



VISIT THE HISTORIC IRVINE RANCH

Here is an opportunity to learn more about Orange County and one of the largest private land holdings in the World. The trip, scheduled for September 21, will leave Gate 3 at 9 a.m. and return at 3 p.m. A knowledgeable, enthusiastic guide will make the trip interesting and entertaining.

Page 7 has full details and a reservation form.

OCTOBER MEDICAL LECTURE

The medical lectures by UCI School of Medicine faculty will be resumed in October. Watch the Leisure World News and Channel 6 for more complete information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need more volunteers! That's not new, but vacations and the illness of several volunteers make it more urgent. If you are interested in finding out what we do, please sign up for the volunteer orientation session which will be held on Thursday afternoon, September 23. Call and leave your name and we'll be in touch. Attending the session will in no way obligate you, but will give you a better idea of the functions of your Society. Hopefully, you'll be interested!

PRESIDENTIAL MUSINGS

JOHN FULLER

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In our last newsletter, I quoted from an unidentified history of Leisure World that I had come across. Having found said document, it would be logical for one in my position to contact the Archivist for a possible source. So, of course, I didn't. Needless to say, after reading my column, Archivist Marge Williams informed me that she knew the source of the document. We actually have copies in our Archives!

The document was the work of Marjorie F. Jones, the second president of the Society. It was the first "history" of Leisure World and covered 1964-74. The second published history was *Fulfilling Retirement Dreams: The First 25 Years*, edited by Dr. Tracy E. Strevey, and published in 1989 as our contribution to the 25th Anniversary celebration. Unfortunately, it is now out of print and unavailable for sale.

And now, more quotes from Marjorie Jones' History.

1964-1965: In the blue book which residents received, there is an informative paragraph describing structures and services for Rossmoor Leisure World. "Community Facilities planned as a part of Leisure World will include 7 clubhouses, an auditorium, an 18-hole golf course, equestrian stables, 2 swimming pools and a medical center including a 256 bed hospital."

1968: July 4th marked the first parade in Leisure World. All of the 128 clubs participated and it will be an annual event. Management processes in Leisure World were being constantly upgraded. Records were being microfilmed, electro-data processing and divisional accounting were new terms for the Directors to consider.

1969: If one's route was planned correctly, in December one could have walked 105 miles on Leisure World sidewalks, without even retracing a step and while looking at 280 acres of landscaped beauty.

1970: The area near Clubhouse 1 had 12 new shuffleboard courts. A bocce court was built near the swimming pool making a new form of activity available, and a 9-hole golf course was added making 27 holes available to golfers.

Plans were being readied not only for Clubhouse 4, but also for the Towers. Golden Rain would build Clubhouse 4 as it had built Clubhouse 3.

People were getting careless about observing traffic regulations, so a point system was adopted. A citation meant a point or points against one's record. An accumulation of points resulted in an invitation to meet with the security Chief and discuss problems. The greatest number of faults was halfway stops, no parking signals and parking errors.

I hope you found this short historical trip interesting and enlightening.

FORMS

Like the government--we have forms!

Need any of these? Stop by and pick up one. If you are unable to come in, just call and one will be mailed.

- 1) Veteran Registration Form, all wars
(More information on page 4.)
- 2) Nomination for Community Service Award
(See page 4.)
- 3) Historically Advantaged Members
(for members 90 or older or who will be 90 within 12 months.)
- 4) Second and third generation residents
- 5) Leisure Worlder of the Month nominations

.....any many more!

40th Anniversary Display

The Historical Society booth at the week-end "festival" was the result of much effort on the part of the Archives crew. Special credit goes to Fran Lindberg, who not only "found" the exhibits but also found the people to staff the booth. Marge Williams, Harry Schwartz Kevin Fuller and others contributed time, ideas and talent.

Prior to the weekend, many clubs were seeking materials for their exhibits and the staff was pleased that most requests could be easily handled. Obviously, the systems established are working!

Sayings to Live by

It is more difficult to get up and take action than it is to sit down and take notice.

A handful of common sense is worth a bushel of learning.

