



# LEISURE WORLD HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

March 2006  
Volume 7 Number 2

Preserving Today for Tomorrow

## FORMER CITY MAYOR ELECTED SOCIETY PRESIDENT

Bob Ring, Laguna Woods City Councilman and former Laguna Woods City Mayor, was elected President of the Society at a special meeting of the Directors on February 17. Ring is a past president of the Golden Rain Foundation, and is active in other community groups.

First vice president Ward Payne was reelected to that position. He will continue to be responsible for programs and trips sponsored by the Society.

New board member Mary Arine-Beer was selected as Second vice-president. She will be responsible for membership and will work primarily with Affiliates.

Linda Wilson will serve as Secretary and John Fuller, immediate past president, will become treasurer.

Other board members included newly appointed members to fill unexpired terms: Martin Hecht and Ruth May for one year terms; Mark Schneider for a two year term. Reelected for three year terms: Ira Joss, Robert Miller, Harry Schwartz and Evelyn Shopp. Mel Dollar and Charles Little complete the Board.



Bob Ring  
Historical Society President

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Don't forget the wearin' of the Green!

## PRESIDENTIAL MUSINGS

Thanks to the dedication of retiring President John Fuller, Second Vice President Charles McLaughlin and Director Syd Aronson, your Historical Society is poised for an exciting year.

First on our agenda is the mundane but necessary task of streamlining our offices processes and procedures. This task will be lead by Executive Director, Holly Williams, Mary Summers from our new accounting firm, Frankel and Summers, CPA and John Fuller, new treasurer. You can help make a difference. Volunteers are needed for both our office support and archive cataloging.

Your Board of Directors will submit revised Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws for your approval at a special meeting of members, possibly in June. Like most other clubs and organizations in the Village, we need to change our name. The Bylaws need to be revised so that we can better meet the needs of the community and operate more efficiently.

One of the proposed changes would allow the Society to become the Archivist for the City of Laguna Woods, in addition to the Village and our member clubs. The change would make the Society eligible for grants which would provide the equipment and supplies necessary to meet today's archiving industry standards. Our goal is preserve our community and club histories in perpetuity.

Directors Mark Schneider and Martin Hecht along with Archivist Fran Lindberg will be

## BOB RING

designing a new program which will allow individuals to view and enjoy selected highlights from our community's past. We shall also be seeking funds so that we can expand our Veteran's program.

We plan to distribute a directory which includes our Affiliates and Member Clubs during April. Our new Second Vice-president, Mary Araine-Bear, will be working with our Affiliates and Holly Williams will be the liaison with our member clubs.

With the able assistance of Director Ira Joss, we will continue our partnership with U.C.I. on both the Demographic Surveys and the Medical Lecture Series.

I am delighted that Director Evelyn Shopp has agreed to continue to edit and produce this Newsletter. First Vice President Ward Payne will continue to coordinate programs. Director Harry Schwartz will continue to direct the "Resident of the Month" program. Director Mel Dollar has the job of convincing our aging computers to perform according to our expectations. Linda Wilson has agreed to act as Corporate Secretary. Directors Charles Little and Ruth May will focus on Public Relations. Director Bob Miller is in charge of Special Projects.

I know you will join me in extending our best wishes to Bob Miller and Ira Joss while they nurse their bodies back into shape.

Thank you for being a member of the Society

## ABOUT OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Arine-Beer holds "service to humanity" as a number one priority. This is evidenced by her work in the community: President of Saddleback Kiwanis Club, Youth Advisor for five years, President of the World on Film Club and chair of many and varied committees throughout her 16 years in Leisure World.

She is currently on the Kiwanis Board. She is also Inspirational leader for her church fellowship group. She enjoys bridge, reading, scrabble and travel. She wants to continue her service to the community and sees her participation on the board as second vice-president as a challenging one.

\* \* \* \* \*

Martin Hecht grew up in New Jersey but traveled west to attend Purdue University. His education was interrupted by a stint in the Army during WWII. Afterwards, he completed his degree in Metallurgical Engineering, but then spent time in the army during the Korean War. Martin worked for GM until 1959 when he started his Arizona business as a Manufacturer's Rep in the Aerospace Industry. He still does consulting in the Aerospace field.

Martin was a volunteer Archivist at the Lowell Observatory for 16 years. He also served as Treasurer of the No. Arizona Chapter of the Arizona Historical Society.

When he and his wife Pat moved to Leisure World last June, he came in and immediately became a volunteer in the Archives. Recently, he has also been seen covering the front desk!

Ruth May was born in Johannesburg, South Africa and came to live in the United States in 1978. She spent ten years in Los Angeles, followed by ten years in The Woodlands, Texas. She has lived in Leisure World for the past 9 years.

Ruth is unlike most Seniors. She has no desire to travel, probably because she spent her working life in the Travel Industry and had the opportunity to travel to most of the world.

