



The Historian

Preserving Today for Tomorrow

Volume 1 Number 2

May – June 2007

The Globe

On Thursday, May 16, 2002, Globe Fund donors were invited to participate in a re-dedication of the Leisure World Globe, newly located on Moulton Parkway. It was a happy gathering, for the group was rejoicing that a major meshing of time, talent and financial resources had brought the globe “home to stay.”

Exactly five years later, many of the same people watched, saddened and disillusioned, as the magnificent “historical artifact” was ruthlessly destroyed. Some people had given one dollar while others gave as much as \$1,000—but the sense of loss and betrayal was shared by all. It was our globe, a symbol of the community we loved, even as we “complained.”

It is therefore fitting that this issue of *The Historian* be devoted to the “life and times” of the Globe and to the people involved in its creation, its moves, and its ultimate destruction. The material was taken from the Society’s Archives, and is based on articles from the *L.A. Times*, the *Orange County Register*, promotional literature and countless articles in the *Leisure World News* and *Laguna Woods Globe*.

Ross Cortese, the developer, saw a fifty foot unisphere at the New York World’s Fair and wanted to use the sphere as a landmark for his senior communities. A company was finally located who would build one, but the diameter was limited to 32 feet. The first small “World” was erected in Seal Beach, and the second 32 foot sphere was erected here in 1963. Originally located “in



Globe, from 1963 to 1982, was located on El Toro Road.

a tiny sylvan dale in a dip on El Toro Road, just a stone’s throw from what was then called Camino Real (the King’s Highway) which the San Diego Freeway would eventually replace.” It rotated slowly above a fountain. At night, colored floodlights illuminated it.

Later, the globe was moved to a parking lot behind St. George’s Episcopal Church. Now somewhat faded and no longer rotating due to a failure in the rotating gears, the move was necessary because of construction of the

See Globe - Page 3

PRESIDENTIAL MUSINGS

Death of the Globe

This month I asked Evelyn Shopp to write about the Globe. As she wrote, I gathered pictures from Charles Arnold, Mark Stein and Ira Joss. I hope that you will relive this bit of history with us.



Bob Ring

Society's Honorees of the Month

I would like to congratulate our recent Laguna Woods Honorees of the Month for 2007:

Charlotte Brady – April

Denise Dowd Welch – May

Gail & Jim McNulty – June

We are grateful to the Avalon Las Palmas and Renaissance at The Regency for funding this program.

I am also pleased that Virginia L. Templeton, who together with the Kiwanis Foundation won the coveted Strevey Award for 2006, is the recipient of the City of Laguna Woods' Citizen of the Year Award.

Village Board Meeting Tapes

The Village Library no longer catalogs video copies of the Board Meetings. This is now the function of our Society. The Society will provide a DVD copy of any Board Meeting that we have in our archives at a cost of \$20.00. We will not allow you to "borrow" our archival copy. You may, however, view any of the archival videos in our building at a mutually agreeable time.

In those cases where we have made a DVD copy of the archival VHS tape, you may borrow the archival tape, without charge, for a period not to exceed 8 days. On the eighth day we will invoice you \$20.00.

If you have any questions, please call either Marty Hecht or Fran Lindberg at 206-0150.

90 Years Young?

Members who are 90 or will be before the end of the year, are invited to register as "Historically Advantaged." Call the office (206-0150) and ask for a form, or stop by and pick up one. Joan Long keeps these records. She is in the office on Friday mornings and would be very pleased to see you!

Our Diorama

Our "updated" diorama now shows all the changes which have been made in Laguna Woods in recent years. Do stop in and take a look when you visit the library.

Need a Speaker

The Society can provide a speaker for clubs on any topic related to this community or the history of Orange County. Call the office to make a request.

Welcome, Laguna Woods Senior Medical Group, Inc., Town Centre, 24331 El Toro Road, Suite 330. Phone—(949) 707-1807.

Laguna Woods Senior Medical Group's brochure states that they "strive to create the highest quality health care by combining the best medical standards with compassion for all patients. Our mission to deliver high quality patient-centered care is based on our belief that by providing full range health services, the practice of medicine will fulfill the promise of good health."