DIRECTORY ADDENDUM

BLATMAN, Richard 3379 Punta Alta Unit C	830-5242
CRONICK, Lucille 804 Ronda Mendoza Unit N	769-3480
GARDNER, James 1 Via Castilla, Unit N	588-9141
JACOBS, M. Katherine 618 Ave Sevilla, Unit A	
LETCHER, Margaret LETCHER, Thomas 36 Calle Aragon, Unit H	
RICHER, Helen 477 Calle Cadiz	859-9048
Correction	
WEIL, Helen	586-1615

VOLUNTEERS, PRN

Response to our call for "special duty" volunteers was just great! We could still use a few more so if you are interested, just call 205-0150. We will add your name.

The following people are on the list:

- Beverly Allen**
- Katherine Barrett**
- Bill & Cynthia Blank**
- Dottie Fredericks**
- Hilda Knapp**
- Betty Leonard**
- Beryl Love**
- Helen Lyon**
- Dolores Martinkus**
- Elaine Mogul**
- Chas. & Jan McLaughlin**
- Carol Phelps**
- Theresa Piwowarski**
- Ralph Reinhard**
- Kathryn Taylor**
- Rita Yankasammy**



Dr. Tracy E. Strevey Community Service Award

The Society is accepting nominations for this annual award. Started in 2000, it may be awarded to an individual, a club or an organization selected for outstanding service to the community and or the Historical Society. Only members may submit nominations. Forms are available in the office and must be used. Nominations should be sent to the President, marked "Confidential." Previous winners are:

Leisure World News
Channel 6
Earthquak/ Disaster Task Force
Leisure World Foundation

Three individuals have been named: Brenda Ross, Russ Disbro and Terry Robinson

Respect--for--the--Aged Day

This must be one of the few days we have missed in this country, but not so in Japan. Keiro no Hi was first celebrated in 1961 as Old People's Day. When it was declared a holiday in 1968, the name was changed to Respect-for- the -Aged Day. In 1996, Japan had 7,373 centenarians and the number has been growing at about 1000 a year. At that time life expectancy was 76.36 for males and 82.84 for females. That must explain the continued interest of Japanese business and professional people in adult living centers in the United States

.In case any of you want to celebrate this day, it falls on September 15, a Wednesday. Show some respect!

Veterans History Project

The Historical Society Veterans Registration program which was originally established to register World War II veterans living in Leisure World has now expanded to cover registration of all veterans of all wars. If you served--regardless of the location --and regardless of your rank, do register.

By the middle of the month, the Video Club will again be taping veteran interviews. Board members Ward Payne and John Bradley will be contacting registrants to determine their willingness to participate. Justine Ratner will be setting up interviews, and Marge Williams will take care of the filling and protection of all materials generated in this project.

Registration forms are available in our office and in the library.

Aviation History Tour in Southern California

The Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society presents "Soaring over Orange County: Our Aviation History" on Saturday, October 23. This is a guided walking tour of Fairhaven Memorial Park and Santa Ana Cemetery. It will feature costumed actors portraying residents of Orange County who made their mark on aviation history.

Time is 10 am to 3 pm. Tickets for Seniors are \$15. but discounted advance tickets are available. For more information go to the Society's website, www.SantaAnaHistory.com

REGENCY LOST?

According to recent reports, it is difficult to find *Renaissance at the Regency*. As a "funder" for the Leisure Worlder of the Month program, we do indeed want our members to be able to find them. Just head for Gate 14, and the last entrance on the right before you enter Gate 14 leads to the Regency. Go in and say hello to Michael Johnson, the new Executive Director.

Johnson has been in Health Care for 18 years and was recently Associate Exec. Director at the Villa Valencia. He has a BS from the University of Phoenix and an advanced degree from Ca. State Long Beach. Born in Washington D.C., his mother and 9 siblings still live there,

When you visit the Regency, do tell him we are very appreciative of the support they have given the Leisure Worlder of the Month program for the last three years.



