

NEWSLETTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OF LAGUNA WOODS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2006
VOLUME 7 NUMBER 6

PRESERVING TODAY FOR TOMORROW



*Guaranteed
Certified
Ghost light!*

CLUBHOUSE THREE HAS A GHOST!

LISTED IN "HAUNTED PLACES IN CALIFORNIA"
CONFIRMED BY EMPLOYEES
DETAILS ON PAGE 3

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2007
CLUBHOUSE 5

INFORMATION WILL BE IN THE GLOBE, ON CHANNEL 6. AND IN THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER. THIS IS OUR ONE GALA AFFAIR OF THE YEAR, AND THE PRELIMINARY PLANS LOOK GREAT. STREVEY COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED

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This issue of the Newsletter is being mailed to a selected group of Villagers in addition to our members. Enjoy!

DUES ARE DUE!

THE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION RENEWAL AND NEW MEMBER FORM IS ON PAGE 7. SEND IT IN NOW -- AND AVOID THE HOLIDAY RUSH! ALL MEMBERSHIPS AND GIFTS TO THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE. NEED AN EXTRA DEDUCTION? UPGRADE YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

IF YOU NEED SOMETHING NEW AND INTERESTING TO DO IN 2007, CONSIDER SPENDING TIME AS A VOLUNTEER FOR THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY. ELAINE MORGADO, COORDINATOR, WILL BE HAPPY TO TALK WITH ANY INTERESTED PERSONS. CALL HER AT 855-4273 OR LEAVE A MESSAGE AT 206-0150. FOR INFORMATION ON THE ARCHIVES, CALL FRAN LINDBERG AT 859-2335 OR VISIT WITH HER AT THE SOCIETY ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON. FOR GENERAL INFORMATION, CALL HOLLY WILLIAMS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OR TALK WITH ANY MEMBER OF THE BOARD.

PRESIDENTIAL MUSINGS

—Bob Ring

Our Name

Your Historical Society has applied for and received a Fictitious Business Name Permit from Orange County to use the name, "Historical Society of Laguna Woods." Our registration, #20066087585, became effective on September 27, 2006 and expires on the same date in 2011. I am working with our legal firm to prepare a proxy so that our 2007 members can authorize us to change our Corporate Name and amend our Bylaws.

You will note the membership form on the back page of this newsletter. We hope that you will continue to support your Historical Society.

Policy with respect to the Past

I have received numerous communications with respect to the use of the Village's previous name. With the approval of our legal counsel, Hart, King & Coldren, we will continue to use the Village's previous name when we are discussing events that took place prior to the adoption of the name Laguna Woods Village. They agree with my premise that no entity can force us to rewrite history. Events that took place when this community was known as Leisure World will continue to use that name.

Society's Honoree of the Month

Please continue to send me your suggestions of residents who you believe are qualified to be named our Honoree of the Month. In recent months, the Select Committee has received very few nominations which has meant that the Society did not name an Honoree for either November or December. Thanks to the funding that we receive from Renaissance at the Regency and Hacienda de las Palmas, we will name an Honoree for February, 2007.



Clubhouse 3 Clarification

This issue of our newsletter continues to talk about Clubhouse 3. I failed to clearly state that the \$476,000 from the Community Facilities Fund were the result of payments made to GRF by Rossmoor on each *new* unit that was sold. This funding should not be confused with the "transfer fees" that were used to help fund Clubhouse 5. In accordance with the agreement with Rossmoor, the Community Facilities Fund could only be used to construct new facilities.

In the last issue, I concluded that: "*No one remembers how much a clubhouse costs or how it was paid for. The long-term opinion is based upon whether the clubhouse achieves its objective. Most residents agree that Clubhouse 3 has achieved its goal of providing the community with an auditorium-clubhouse that consistently provides quality entertainment at affordable prices.*" I would like to add that: "*GRF continues to honor its basic policy not to compete with our clubs. Clubhouse 3 has survived because staff and GRF have made changes that reflect: the changing interests of our residents; a significant increase in competition; as well as the constantly increasing cost to provide quality entertainment.*"

***Age is an issue of mind over matter,
if you don't mind, it doesn't matter.***

.....Mark Twain

CLUBHOUSE 3



"Bud" Gilliland sits at his 1971 "state of the art" control panel, approximately one fourth the size of the one currently in use.

Elizabeth Arnold concluded her article on CH3 (Fall 1981 Society Publication) with an important paragraph:

"George H. Gilliland was a magic maker. Resident Head Technician of CH 3 from March 1971 to his death in April 1976, "Bud" as he was affectionately called, gave of himself unstintingly. He was responsible for many additions to and improvements in the equipment. His artistry and devotion to all things theatrical was unequalled. His knowledge and remarkable skill were used to transform a new, untried facility into a smooth working theater."