Dr. Lawrence W. Cooke, Dr. Daniel Y. Kim and Dr. Jesus M. Valdez, their physicians, specialize in geriatric care. The convenient office location is open 8 a.m. to 5 pm Monday through Friday. If you are looking for a primary care physician, you may call them for a complimentary "meet and greet" visit.

Globe (from Page 1)



Final assembly of the Globe after the move from the El Toro Road site.

Laguna Hills shopping mall.

Cortese promised residents it would be painted and landscaped. Residents expressed much concern over the move. Cortese stated, “We are delighted our Leisure World residents share our emotional ties to the globe. We understand that to them it’s a symbol of the content, security and happiness they have found in living here.”

In 1982 the Rossmoor Corp. wanted to rid itself of the Globe, as the community was built out. It was offered to the Golden Rain Foundation (GRF) who rejected the offer. The Historical Society was also approached, but lacked the necessary funds for maintenance which were estimated at \$4,000 annually. Society President Jim Waterman, feeling that the Globe was a community treasure, tried to get it declared a Historical Landmark. However, it was not old enough to qualify. He then went to Supervisor Tom Riley who got it declared a “point of interest.” Eventually, due largely to Waterman’s efforts, Rossmoor Corp. (Rossmoor) painted the globe and conveyed it and the land on which it was then located to Orange County, thus saving it from demolition. It remained

in that location until 2002.

During the 1990’s attempts were made to restore lights and motion to the globe. Electricians Tom and Jim O’Connell of Lake Forest donated time and money to the project because they felt it important to the area. Saddleback Kiwanis Club and our Community and Government Relations staff cooperated in a drive to raise money to refurbish the globe and start it rotating. *It rotated for only one day* before it was shut down because it represented a safety hazard to the youth of the community.

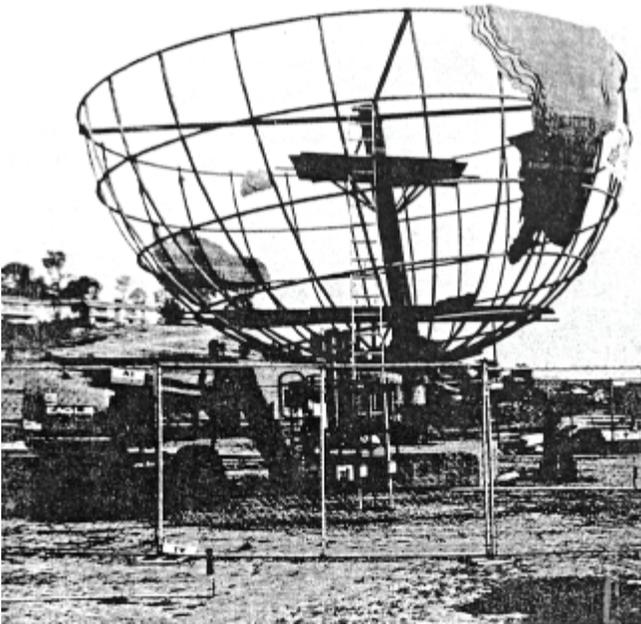
Over time the Globe was almost hidden by trees and shrubbery. Without lights, it was no longer visible from the freeway. After Laguna Hills became a city, the ownership of the land and the Globe was transferred to them. Since Leisure World was not a part of Laguna Hills, Laguna Hills decided that the Globe was an “attractive nuisance” and really had no meaning to their residents.

Shortly after the Society moved into its present building in 1999, President Tom Gaylor made an impassioned plea to the Society’s Board, urging consideration of moving the Globe back “home.” Response was varied,

See Globe - Page 4



Globe, early 80’s, on Avenida de la Carlota, adjacent to the Freeway and St. George’s Episcopal Church.

Globe (from Page 3)

One step in move from Laguna Hills to Laguna Woods.

mostly for financial reasons. Only Archivist Marjorie Williams gave her unqualified support, stating, "The Globe is the largest and most important artifact of this community. It must come home!"