Dr. Tracy E. Strevey

Dr. Strevey and his wife Margaret were not among the first residents of Leisure World, but they were among the most influential in early years. Dr. Strevey, a vice-president at USC, was a man with wide interests and was "first" in many things:

- First resident President of GRF
- First President of the Historical Society
- Founder and first President of the Academians
- "Founding Father" of the Saddleback Hospital first support group, The Associates
- Editor, Fulfilling Retirement Dreams
- Leisure Worlder of the Month June 1978

When his name popped up on three separate pages of the Newsletter, it seemed time to tell our new members about him. Old timers will not forget.

WHITE GLOVE TIME

Marjorie Williams

There is a new procedure in the Archives -- put on our white cotton gloves before you research in the newspaper holdings. And turn the pages with both hands: One hand at the top of the page and the other toward the bottom.

These are, of course, standard archival procedures in all large collections. Because of the relative younger age of our papers, we have been able to escape all of these requirements. Now, however, it is becoming necessary as our newspapers are deteriorating badly and getting older and dryer every year.

Please wear our gloves with patience, understanding and gratitude that we still have an aging but immense treasure in our file of the *Leisure World News*.

ARCHIVAL "RETRIEVALS"

Marjorie Williams, Archivist

THE CORTESE GIFT

Forty years ago, Ross Cortese gave us Leisure World, the "gift" of retirement as it should be. Now his daughter Heidi has continued the practice by bringing to us here at the Historical Society and the Archives another gift of great value that we call the "Cortese Gallery"

There are three wonderful portraits of her father Ross. One of these now hangs in a place of honor in the Main Hall, between the portraits of Dr. Tracy Strevey, first president of the Society, and Robert Price, first administrator of Leisure World and an early promoter of the Historical Society. The other two portraits hang in the Gallery, or Conference Room.

Also placed on the wall in that room is an aerial view of Leisure World sometime in the past. Mr. Cortese began his Leisure World trail in California, first in Seal Beach, then in Laguna Woods followed by Walnut Creek.

There is the Headliner Award presented to Cortese and a framed letter of commendation from the United California Bank. Another award, hanging alongside, is a "People in Action" plaque presented to Ross and a framed letter of commendation to Heidi from Governor Pete Wilson.

A beautiful depiction of the Cortese family crest is included. This is the crest on the carillon tower of Clubhouse 1. There is a certificate of appreciation to the Cortese family from the County of Orange. Underneath the crest is a framed history of the family and its crest, entitled "The Cortese Armory."

Three pictures of the Renaissance at the Regency (formerly known as Rossmoor Regency) two inside and one outside were included with the gift and were passed on to that institution. There is also a wonderful framed baseball player, presented to Cortese by the Youth Development Program of the Boy Scouts.

We look forward to showing you all of this wonderful gift.
Come and see!

**“HISTORICAL OPPORTUNITY”
ONE DAY EXCURSION TO VISIT THE HISTORIC IRVINE RANCH**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2004
Leave Gate 3 at 9 am and return at 3 pm

The Irvine Ranch was one of the largest private land holdings in the world. The Old Irvine Ranch now consists of Irvine (the largest master-planned city on the North American continent), Newport Beach and parts of other surrounding communities.

Join us for an informative and entertaining tour of the Irvine Ranch, covering the development of the area during Spanish and Mexican occupation, the transformation to the Irvine holdings; how the ranch came to be one of the most productive farms in the world, and its plan for the future.

The bus will leave Gate 3 at 9 am and is scheduled to return at 3 pm.

The bus will stop at Old Town, Irvine so tour members can select a restaurant in the immediate area for lunch "on your own."

Some highlights include:

- 1) Visit to the Irvine Historical Museum which is located on the San Joaquin Golf Course adjacent to the Club House
- 2) Irvine Park, donated to Orange County by James Irvine in 1897
- 3) San Joaquin Duck Club site (now located on a wildlife preserve with other historic homes)
- 4) Boy Scout Jamboree site
- 5) Buffalo Ranch site
- 6) The Irvine Spectrum and business parks

Cost per person is \$34 with all tips included.

Checks must be received by September 10.
Reservation by phone 206-0150

----- **IRVINE RANCH TOUR** -----
Tuesday, September 21 9 am Gate 3

Name _____ Telephone _____

Name _____ Telephone _____

Enclosed \$ _____ Check # _____

NEWSLETTER
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