year 1985.

January	Dr. Martin Weitz
February	Erma Batman
March	Dr. Norman Freestone
April	Hazel LaBelle
May	Arthur Briggs
June	Rissa Intha Coates
July	George Oates
August	Isabella V. Leland
September	Leonard Lesher
October	Ross Appleman
November	Fay and Dick Bruner
December	Carl Holmberg

Joint Meeting

The Leisure World Historical Society met jointly with the Saddleback Area Historical Society at Heritage Hill Historical Park, 25151 Serrano Road, El Toro, at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 19, 1985. The purpose of the meeting was to dedicate the Harvey Bennett Ranch House.

After appropriate opening remarks and introductions, the Saddleback Area President presented the speaker.

Nadine Zelenka, an avocational archaeologist, had worked as a geologist at the Bennett Orchard site dig. She described the interdisciplinary approach made at the site during 1977-78. The ranch had been bisected by Aliso Creek. The creek meandered around disturbing the site area and making the dig more difficult. The ranch had been an Indian camp site occupied seasonally until about 1500 A.D.

Mrs. Harvey Bennett unveiled the plaque on the house. She related some of her experiences during her 65 years on the ranch. The house had originally been a two room bunk house.

Bennett family members were introduced and photographed. They gave the Saddleback Historical Society the wedding portrait of the Bennetts.

Docents led tours of the buildings. Refreshments were available.

Evelyn H. Shopp, Secretary

Reflections by Mary DRAN

The Leisure World Historical Society continues its weekly brief article in the Leisure World News on events and news of the past. Following are a few recent vignettes:

The manors within a cluster are numbered around their cul-de-sac entrance. Leisure World has no street numbers for its buildings. (Now we know.)

Leisure World News, January 21, 1971

A seven-story commercial building, reportedly the first high-rise office structure in unincorporated Orange County, will rise on El Toro Road at the San Diego Freeway, according to plans announced by Royal Savings & Loan Association.

Leisure World News, December 31, 1970

A Conn theatrical organ has been selected for Clubhouse 3, and a massive campaign is now underway to raise funds to purchase the musical addition to the new clubhouse.

Leisure World News, December 10, 1970

Saddleback Hospital thanks Golden Rain Foundation for land and gifts. Gratitude for the donations they made and a verbal blueprint of what the future will bring provided highlights of a Saddleback Community Hospital luncheon Monday, November 23.

Leisure World News, November 26, 1970

During the month of October, Laguna Hills Mutuals No. 22 through 29 will be reading about meeting and discussing the next consolidation step toward forming Third Laguna Hills Mutual.

Leisure World News, October 8, 1970

Financial Reports

by Bob Dozier

While we are not quite to the end of 1985 as this report is being written, we can make a good estimate of our financial results for the year.

We received \$3,200 from annual dues and \$400 from new Life Memberships. Contributions from banks and commercial establishments amounted to \$1,665, which is considerably less than in some prior years. Interest on our savings account, and miscellaneous items, totaled \$1,320, bringing our total income to \$6,585.

Since the very purpose of the Historical Society is to "Collect," we have a growing volume of Archives. Most of this material is stored in a public storage unit. The annual rent for this storage space and for our office in the Administration Building is \$2,450. Payroll and related taxes for our part-time secretary amounted to \$3,220. Supplies, postage, insurance, and publication of "Historical Hi-Lites" cost \$1,950, bringing total expenses to \$7,620.

Thus our operating expenses exceeded income by about \$1,035, which has been drawn from our savings reserves.

Since our Archives will continue to expand as we pursue our purpose of preserving the history of Leisure World, we must find sources of additional income. Your Board of Directors will be exploring this need during 1986.

Leisure World Honorees Recognition Dinner Planned

The 1986 class of Leisure World honorees, consisting of Harry Harper (Rossmoor), Virginia Cooke (PCM), Irene Puhmann, Charles 'Dinty' Moore, Glenn Wineman and Alfred Driscoll, will be honored at a Recognition Dinner Monday evening, February 3, 1986, Main Lounge, Clubhouse 1.

Dinner will be catered. Tickets, reservations, table assignments and hospitality will be handled by Irma Franklin and Ruth Smitherman. Jim White will serve as Master of Ceremonies. Other members of the committee are: Robert Price, Richard Hauptfleisch, and Tracy Strevey.

Music for dancing and listening pleasure will be provided by Vern MacGuire and The Leisure World Combo.

Irma Franklin, Leisure World Historical Society Committee Chairman for Recognition Dinner tickets and table reservations wishes to remind those residents who may have missed previous announcements that requests should be sent in promptly. Checks in the amount of \$12.50 per person should be sent to the Leisure World Historical Society, Box 2020, Laguna Hills, Calif. 92653, or in person at the society office in the Administration Building, 10 a.m. to noon, and 2 to 4 p.m., not later than Monday morning, January 27, 1986. Requests will be honored in the order received to the extent that tickets are available.

Program Committee

by Richard Hauptfleisch

It has been the practice of the Leisure World Historical Society to hold a series of six meetings and a special events during the year. Such exposure not only brings members up-to-date on the happenings of the society, but also gives the society the opportunity to stimulate new membership.

Two of the meetings in 1985 were of the general meeting type. One held March 28, 1985 at which the election of officers and directors was conducted along with a fine speech by Dr. Norman Freestone talking on "Mark Twain and the Far West" and the other meeting on October 22, 1985 featuring membership promotion and archives presentation as well as a speech by Dick Hauptfleisch on "Banking—present and future."

On January 14, 1985, a dinner dance was held at Clubhouse 1 and six individuals were honored for extraordinary service towards the success of Leisure World. On February 19, 1985, the Community Service Committee presented a program at Clubhouse 3 in the auditorium at which the speaker was James Zumberge.

The luncheon meeting on April 19 at Mercury Savings featured an interesting talk by Dean Beaumont, son of famed seascape artist Arthur Beaumont, who talked and presented slides about how his father completed his famous paintings of ships. On Sunday, May 19, a joint meeting was held with the Saddleback Area Historical Society at Heritage Hill in El Toro—an informative event.

Although plans have not been completed for the 1986 programs, it will have the same format as 1985 with six programs. The Recognition Dinner-Dance honoring six more honorees will be held on Monday, February 3, 1986 in Clubhouse 1 with Jim White in charge. Other dates include Community Service Program on February 18, Annual Meeting and Election on March 25, Luncheon at Mercury Savings on April 15, Joint meeting with Saddleback Area Historical Society on May 13, and General meeting on October 28.

Space Needs


The society is severely cramped, especially in view of its many activities which involve collection and storage of historical data, artifacts and documents of all kinds. It has been the hope of all our members to acquire additional space. If there is any question as to our needs, please come by our office in the Administration Building and look us over.

We have been forced to rent two commercial-type lockers on Moulton Parkway near Lake Forest Drive. Even with these additions for dead storage there is a continuing need to expand.

If you have any suggestions or ideas leading to a solution of our problem, please communicate with President Robert Price or call the office, 951-2330.



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Laguna Hills, California, Inc.*



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