And Bud is our resident "ghost." Footsteps are heard in the booth by staff in the offices below, especially when there is no one in the building. Technicians have reported someone looking over their shoulder during shows. Opinion has it that this is "Bud".

REPLACEMENTS AND UPGRADES

CH3 in 1971 was considered up-to-date, state of the art, and a model theater for the community. Ordinary wear and tear, new safety regulations, and the "technical revolution" made major improvements necessary after more than 25 years of operation.

The first major changes occurred in 1997 when the ovens, refrigerator and freezer were installed. These were replacement items. In 1999, the electrical services were upgraded to 1600 amps during a 3 day period in January. During July and August the stage floor was replaced, bathrooms remodeled and fire curtains installed.

In 2001, major remodeling and upgrading closed the clubhouse from the middle of June through the end of September. Dining rooms, kitchens and rehearsal room had cabinets refinished, flooring replaced as needed, new ceilings and lighting plus a sound door for the rehearsal room. Office, halls, stairs and billiards room benefitted from new carpet, improved lighting, automatic entry doors, handicap ramps, new rails and pickets, fire alarm upgrades, paint, and pool table lights. Theater remodeling included: Stage rails, new rear entry ramp, dressing rooms, as well as new rigging, new theatrical lighting and controls, new carpet and stair tread extensions.

The box office benefitted from a new program computer in 2004.

Major renovations continued in 2006 and included new movie screen, motorized curtain, new main red curtain, and new video projector. The office received new furniture, the first change since the building opened. A new sound system will be installed in 2007-2008.

The community is indeed fortunate to have a facility of this caliber and to be able to enjoy a myriad of excellent programs at a reasonable price.

AFFILIATES

These businesses are not listed in our current Directory.
(Welcome!)

AristoCare Home Health Services
23422 Mill Creek Drive, Suite 140
Laguna Hills, CA 92653
949 257-3600

Sponsor

Today, more and more seniors are opting to live in their own homes where they can maintain their personal identity and connection with their past. Studies have shown that seniors thrive and recuperate more quickly in their own homes. There they can remain independent while enjoying the support of family members and friends. In addition, they have security, peace of mind and the convenience of familiar surroundings. Home health care services provide personal, in-home care and companionship that enhance and promote a dignified, healthier and happier life style.

When selecting a home health care service to provide or assist a family member with the activities of daily living, it is essential to choose a company that takes 100% responsibility for their caregivers and only utilize employees that are fully screened, bonded and insured (including Workers Compensation). Relieving the senior of the liabilities, burdens, and risks associated with being the employer of their own in-home caregiver, provides peace of mind to all family members. Additionally, having a company that utilizes a licensed RN to conduct in-home assessments and monitors all of the caregivers is equally important.

There are affordable and quality personal care options for Seniors desiring to live out their lives with dignity in their own homes. For more information, please contact **AristoCare Home Services** at (949) 297-3600.

Cruises, Inc.
www.cruisesinc.com/wbell
wbell@cruisesinc.com
949 681- 8092

Friend

Laguna Country United Methodist Church
24442 Noulton Parkway
Laguna Woods, CA 92637
949 837-3414

Sponsor

Washington Mutual Financial Service
Vicky Ong-Dy
24268 El Toro Road
Laguna Woods, CA
949 472-0998

Sponsor

Saddleback Imports
23551 Commerce Ctr. Drive #E
Laguna Hills, CA 92653
949 380-1895

Sponsor

Saddleback Imports, a Laguna Hills automotive service shop maintains all make and model vehicles. We also perform suspension upgrades, disk brake conversions, engine performance upgrades and performance exhaust upgrades.

Manager Dale Henderson was born and raised in Orange County. He has been in the automotive repair and service industry for nearly 20 years. He has worked on various types of cars, including Chevrolets, Fords, Toyotas, even 60's muscle cars. Dale is also responsible for the everyday operations at **Saddleback Imports**. He is a consummate professional and his honesty and integrity are evident in his ability to offer a service quote you can trust.

Kevin, the Lead Technician, has worked on all make and model vehicles and has been maintaining vehicles for more than 25 years. Kevin is certified through several mechanic organizations.

With more than 40 years dedicated to vehicle maintenance and a commitment to excellence in repairs, we hope you will place your trust in us to maintain your vehicle. We provide a convenience shuttle and drop-off service while your car is being maintained. For further information or to schedule a time for service, contact **Saddleback Imports** at (949) 380-1895.

