

JANUARY TRIP PLANNED

"Midway Magic" is in the planning stages for the last of January. Watch for the announcement in the Leisure World News and on Channel 6. The USS Midway, now tethered at the foot of San Diego's revitalized waterfront, was the Navy's first carrier. 47 years in service ended after serving as the Persian Gulf flagship in Desert Storm. Lunch at the Island Club at Coronado Naval Base. Should be a great trip!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Can you give 2 to 4 hours a week as a volunteer? There are many possibilities in the Historical Society and we would welcome the opportunity to discuss them with you. Call 206-0150. Docents are needed for the Leisure World bus tours for prospective residents. Need people "sold" on the Leisure World Way of life

GOLDEN RAIN TREES

Read about them on page 6. With so few in Leisure World, it would be great if all were identified. The Audubon Society will tag one for \$5. If you are interested, give them a call.

HUNGRY PEOPLE IN ORANGE COUNTY

A number of organizations make a special effort to help our less fortunate neighbors during the holiday season. Most of us are familiar with the Saddleback Outreach food barrels, located in several convenient locations. There is one in the library. Do stop in and see the Society headquarters, right next door, when you deliver your canned goods!



PRESIDENTIAL MUSINGS

JOHN FULLER



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Now that "Fall" is finally here and accompanied by some much needed precipitation (but don't overdo it!) the Historical Society is involved in its annual membership drive. Your membership allows us to carry on our many projects. So we hope you will stay with us, or join us if you haven't, in this endeavor. News of our projects will be found in this Newsletter.

I'm still intrigued by items I find in reviewing our Leisure World History and would like to quote some more. A visitor to our Society desk the other day wanted to know who owned the land before Ross Cortese purchased it. I found this and other items in Marjorie Jones' history:

1962: The Moulton ranch property seemed to meet Mr. Cortese's need. It was still ranch grazing land. While riding the ranch property in 1962 with Mrs. Nellie Gail Moulton, his search ended as he closed the deal for 2200 acres of the ranch property.

1972: Building of Clubhouse 4 was under way and a storm of protests, resulting in lawsuits by the immediate residents, arose from the lack of a suitable entry to the Clubhouse area.

In response to environmental regulations, it was decided to change all Leisure World vehicles licensed under the name Golden Rain, to the use of compressed natural gas. This complied with all fuel emission requirements.

The final day, long anticipated, arrived when Golden Rain concluded arrangements for the purchase of the golf course. An unusual clause in the contract provided that if Rossmoor didn't complete the building for the entire Leisure World before the loan was paid, the balance would be canceled.

1973: Another of Rossmoor's plans called for an elaborate "spa" in the area near Gate 3. An application to the County for a change in zoning was granted. It was understood that the spa would be operated as a subscription membership club and subscribers were called for. It was another dream that didn't make it.

Money had been appropriated by Golden Rain for its share in installing signal lights and turn lanes for traffic at the exit on El Toro Road from Gate 7. In the future, when Phase 4 is developed, its street will be directly opposite.

1974: On April 28, with all pomp and ceremony, which it merited, the Towers were topped out. Mrs. Albert Wicks of Leisure World presented the official flag which was raised with military salute. Everyone was at attention when the huge crane lifted the carob tree to the roof of Tower 1 in the traditional rite of completion.

I find our history interesting and hope you will also.

LAST CHANCE!

(This announcement is a copy of one appearing in the September issue of the Newsletter.)

**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
- Earthquake/Disaster Task Force
- Leisure World Foundation

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

Note: This award "stands on its own", and has no relationship to other awards sponsored by the Historical Society.

**INSCRIPTION ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT STONE
WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL, WASHINGTON D.C.**

Here in the presence of Washington and Lincoln, one the eighteenth century father and the other the nineteenth century preserver of our nation, we honor these Twentieth Century Americans who took up the struggle during the Second World War and made the sacrifices to perpetuate the gift our forefathers entrusted to us: A nation conceived in liberty and justice.

VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

Justine Ratner

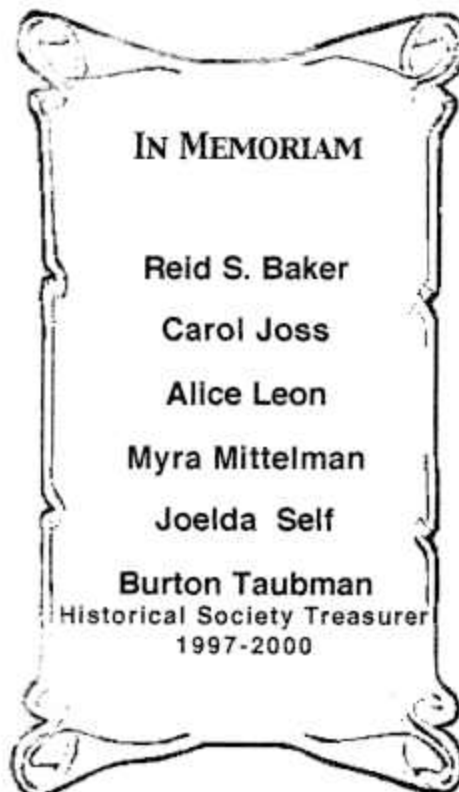


Video interviewing of Leisure World veterans was resumed in mid-September. The project includes veterans of all wars. Registration and video appointments are the responsibility of the Society. Video club members, Carly Luetzow and Bob Jenks, are the videographers. Interviews are done on Monday and Tuesday morning in the Video Club studio at Gate 12.

