



LEISURE WORLD NEWS

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Getting facts on Leisure World

Survey helps determine "the way we are"

By Cheryl Walker
The News

When Sydney Aronson was a member of Project 21, the non-board residents' group that hoped to draft a future plan for Leisure World, he saw it had a fatal flaw: lack of reliable demographic information about individual members of the community.

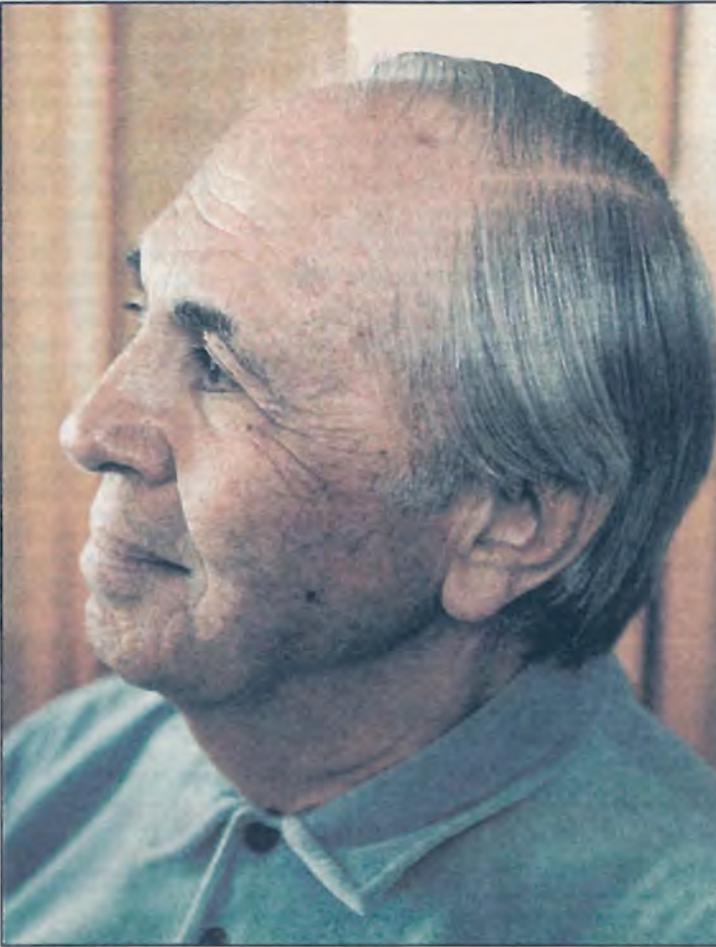
Without such data, the group was working in the dark, basing its conclusions on often counterproductive hearsay and contentious innuendo.

The member of Leisure World's Historical Society decided, after Project 21 faded into oblivion, that the idea of having reliable facts on which to base future planning decisions was vital.

"We needed hard data," says Aronson who won the backing of the Society to his cause and, with the assistance of dynamic co-chairman Ira Joss, the idea became a reality – and a valuable tool to help Leisure World face the 21st century.

Is it any wonder, then, on the cusp of the second round of the survey, which could be in selected mailboxes as early as next week, that the Society should decide that Aronson deserved special applause for his work and named him Leisure Wordler of the Month for June?

Joss explains that it was Aronson who decided that a university partner was needed to make the survey as professional, informative and useful as possible. "We spoke with several but selected UCI (the University of California, Ir-



Syd Aronson, who has been working with UC Irvine on a survey of Leisure World people, has been named Leisure Wordler of the Month for June.

Photo by Rod Veal/The News

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vine) and we've had a wonderful relationship."

Joss says that Aronson has played a major role in forging that bond too. "He's a great guy to work with, he has such a business sense, knows how to work with committees and establish lines of communication: he is the right man for the job."

Another historical society member and former Golden Rain Treasurer, Bob Miller agrees that Aronson is a man of many fine attributes. "I have

Ceremony facts

Who: Syd Aronson
What: Leisure Wordler of the Month for June
When: 10 a.m., Wednesday, June 6
Where: Clubhouse 6
Sponsors: Leisure World Historical Society.

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been associated with Syd for over eight years on both the Community Association and Historical Society Boards and can say few in Leisure World realize how much he has contributed to the community ... and, beyond that, he is most intelligent and a fine gentleman."

Former Community Association President and Third Board Director George Ratner adds that Aronson is "one of those rare people who seem to be on the right side of issues; having served with Syd on several boards and organizations, I can attest to his measured, reasoned opinions on matters being considered."

The latest collaborative demographic survey, designed by UCI Professor of Social Ecology Dr. Richard McCleary, will also go to randomly-selected residents.

It will reiterate most of last year's questions and add a few new-for-this-year, about computer use and regarding residence in a coop, condo or the Towers.

(As last year, their will be two results from the survey,

one with only Leisure World; the other, including residences outside the walls to give a snapshot of Laguna Woods.)

Another survey new this year will go out at the same time to all over 90-year-olds. Designed by UCI Neurology Professor Dr. Claudia Kawas, it will attempt to determine "the secrets of these chronologically-gifted residents success."

As before, the surveys will be completely anonymous and voluntary and no names or identifiers will be permitted in the final product which, explains Aronson, will be 100 percent academically accurate and provide us with a wealth of information that we couldn't find anywhere else."

Background: Aronson, a native of Norwich, New York and World War II United States Air Force B-24 pilot, received his bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan.

He became an executive in the insurance industry and served on various governmental special study groups where his expertise was in demand, particularly California Pat Brown's ad hoc committee to study the state's welfare program and a member of the federal task force that acted as an

advisor in implementing Medicare in the Golden State.

He also has volunteered as an adjunct professor at California State University, Northridge and is currently a mediator for Orange County.

The 15-year resident says his wife's sister introduced them to Leisure World where his spouse, Trudy, wondered if a "workaholic" (like he) could really be happy.

She needn't have worried since Aronson found plenty of interesting friends and activities that he considered well worth his time and efforts.

That is, besides serving in the Society, Community Association and the nominating committee of Golden Rain, he's become an active member of People for a National Health Program, Concerned Citizens of Leisure World, the Society for Humanistic Judaism, the MacIntosh Users Group, Opera 100 and the Men's Golf and Leisure World Bowlers clubs.

"I want to do things that are good with my life and I'm just one of those people who wants to and needs to work."

He notes that he believes too that a few dedicated people can make a difference. "Anews little grassroots can work wonders."