Fremont Investment & Loan
24181 Ronda del Rossmoor (near Taj Mahal)

(Fremont is not a new affiliate, but an "old" friend.
We participate in their "Deposit Incentive Donation Program". Our award for 2005 was \$1,537.31.)

Founded in 1937, **Fremont Investment & Loan** prides itself on offering personalized, one-on-one customer service while offering among the highest interest rates available. If you have not experienced **Fremont**, now is a great time to visit our Laguna Hills office. **Fremont** offers high-yielding, FDIC insured Savings Accounts, Certificates of Deposit, Individual Retirement Accounts and Money Market Savings Accounts. **Fremont's** friendly knowledgeable staff can help you transfer retirement accounts or make the most of current account promotions. The branch is open Monday through Friday 9-5: Automated rate and account information is available 24 hours a day at 1-800-373-6668 or www.1800fremont.com.

The Story Behind El Toro

Through the years since 1965, El Toro Road has been a main artery for businesses and eateries. The roads are now wider, the malls more attractive and the restaurants more numerous. El Toro Road was the highway through the El Toro, now Lake Forest El Toro was named in memory of a bull.

Mrs. Dwight Whiting whose husband owned 10,000 acres of old Rancho Canada de Los Alisos is responsible for the name. One night in 1894 a congregation of the newly formed Episcopal Church met to discuss the renaming of the town. Mrs. Whiting remembered the story of a bull once owned by Don Jose Serrano.

The bull had been brought in by Don Jose to improve the breed of his herd. Shortly after it was turned loose on the range, the bull disappeared. One day upon riding to the spot where there were buzzards, they found an old well. At the bottom of the well was the carcass of the lost (and expensive) bull. Her proposal to name the town after the prized bull was accepted--El Toro, the bull.

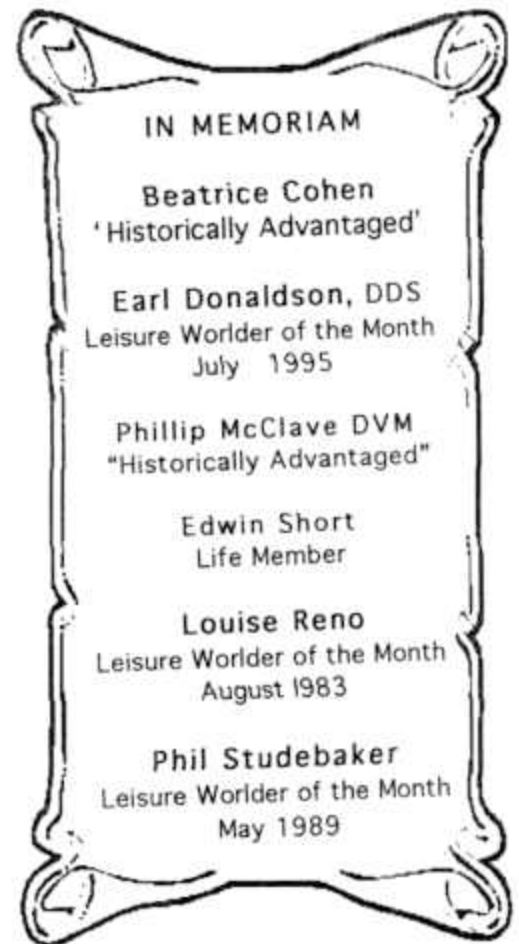
Nominations for Tracy E. Strevey Community Service Awards

may be made by any member of the Historical Society and should be submitted by December 1. Forms for nominations are available in the office. An individual, a club or an organization that has been outstanding in contribution to the community and or the Historical Society may be nominated.

Speakers for Clubs Available

If your organization needs a speaker on any topic relating to the community or the history of South County, call Holly Williams, 206-0150.

Mark your 2007 Calendar
ANNUAL DINNER MEETING
Sunday, February 18



The dues renewal form is on page 7.
Early returns lighten the
work load for the
volunteer staff.

MEMBERS, 90 and older, not yet registered as "Historically Advantaged" can do so by just making a call to the office 206-0150. There will be an article on this group early next year

Second and third generation residents: If you have not filled out one of our registration forms, please do. This is just of several projects that will probably be of interest to researchers in the future.

WALL OF HONOR

The "Wall of Honor" was established as a way to recognize contributors to the building fund. It has since been used to honor community residents, clubs, and organizations. Call 206-0150.

BITS AND PIECES OF LEISURE WORLD HISTORY

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

Forty Years Ago November 1966

Inaugural service of the new Methodist Church will be November 6.

