



LEISURE WORLD HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

May 2006
Volume 7 Number 3

Preserving Today for Tomorrow



MEMORIAL DAY
May 29

THE GLOBE

President Bob Ring reviews one of the most significant actions of the Historical Society in his **PRESIDENTIAL MUSINGS** on pages 2 and 3. With the loss of the Leisure World identity, some might question the value of this achievement. Your Society is committed to "Preserving Today for Tomorrow" and this globe will forever be a major part of that preservation effort. Given enough time, the state might even consider it a 'state historic monument.' It represents the commitment of a small group of people to a large project and will be a reminder of the tenacity and hard work of Bob Miller who not only raised a large part of the funds needed but also coordinated all phases of the move.

INDEX

Affiliate (new)	
<i>Mechanical Mann</i> -----	4
Archives-----	5
THE Tree	
Bits and Pieces of	
LW History-----	7
Memoriam-----	6
Speakers-----	5
What's New-----	6



One step in the move from Laguna Hills to Laguna Woods

PRESIDENTIAL MUSINGS

BOB RING

It's Monday morning, February 25, 2002. The lines from the sky-high pulley of a 175 ton crane have been anchored to the top half of the Leisure World Globe. When the ironworker cut through the last inches of the globe's half inch thick 14 inch diameter shaft with a blow-torch, it severed cleanly. The top half was then lifted skyward and lowered gently onto waiting wooden planks on the St. George Episcopal Church playground. The lower half was lowered directly onto a trailer. When a second trailer arrived, the top half was placed on its bed.

Then, just before midnight, lights were placed on the circumference of the upper half of the globe and a convoy guided it safely down Avenida de la Carlota to El Toro Road, to Moulton Parkway and onto a portion of the Tennis Complex parking area of Gate 12 West. The two mile journey of the first half took less than 15 minutes. The second half took slightly more time because it was taller and trickier to maneuver under and around street name signs and signals.

In spite of the fact that the clearance was sometimes measured in scant inches and the circumference of the halves stretched across the three westbound lanes of El Toro, the move was flawless. Over the next few days the globe was placed on its pedestal and reassembled on its present site.

On March 14, 2006, the words "Leisure World" were removed from the globe.



The 32 foot steel and fiberglass globe, modeled on the unisphere at the 1939 World Fair, was erected in 1963 by the Rossmoor Corp.. It rotated in the middle of a fountain and was lit by colored lights in what is now the parking lot adjacent to the Laguna Hills City Hall.

In the early 1970s, to conserve energy, the globe was moved from its impressive landscaped setting and relocated to the Corporation's construction site lot near the corner of Ridge Route and Moulton Parkway.

When LW was nearly built out in the early 1980's, the globe was offered to the Historical Society, but the Society was financially unable to accept responsibility for it. Society President, Jim Waterman, suggested it be declared a State monument.

continued

The state did not think it old enough to qualify, but the County of Orange considered it to be of "historical interest."

The globe became county property in 1982 when it was moved just south of St. George Episcopal Church. It became a part of Laguna Hills when that city annexed North Laguna Hills in the 1990s. In 2001, the city decided to scrap the globe because it had become an attractive nuisance. Board member Bob Miller assumed the daunting task of raising money and coordinating the move to preserve the historic landmark.

If you enjoyed this bit of history extracted from the Society's archives which included the news articles written by Cheryl Walker, you may want to be involved in our newest project, headed by Villager Roger Haines. Roger and his team will be researching, writing and publishing a set of books on the history of the Village and the City of Laguna Woods. If you are interested in participating in this project, call Holly Williams, our Executive Director, 206-0150.

We are working with Affiliate Hacienda de Las Palmas on an agreement that would allow our Associate Clubs to use meeting rooms at Hacienda de Las Palmas. This new benefit for our Associates will probably be announced within in the next 30 days.

I am pleased to welcome Trish Cassidy who has volunteered to streamline our front office. Trish worked for the Aerospace Corporation in El Segundo for 25 years. Her last position was Administrative Assistant in their library.

We still need volunteers for our front office. If you can volunteer a minimum of 2.5 hours a week, please call our Executive Director, Holly Williams.

I would like to congratulate our Villagers of the Month, Bebe Shaddock for April, and Betty and Howard Baumann for May. This program is funded in part by a grant from the Renaissance at the Regency.

Thank you for being a member
of our Society.

February 26
2002



ABOUT OUR AFFILIATES

(This column introduces our newest Affiliate)

Mechanical Mann Auto Service

22701 Granite Way

Located at the intersection
of Moulton and Lake Forest Drive.

Free Pick-Up and Delivery Shuttle Service

Hello, Friends and Neighbors!