Nineteen interviews were completed in October. November is fully booked. All video tapes and memorabilia are stored in the Historical Society archives. Copies of the registration forms of all interviewed veterans are sent to the Library of Congress.

Volunteer interviewers for the project are Historical Society members:

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Dick Blatman | Mara Hodgkins | Kate Jacobs |
| Carly Luetzow | Greg O'Beirne | Fritzie Schwartz |
| Myron Singer | Dick Tyhurst | |



HISTORICALLY ADVANTAGED

Historical Society members who are 90 or will be 90 within the next year are eligible for membership in a very elite group, the "Historically Advantaged." If you are in that group and not yet registered with us, do call the office at 206-0150 and you'll be added to the list.

Members who are 95 or will be by the end of 2004 are listed below. Please let us know if you are in this age group and not on the list.

Members listed with * have passed 100!

David Ast*	Helen Lyon
Katherine Barrett	Dorothy Mc Clelland
Ruby Beggs	Daniel McGovern
Helen Clark	Sally Mintz
Margie Cleman*	Anfred Nelson*
Eugene Conser*	Dorothy Olsen
Alice B. Davis	Ione Peikert
Mary K. Davis	Priscilla Polkinghorn
Irma Franklin	Merlin Sant*
Ed Goodman	Laura Schoene
Edna S. Graham	Claire Scott
Emma Henning	Jane Slavin
Hazel Loney	Margaret B. Stern*
Raymond Lund	Milo Tedstrom*
	Marianne Von Eckardt

BIRTHDAY CLUB

When Irma Franklin celebrated her 90th birthday, she established her own "birthday club" and suggested that others might wish to join. The only requirement--write a check to the Historical Society for a \$ for each year. No meetings, no parties, nothing except that you get to be an officer. So far, a president, secretary and treasurer have been selected, with the secretary and treasurer less than 90. That leaves openings for a 1st, 2nd and 3rd vice-president, assistant treasurer--or any other officer you have always wanted to be. Just send in a check, indicate how you want it to be used, and select the office that fits you!

MONEY

At the end of the year, **Fremont Investment and Loan** totals up the accounts credited to the Historical Society, and early in 2005, the Society will receive a check, representing a percentage of the interest earned by these accounts. There is no cost to the investor, nor to the Society. The Society has earned over \$5000 since entering the program.

If you have money there and are not in another program, do ask them to credit your account to the Society. The Society does not get any information on individual accounts. If you want credit on our books, bring in your summary sheet from them, and the amount will be credited on your card as a gift.

Second and Third Generation Residents

Our list of residents who are either second or third generation Leisure Worlders is still growing. If you are one and not yet on the list, or know someone who is, do let us know. Who knows--In fifty years, this may be the subject of a major research study! Stop by and pick up a form, or call in (206-0150) and we'll mail one.

Editor "jinxed"

This is the third issue carrying a corrected telephone number for **Helen Weil**.

Her number (guaranteed) is 588-9615.

The editor, in sackcloth and ashes, apologizes again---- and again----and again.



Leisure World -- 1967 style

In 1967, a group called STARS Inc. (Senior Talent Active Reserve Services) produced a book, People in Action, Laguna Hills and Orange County. The introduction to the book stated "Just to prove that full retirement doesn't bring boredom, a group of residents of Leisure World, Laguna Hills, California, teamed up in an organization known as STARS and is publishing this book in order to give firsthand testimony to the world that they have found not only recreation for mind and body, but opportunities for community service through energetic and enthusiastic use of native talents and years of experience. Leisure World is for people 52 years and older. More than 40% work full time."

The book appears to be more than half advertising, with businesses from all over South County represented--Santa Ana, San Clemente, Tustin, Orange, Laguna Beach, Newport Beach and many more.

- Some of the advertisers are still in business, but others have long since left us.
- Crowell, Weeden and Co. in the Tajmahl closed the local office this summer.
- White's Catering, Ch 2. Long gone!
-Downey Savings (The nearest office was Newport Beach.)
- Rossmoor Electric Inc.
- Coit Drapery Cleaners (add carpets)
- Drapers (The nearest shop, Santa Ana)
- Knott's Berry Farm and Ghost Town
- Coast Federal Savings (Long Beach) Now a part of Washington Mutual

There are some interesting comments about clubs and organizations, and lots of pictures showing plaques and activities. Do these sound familiar?