100 attend dedication of new Fire Station. Two Dalmatian dogs are presented by the Cortese family.

The Dept. of Education and Recreation reported that facility attendance figures had reached one million. 420,000 people used CH1 with the swimming pool used 27,093 times. Golf had the highest utilization, with shuffleboard and billiards very popular. Lawn Bowling greens which opened in September have already had over 5000 participants.

December 1966

Eight inches of rain fell in a five day period, playing havoc with sections of Leisure World.

A crowd of 1700 saw the Drama of the Nativity in the main lounge of CH 1 on December 21/22. Considered "spectacular."

On December 29 a huge bonfire was held to get rid of old Christmas trees at a site near El Toro Road and Moulton Parkway.

Twenty Five Years Ago November 1981

Twelve security gates receive an American flag following patriotic presentation by presidents of clubs and organizations of Leisure World.

Incorporation study is examined.

Fire drill startles residents in building 2404 as a 150 pound lifelike dummy is rescued from the 3rd floor.

Thanksgiving display in CH4 is attracting visitors.

A surcharge across the board will be assessed on single family dwellings in Third Mutual.

Owners of 960 golf carts using community electricity now pay 25 cents per month.

December 1981

A mass turnout of voters in Leisure World is the highest in the valley.

Goldwater speaks to L. W Republicans, seeks support.

Local woman who lived in Maui recalls Pearl Harbor attack.

Tennis courts and golf starter building are near completion.

Channel 6 TV station provides news, movies and games from 199 foot tower located inside Gate 14.

Ten Years Ago November 1996

United mutual manor committee report termed "eye opener" as residents and committee members toured manors. Blight includes "mildew fumes strong enough to send a strong man reeling", ants along floor boards, dungeon dark kitchens, and out of date facilities. Refurbishing is planned.

LW Library celebrates 29 years with open house. Started by the Panhellenic Club, it has no paid workers.

Television star Huell Hauser turns first spade of dirt for Historical Society new building.

Charities get cold shoulder as GRF sends strong message NO to requests.

Bus patrons want more say on bus routes.

December 1996

GRF terminates a committee in the process of performing operational review of Management.

Gate 12 plans are on display but golf cart bridge is not included although space for it remains.

United Board rejects an offer of \$110,000 for a quarter of an acre of land. Landscaping the area will cost \$130,000

MUSINGS FROM A FORMER LW HOSTESSJOAN LONG

(Joan Long, Friday morning Historical Society Office volunteer, was an eight year LW. hostess when the community was young. She agreed to share some of her experiences, and they will be published periodically.)

Hostess: Would you believe that was what the Clubhouse Supervisors were originally called? Yes, we were all women then.

It was in September or October 1971 when Stan Berman, Recreation Director, told me he was going to transfer me to CH 3. I demurred, saying "But I don't want to go to CH 3." His answer to that was, "You don't have a choice. I want someone with organizational skills and you are the one I want." Hum, I thought, wonder where I got those skills?

Since my good friend, Vera Johnson, had recently been promoted to manage the

theater, I thought it might not be too bad. So, of course, I went. My duties would not only be the Box Office but manning the front office as well. Since there were only two dining rooms, the conference room and the rehearsal room to schedule, this would present no challenge.

As it turned out, the Box Office wasn't a huge challenge either. It just needed the record keeping and accounting systems reorganized to satisfy the Business Office for their reports to GRF. I had only one task I was not willing to fulfill. It was my duty to take the weekend cash to the UCB Bank, located where TJ's Brewery now stands, on Monday night at 10:00 o'clock when my one-night a week shift ended. After a couple of knee knocking trips in the dark, I asked for Security, which I got for a couple of times. After that, I just said NO!

clip _____

Do not send cash by mail.

**Historical Society of Laguna Woods
Membership Application**

Please fill out contact information as you would like it to appear in our Directory. Also, indicate membership category selection by placing a 1 and/or 2 on the appropriate line.

Yes, I/we want to be a member in 2007

Membership Category

Name _____
(Each membership is for one person)

\$300.00 Patron

\$100.00 Sponsor

\$50.00 Friend

Name _____
(Each membership is for one person)

\$25.00 Contributor

\$15.00 Regular

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Check # _____ or Cash \$ _____

Please mail to Historical Society, PO Box 2220, Laguna Woods, CA 92654 or drop off at our office (next to the Library). If you have questions call 206-0150. Thank you.

NEWSLETTER
Historical Society of Laguna Woods
Evelyn Shopp, Editor
P.O. Box 2220
Laguna Woods, CA 82654

949 206 -0150

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