Mechanical Mann Auto Service is proud to be an Affiliate of the LW Historical Society which has been very instrumental in preserving the heritage of Leisure World.

This year, we are proud to announce the celebration of our Silver Anniversary. For the last 25 years we have taken pride in being your neighborhood automotive repair service center, and have focused on exceeding your expectations.

We are a family owned complete automotive repair facility which bases its values on honesty, integrity and the highest level of customer service. General Manager Jim Boyd and his staff are always available to answer any of your repair questions. So please drop in at any time and have a cup of our freshly brewed Starbucks Coffee.

Our services are extremely competitive and we offer senior discounts and honor competitors coupons. We want to be your automotive repair facility, so if we can be of any help, please contact us:
949 951-6267

NEW NAME

At the March board meeting, the Board unanimously voted to rename the Society ***The Historical Society of Laguna Woods***. This is subject to the approval of the members and the State of California. This decision means we will need a --

NEW LOGO!

LW Art Association President Lois Appelbaum has graciously agreed to ask the Art Association to help us organize a competition to select a new logo. A panel of judges comprised of members of the Society Board, the Art Association and the community will select the winner. Look for a formal announcement in the *Leisure World Globe*.

NEW FORMAT?

NEW SIZE?

NEW COLOR?

If you have any creative ideas for the Newsletter, do share them with the President, the Executive Director, and or the Editor. Now is the time!

ALSO NEW

New Affiliate ***Mechanical Mann*** provided a new pamphlet display rack for the office. It will hold materials from our Affiliates, as well as special literature and flyers of the Historical Society. Guess what? That calls for revision and upgrading of some of our flyers, so check out the display when you visit the office.

SPEAKERS

Need a speaker for one of your fall programs? The Historical Society has speakers available for topics such as: Leisure World History, So. Orange County History, governance in Leisure World. For more information, contact Holly Williams at 206-0150. There is no charge for a speaker.

HISTORICALLY ADVANTAGED

If you are a member of the Society and 90 or older, do let us know. We have a nice group of "Historically Advantaged" members and we would like to add you to the list. In a future issue, we will feature this group.

Call the office and ask for a form. It just asks for name, age, place of birth, occupation or profession, and how many years you have lived in Leisure World. Call on Friday morning and coordinator JoAn Long may even take your info by phone!

SECOND GENERATION RESIDENTS

The Historical Society is collecting information on second and third generation residents of Leisure World. If you are not yet on the list, please let us send you a short questionnaire to complete. This is for all residents. If you know persons in this group, please tell them about this. Board members, Ward Payne and Bob Miller are on the list.

ARCHIVES CORNER FRAN LINDBERG

The Sycamore Tree elicits lots of questions, now that spring is here and more people are walking through Aliso Park where the tree is a real eye-stopper. The following article, copied from a 1968 *Leisure World News* "tells it all."

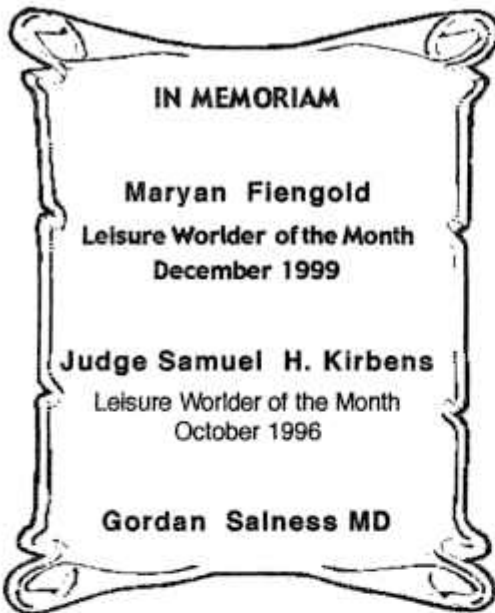
Aged Sycamore Dedicated as State Tree

The tree was originally referred to as an 'aliso', a name meaning literally 'alder'. Its popular usage has been perpetuated since early California days when the Spanish renamed it. This Sycamore has a branch spread of 128 feet and is approximately 65 feet high. The circumference of the largest trunk 4 feet above the ground is 13 feet.

The DAR plaque near the tree explains: "This Sycamore was probably 50 years old before the Pilgrims landed in 1620."

The plaque was accepted on behalf of the community, noting its beauty, and appreciation was given to the DAR for helping in its preservation.

If you are interested in seeing the tree in Aliso Park, just look for Cul de Sac 12, off of Avenida Sevilla.



NEW BOARD MEMBER

Fran Lindberg, a long-time volunteer in the Archives who is currently serving as Acting Archivist, has been elected to fill an unexpired one year term on the board. This vacancy occurred when Charles Mc Laughlin resigned. The board now has 15 members. They are listed on the back page of the Newsletter.