- 1) El Rancho Cortese Stables. "An average of 50 equestrians daily take advantage of the more than four miles of trails surrounding this picturesque community."
- 2) A sunny pleasant room at Ch 2 houses the lending library..."more than 6000 books are now in circulation."
- 3) The Harmonaires, a group of more than 40 ladies who like to sing, contribute the "Ukelele Girls" in a community abounding in music.
- 4) The Laguna Hills Birdwatchers Club takes frequent trips.
- 5) Residents were thrilled by the recent performance of the US Marine Corps Band from nearby El Toro Marine base.
- 6) Some of these clubs are still active, some have consolidated with other clubs, and some have just faded away. See how many your recognize from this partial list of 1967 clubs.

- American Legion Luncheon Club
- Aviation Club Lawn Bowling Club;
- California Club Canada Club Camera Club
- Chess Club Coin Club Colorado Club
- Ebell Empire State Club The Helmet Club
- Illinois Club Iowa Club Kansas Club
- Latin American Club Melody Men
- Missouri Club Montana Club Organ Club
- Pennsylvania Club Las Solteras Club
- Veterans of WWI. Barracks #1116.

One of the most interesting sections dealt with the "Basic Cost Chart for Leisure World Residents." Figures were quoted for new manors, ranging from lowest priced Coronado to highest priced Seville:

Down payment	\$2699 --4505
Initial gross outlay	2969 --4864
Monthly utilities	26 --33 telephone included
Food for 2 persons	96 --96
Total expenses/mo.	266 --379

ARCHIVAL "RETRIEVALS"

Marjorie Williams, Archivist

(Your editor asked Archivist Marjorie to do a story on the Golden Rain trees for this edition. In true Archivist style, she went to the Archives, pulled out the July 1999 issue of this Newsletter-- same editor--and gave it to me with a bit of a flourish. Hope you enjoy it as much as I did, second time around. The last paragraph is an update as of October this year, and represents the "investigative journalist" soul of the editor.)

I suspect that I am not the only one in Leisure World who has wondered where the term "golden rain" came from -- as in the name "Golden Rain Foundation." For a long time I thought it went back to Mr. Cortese, who must have felt showered with gold when his developments became so popular and sold out. Not true, however.

The real story behind the name can be credited to the poetic side of Mr. Cortese, not his financial situation. According to a story published in one of the first issues of The Golden Rain News, the golden rain tree is small and its flowers are bright yellow, hanging in drooping clusters. The seeds grow in pods that hang on the tree until the new growth appears. It is described as a gorgeous tree when in bloom because the brilliant blossoms hanging in clusters from the drooping branches can be likened to "golden rain."

It was in New Orleans that Cortese first saw the golden rain tree and fell in love with its beauty. Here was born the idea of making these unusual trees the symbol of the unusual community he was planning for senior citizens.

Cortese, ascertaining that these trees could live in Southern California, ordered 2,700 to be sent to a nursery in Chino, California, where they were carefully nurtured until ready to be planted in Seal Beach Leisure World. But time has taken its toll on the golden rain trees of Leisure World: Today only three golden rain trees grace the property in Seal Beach.

The Golden Rain Foundation has survived far better than the trees. The name was originally given to the company at the very center of government and management at Seal Beach, and carried over to Laguna Hills with the difference that at Laguna it had a less powerful role as custodian and overseer of only community wide responsibilities other than those in the housing areas themselves.

2004 update

According to Ismael Saenz, Landscape Manager, there are between 35 and 40 golden rain trees in this community. The most noticeable group is located near the historic sycamore on Aliso Creek. They were in full bloom before the last rain. There is a lone one near the maintenance building, with others scattered throughout the community.

**THE LEISURE WORLD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
WHO ARE WE AND WHAT DO WE DO?**

We recently mailed information to all Leisure World residents and to our business community explaining our goals, activities and services. We need your help.

Please renew your membership now and encourage your friends and neighbors to join..

The Historical Society continues to serve by "preserving today for tomorrow" --history in the making. Thanks to many donations by residents in both time and money, the Society built and maintains our beautiful building. Here archives are kept; there is a diorama, art works by local artists, etc.

We have one part time staff person. All other positions are filled by willing volunteers. Please continue your support of the Society by renewing your memberships now. Thank you.

Martha Hellman and Charles McLaughlin
Co-chairmen, Membership

*We need you!
We are here for you!*



Leisure World Historical Society P.O. Box 2220 Laguna Woods, CA 92654

YES, I/We want to RENEW MEMBERSHIP for 2005 _____

YES, I/We want to be NEW MEMBER in 2005 _____ per person

NAME _____	\$10.00 Regular
	\$25.00 Contributor
	\$50.00 Sustainer
SPOUSE / ROOMMATE _____	\$100.00 Sponsor
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We need you!
We are here for you!



NEWSLETTER

LEISURE WORLD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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