Ruth has two daughters, a son-in-law, a twenty one year old grandson, and her cat, Cinammon.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mark Schneider moved to Leisure World in April, 2000 and has been actively engaged in Third Mutual governance since 2004, serving as President of the Mutual in 2005. He has been Chairman of several committees and Advisory Boards.

Most of his working life was spent in aerospace software development and system/project engineering for major California companies, including Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Northrop Grumman Corp. During the last half of his career he was involved in many integrated hardware/software projects for the B-2 Stealth Bomber program. He also bought and sold single family homes.

Mark is currently working on the design specification for a new PC for the Camera Club. "This place is like a land locked cruise ship," he says, "Every day is a vacation."

## SPEAKERS

If your organization needs a speaker, the Historical Society may be able to provide one. Speakers can be provided on topics such as: Leisure World History, So. Orange County History, governance in Leisure World. For further information, contact Holly Williams at 206-0150. There is no charge for a speaker.

## MARCH 2003

Big news for this month was that the globe had been lit!

Perhaps the world little notes  
nor long remembers  
individual acts of kindness--  
but people do.

H. Albright

Ward Payne, Program Chairman, is always looking for trip suggestions. If you have an idea for one that has some historical significance, do let him know. It may be that some of our trips are worth repeating.

Your editor seems to be forever making excuses for late issues, bad spelling and wrong words not picked up by the computer -- just plain dumb errors. This time, I don't have any reasonable excuse to offer. I'm behind on my own schedule and unable to have this issue properly proof read. Be kind!

ME



## ARCHIVES CORNER ..... FRAN LINDBERG

We receive many requests from residents wanting a variety of information. Some are easy to answer and others require more research. Here are a few we've answered.

Q: What is the year and name of the manor at 45 A Calle Aragon?

A: Majorca, 11/1/64

Q: Does the Society have a Creed?

A: Yes. Mailed copy.

Q: What is the meaning of Laguna? Is it from an Indian tribe?

A: Originally was spelled Lagoon, which is a shallow lake or pond. Not Indian.

Q: Do you have information on LW trees?

A: We have a listing of over 200 trees.

Q: What year did the Theater Guild start?

A: 1/17/66

Q: Requested information about the "big old tree" by the creek.

A: Sycamore tree dating back about 500 years. Has a span of approximately 160 feet, stands 140 feet high, and has trunk diameter of 10 feet. In Aliso Park.

Q: Do you have information on the 10th Anniversary of Leisure World?

A: Information is available on the 10th, 20th, 25th, 30th and 40th anniversaries.

Often, questions relate to Leisure World clubs and other organizations. Since many groups store materials in the Archives, it is usually easy to find information. And it is much easier if the material is in order, and does not contain extraneous material.

**Excerpts from "Great World" by Ross Cortese, LW developer  
(published in the 25th Anniversary Souvenir program 1989)**

Some people have been most kind with words of praise about what I have accomplished in developing the community of Leisure World.....but in truth there is much more to the success of Leisure World than what a builder can provide.

I must admit that I am very pleased with what my associates and I planned over 25 years ago and with what we were able to construct physically.

Our structures are well done, our design and layout of the streets, the clubhouses, green space and all the other physical aspects of the community are a credit to the architects, designers, engineers and workers who laid the brick and hammered the nails. It was well done and that is what a builder is supposed to provide.

But Leisure World is much more than the physical things which have been placed on this piece of real estate. It is different from any place on earth, and it is this difference that gives me the most joy as I reflect on the past quarter century.

.....Leisure World is a reaffirmation of confidence in the noble side of human nature. It is a reaffirmation of faith in the human spirit, of the belief that given the opportunity, human beings will live peacefully together, will be productive and creative and will seek a level of happiness that improves the environment for all around them.

We have much to learn about this business of growing older in years. We have much to learn about the physical evolution of the human body, and we have much more to learn about the evolution of the human spirit as the years increase. ...All who have examined the phenomenon

of aging will be eternally grateful for the residents of Leisure World for helping us to learn.....People of advanced age wanted security.....a secure environment for spiritual reassurance...convenience, recreation, freedom from responsibility for home maintenance. It was not difficult to provide for all of those wishes, but what we didn't know was what would happen to people who no longer had to contend with the routine stress of life.

I had believed all along.....that individuals would channel this energy into new creativity and productivity. There were things to do, goals to attain, others to help, causes to champion and there was a wealth of human energy waiting to be harnessed.

So, as I reflect on the 25 years of Leisure World, my first reaction is to express gratitude for the people who have come here to live and to create this way of life.



## BITS AND PIECES OF LEISURE WORLD HISTORY

(Selected from the *Leisure World News*) ..... **Mari Jan Vested**

### **Forty Years Ago March 1966**

Methodists break ground for the first Protestant church to be built on the historic Moulton Ranch. Located on land donated by Leisure World developer, Ross Cortese, it is on Moulton south of El Toro Road.