CHANGE IS SLOW!

Many of us who have lived in the community for a dozen years or more are having difficulty changing from a "World" to a "Village." By the time all the necessary approvals are in place, we may be "adjusted." In the meantime, we will probably say **Leisure World** until all visible signs are removed. Your editor, after 26 years as a resident, is making progress. The words **Leisure World Historical Society** are not at the top of each page. Think of the ink saved!!

NEEDED:

Nominees for Leisure Worlorder of the Month. (or whatever the new name may be) There are forms in the office. Friends, neighbors, or fellow club members may be potential honorees. Every nominee is carefully considered by the selection committee. Dozens of "endorsements" are not needed.

Nominations for the prestigious Tracy E. Strevey Community Service Award may be sent the President any time during the year. Information on this Award may be obtained in the office.

A FEW FACTS ABOUT YOUR BOARD

The first Historical Society officers took office in 1977. A total of 98 people served on the board through 2005 -- 32 women and 66 men. Ten served only one year. Six were elected for two or more non-consecutive terms. Five were elected and served for ten or more consecutive years. Non-resident board members included two bankers: Rex Perkins from Glendale Federal, and Dick Hauptfleisch from El Dorado. Both were very active fund raisers in the early years of the Society.

MEMORIAL DAY -- MAY 29

Memorial Day, the last Monday in May, became a Federal holiday in 1971. It originated in 1868 when Union General John E. Logan designated a day on which the graves of Civil War soldiers would be decorated. Originally known as Decoration Day, it became Memorial Day within 20 years and was dedicated to the memory of all war dead.

BITS AND PIECES OF LEISURE WORLD HISTORY

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

Forty Years Ago

May 1966

Leisure World Library opens with about 1000 books. Panhellenic Club members volunteer to operate it.

Men are advised not to forget Mother's Day.

Medicare medical broadcast from Channel 6.

Republican candidate for governor, Ronald Reagan comes to Leisure World in Reagan Rally. Thousands cheer as he blasts "the shackles of big government" and asks for adoption of what he calls a "Creative Society."

A "pitch and putt" six hole golf course is built.

June 1966

1650 units are under construction and should be ready for occupancy by the end of the year.

New health plan offered for residents under 65. Underwritten by Blue Cross.

Special patriotic program is planned for July 4 and presented by Education and Recreation Dept. with help by Veterans and Auxiliary of WW I and the Laguna Hills Kiwanis Club.

Twenty five Years Ago

May 1981

U.S. Marines position between Rossmoor Corp. is discontinued. Negotiations were regarding relaxing, or eliminating development of 170 acres on El Toro Road.

All English Horse Show held at Leisure World attracts crowds.

Leisure World Chorale holds annual Concert. Big crowd attends.

Cortese 'serves up' \$25,000 for tennis court complex.

New Lounge opens and attracts 3000 visitors.

June 1985

Directors get earful over dryer's charge proposal. 100 calls indicate residents are not happy. Breakdown of costs shows 97 cents per use.

Residents look forward to 2nd annual Festival.

Ten Years Ago

May 1996

Wasted fruit is no license for pilfering at Garden Center. Sign says "Do not pick figs or oranges neither on the ground or on the trees." Gardeners are not allowed to pick their neighbor's fruit. Shame on You.

Lift Bus rules may be tightened. A Physical Therapist may be hired to evaluate resident's eligibility for use of the bus.

GRF will review audit of LW finances. Says it is a "sound business practice." Residents agree.

Headline asks "Are Area Pools Hot Enough?" Two residents want one pool heated to 88 degrees.

Channel 6 will hold live telecast when GRF votes on purchase of 127 acres of the Rossmoor Business Park and 20 acres owned by the El Toro Water District.

Accused vandal takes Leisure World Security to small claims court. Action takes place after he claims he was attacked by an officer as he started to cut the phone cord in the Men's card room.

Two fire fighters and a guard are hurt in a blaze at 5207 Cantante.

June 1996

Computers are a wave of the future. Leisure World residents are taking them seriously.

Gate 14 manors will be the first to get new cable outlets.

NEWSLETTER
LEISURE WORLD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Evelyn Shopp Editor
P.O. Box 2220
Laguna Woods, CA 92654
949 206-0150

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 340
Laguna Hills, CA
92653

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2006

BOB RING
President

WARD PAYNE
1st Vice Pres.

MARY ARINE-BEER
2nd Vice Pres.

LINDA WILSON
Secretary

JOHN FULLER
Treasurer

Mel Dollar
Martin Hecht

Ira Joss
Charles Little

Fran Lindburg
Ruth May

Robert Miller
Mark Schneider
Harry Schwartz
Evelyn Shopp

We need you!
We are here for you!