Shortly thereafter, Bob Morton and Bob Miller were asked to check the structure and underpinning of the Globe to determine whether it was structurally sound. They were reasonably optimistic and discussions went on at each succeeding Society Board meeting. Ill health caused Gaylor's resigna-

tion as President. He was succeeded by Evelyn Shopp. In 2001, Laguna Hills City Manager Bruce Channing sent a letter to the Society, stating that Laguna Hills no longer wanted the Globe, and unless the Historical Society was interested in moving it, they would dismantle it. The Society's Board was galvanized into action. Bob Miller was appointed "Globe Manager" and authorized to negotiate with the City of Laguna Hills.

An appropriation of funds was made but it proved to be far less than needed. A fund raising campaign was undertaken and the plan to move the Globe received extensive publicity in all the local press. Miller contacted some of the larger donors and the results were immediate and very generous. Money started coming in from clubs and individuals, including a \$1,000 donation from Heidi Cortese's company. The Society's campaign eventually raised \$71,000.

Miller assumed responsibility for all the arrangements for the move. The process of getting GRF approval and acceptance, preparation of drawings and specifications, obtaining permits from Laguna Hills and Laguna Woods, and soliciting bids for the work took nearly a year. The ground breaking ceremony took place on February 12, 2002 and construction of the Globe's new foundation was completed during the following week.



Ira Joss



Ira Joss

Bottom and top of Globe was transported from Ave. Carlota to Gate 12 West during the night. The next morning the halves were lifted by a crane to its pedestal adjacent to Clubhouse 7.

See Globe - Page 5

Globe (from Page 4)

The actual relocation process started on Tuesday, February 26, 2002. The dismantling work took three days. The move, by trucking the globe in two pieces, was started at midnight from the location on Carlota near St. George’s Episcopal Church and was completed by 1:15 a.m.

Lighting, fencing, landscaping, a new paint job, and the installation of the Leisure World letters followed.

At the rededication ceremony, the Leisure World News quoted President Shopp, “We are the only Society that can say we moved the World...and people who can move the world can do anything.” She noted, “that in Gate 12 West the Globe will remain a bur-nished gold symbol forever.”



Ira Joss

Bob Miller, the Society’s Project Manager, addresses residents at the dedication ceremony.

But it was not to be. A suit over the use of the copyright name and symbols was finally settled and Laguna Woods Village and its management agent, P.C.M., were ordered to immediately remove all such items by May 16, 2007. This included not only our globe but also the Cortese Crest on the tower of Clubhouse One, which had also been repaired and refurbished using donations from residents, clubs and Heidi Cortese.

For the week preceding the demolition, residents took their pleas to city and county officials. The Orange County Historical Commission called the globe “a historic object

worth of preservation.” However the commission’s action did not provide a last-minute reprieve.

At about 8:30 a.m. the workmen, wearing safety harnesses, started splitting the globe with hacksaws and cutting torches. They cut along the center, slicing the continents of South America and Africa just below the equator.



Courtesy Orange County Register - Bruce Chambers

Workmen cut Africa and South America at the equator.



Ira Joss

Workmen cut the area near the North Pole so that the crane can gain access to pull the top half from the steel shaft.

Both halves, each weighing about one ton, were lifted to the parking lot. Security personnel guarded the dismantled globe to protect it from souvenir hunters. The next day the halves were cut up so that the steel could be melted down and recycled.

Globe (from Page 5)

Ira Joss



Crane moves each half to its resting place.

Ira Joss

Our “burnished gold symbol” lasted only five years, but to many of us, it will forever be a symbol of a great community, built by a visionary developer and destroyed by a daughter whom many consider to be a mercenary

**The Globe - Rest in Peace**

Charles Arnold

IN MEMORIAM**George Benner****Marjorie Williams**

Society Archivist
Leisure Worlder of the Month
October 1999

Richard Yeakel

Society Docent

Marjorie Williams, archivist at the LaGrange/Fayette County (Texas) Archives, moved to Leisure World in 1991, and soon became actively involved with the Historical Society. She was appointed as Archivist and remained in that position until ill health made it necessary to move nearer family members. Marge gave hundreds of hours of volunteer service in that capacity. She was also active in D.A.R., Community Civic Association and in the California Senior Legislature.

Marge was a native Texan, a graduate of the University of Texas. As an account executive for Merrill Lynch, she was the first woman on the floor of the N.Y. Stock Exchange. She earned her law degree after age 60.

Her husband was a medical doctor and three of her four children are practicing physicians.