The Navy's famed Blue Angels demonstration team will headline a weekend of spectacular activities planned at El Toro Marine base to observe its 23rd anniversary.

New Investment Club is formed.

Leisure World and Laguna bus service is prepared. It will carry 23 passengers and make five trips daily.

The Leisure World News is one year old and plans an open house celebration.

This is also the first anniversary of the 120 acre Laguna Hills Shopping Center.

### **April 1966**

Hundreds of visitors attended the 1st Annual Art showing in Clubhouse 1.

Local broadcast by Myron Bennett reached millions throughout the World through Armed Forces radio and television services.

### **Twenty Five Years Ago March 1981**

The concept of incorporating Leisure World has been the subject of numerous debates for several months. It is causing dissension among governing boards.

The local American Legion Auxiliary presented a substantial check to Saddleback College for the Veteran's Book Fund.

Eleven burglaries were reported in Leisure World between Dec. 1 and Feb. 28. These were part of a total of 150 reported in the El Toro /Laguna Hills area.

Leisure World widows are easy prey for bank scams.

### **April 1981**

A manor on Alta Vista sustain considerable damage when a car crashed through the side of the house. The driver said, "My mind blacked out and when I came to my car was halfway through the house."

At a Leisure World Disaster meeting, the possibility of an earthquakes was outlined. There have been few disasters in Leisure World: The plane crash in 1967, slipping of banks on Cadiz, and the flooding of Aliso Creek last year.

Rossmoor Board approves liquidation. All property including the Business Park will be sold.

The Aliso Nursery abandons an 18 acre parcel of land purchased from Rossmoor Corp. for \$1.00 an acre. It is located at the corner of Moulton and Santa Maria.

Members of the Leisure World Orchestra under the direction of Fred Pierce are preparing for the 16th anniversary spring concert.

### **Ten years ago March 1996**

State clears Golden Rain for tax exempt status.

Fund raiser by Taxpayers for Responsible Planning raised many dollars for "Yes on S" ballot measure.

A Trust sues Mutuals over donations for Measure S.

Board agreed to purchase low floor buses.

Carlotta widening bothers residents who might lose part of property. State eases stance on property.

Announced plans for an International Airport at El Toro Marine Base met with dismay by residents.

### **April 1996**

Leisure World says "Yes on S."

Airport opposition blames loss on misleading campaign mail.

Kiwanis Club plans big Pancake Breakfast benefit.

**CLASSIFIED**

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR QUALIFIED VOLUNTEERS. REPLY TO 949 -206-0150

**RECEPTIONIST** General office work. Computer skills helpful but not required. People skills essential. Mature individual preferred. Equal opportunity and pay employer. This position receives but is not comparable in stress and hours required.

**RECEPTIONIST** for afternoon shift, one day per week. Coffee furnished. Opportunity to meet some of the nicest people in the community. Male applicants welcome.

**RECEPTIONIST** - one morning per week. Must be wide awake by 10 a.m. Good telephone voice essential. Sick leave, maternity leave and stock options available after three years. Smoke free environment.

**DOCENT** needed for Thursday a.m. bus tours for prospective residents. Must be enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and willing to follow general script provided. Uniform not necessary. Tips not permitted. Equal opportunity employer. Ask for Holly.

**REPORTER** (trade publication) Must be genuinely interested in collecting interesting information about members and their activities. Column with by line in each issue. Salary negotiable, but can not exceed that of the treasurer. Contact editor directly.

**PHOTOGRAPHER** for selected events. Must be on call during normal working hours and for scheduled evening and week end affairs. Credit given for all published photos.

**ARCHIVE assistants:** No experience required. Interest in historical documents essential. Orientation provided. Can work hours and days at your own convenience. Away from traffic area but near coffee room and other facilities. Computer skills helpful but have no bearing on salary.

**ARCHIVIST**, experienced. Hours, salary, and benefits negotiable. Must be willing to work with entire staff to create a more user friendly program.

**REFRESHMENT** aide for first Wednesday morning of each month. Assist at refreshment table. Must be willing to tolerate multiple "cookie takers" and coffee spillers. Meet the "cream of the community."

The editor and publisher of this Newsletter regrets that the number of positions available in this Classified section is limited, due to the inexperience of our volunteer sales manager. If you wish to place an ad in this Classified section, you may call the publisher directly. Please be aware that there is a \$4.99 charge on your telephone bill for this service.

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2006

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President

**WARD PAYNE**  
1st Vice Pres.

**MARY ARINE-BEER**  
2nd Vice Pres.

**LINDA WILSON**  
Secretary

**JOHN FULLER**  
Treasurer

**Mei Dollar**  
**Martin Hecht**

**Ira Joss**  
**Charles Little**

**Ruth May**  
**Robert Miller**  
**Mark Schneider**

**Harry Schwartz**  
**Evelyn Shopp**

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