BITS AND PIECES OF LEISURE WORLD HISTORY

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

40 Years Ago — May, 1967

The 2nd annual Antiques Show, sponsored by the Education and Recreation Dept. brings out tea cups, jewelry and even pantallets (long drawers extending to the ankles, formerly worn by women and girls) from Civil War days as visitors marvel at memorabilia collected and treasured by Leisure World residents. Security guards will be on duty overnight.

Hundreds attend ground breaking ceremonies to mark beginning of new Geneva Presbyterian church on El Toro Rd. north of Moulton.

Memorial Day will be observed in special ceremony at the band stand of Clubhouse One. The spectacular will feature eight sequences of Leisure World Orchestra and Chorale.

June 1967

"People in Action", a 320 page soft cover book compiled by 20 Leisure World residents will be distributed to each manor and prospective residents describing activities and photographs of Leisure World history and information about Orange County history.

Sportsman Show featuring boats, trailers and campers attract record crowds.

25 Years Ago — May 1982

"Elderly single women are targets for schemes that involve money and Leisure World phone books are like giving con-men a handbook to work from", according to Jim Orr, Orange County Sheriff's Department, speaking on Elder Abuse, "Never, never give close personal information to a stranger."

County takes over control of Globe, famed landmark. Will maintain it and see to landscaping.

The audience was delighted with the Leisure World Orchestra's Spring Concert.

County developing a horse trail network along Leisure World south wall.

Art Encounter "82" featuring paintings, poetry and music from China will be sponsored by the Leisure World Recreation Dept.

June 1982

A report by local Governance Advisory Committee considers it "feasible" for Leisure World to incorporate on its own.

A proposal for a 300 bed life-care facility near Gate 3 was approved by the Saddleback Area Coordinating Council.

Leisure World Stables is scene of Gymkhanas which received enthusiastic applause for the skill of the riders.

10 Years Ago — May 1997

A recent sound test on a commercial plane flying over Leisure World proved residents would be exposed to unacceptable levels of noise if the Marine Corps Base became a commercial and cargo Airport.

G.R.F. Board of Directors approve \$14 million loan agreement with Bank of America for shortfall in funding to complete the new Leisure World fiber-optic TV system.

Beautiful Oleander trees near Gate I plagued by disease will be replaced. No known treatment will help.

June 1997

Residents defend their right to cultivate personal gardens. Roses are a big favorite. Landscaping says yellow stakes will protect gardens from upheavals.

"People helping people" is the purpose of a new non-profit public benefit charity, Leisure World Foundation, which will be a resident run, self-supporting corporation independent of Golden Rain management.

Leisure World Golf Course plays host to Sheriff's detectives, CHP officers, firemen and paramedics as Leisure World Security personnel treat them to a "day in the sun."

Yes! I / we want to support the Historical Society of Laguna Woods in 2013. The Historical Society participates in the following worthwhile activities:

- Library of Congress' Veterans History Project
- Oral history projects that capture stories from Veterans and participants in the El Toro Airport battle
- Production of a commemorative book celebrating the Village's 50th Anniversary
- Maintenance of a vast repository of historical material
- Bi-Monthly publication of *The Historian*
- Honoree of the Month Ceremonies

The Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable corporation – #FJ95-3213797. Your support will make it possible to continue these activities, as well as many other special projects, events, and activities.

Membership Category

Name 1 _____ \$300.00 – Patron
(each membership is for one person) _____ \$100.00 – Sponsor
_____ \$ 50.00 – Friend
Name 2 _____ \$ 25.00 – Contributor
(additional member) _____ \$ 15.00 – Regular
Address _____
Telephone _____
Amount Enclosed _____ Check # _____ Date _____

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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Historical Society of Laguna Woods**

Bob Ring, President
Martin Hecht, V.P.
Mary Arine-Beer, V.P.
Linda Wilson, Secretary
Mark Schneider, Treasurer
Fran Lindberg, Archivist
John Fuller
Ira Joss
Leslie Keane
Charles Little
Libby Marks
Ruth May
Robert Miller
Elaine Morgado
Harry Schwartz
Evelyn Shopp



Mark Stein

**Bob Ring, Publisher
Evelyn Shopp, Editor**

DEATH of the GLOBE — Page 1