

# UP CLOSE: MARY DRANE

An intimate look at one of southern Orange County's interesting personalities.

**W**orkaholic is probably the best word to describe Mary Drane, for whom retirement means spending most of her time taking care of business in Leisure World.

She is about to retire as secretary of the Golden Rain Foundation board on which she has sat for three years. Drane also is active on eight committees, for one of which she is chairwoman.

"I am most comfortable in business situations and am very fortunate in having a supportive husband in Harold, who often has to cook his own meals because I'm so busy," said Drane, who has spent most of her working life in top-level administration.

Drane is looking forward to taking a break from organizational work, however, and to taking the time to pursue her interest in music. She keeps an organ and a mandolin in her home and plans to start playing them when she has some free time.

■ **Born:** Nashville, Ill.

■ **Reared:** Nashville, Ill.

■ **Time in Leisure World:** 15 years.

■ **Previous residence:** New York City.

■ **Marital status:** Married to Harold Drane, a retired industrial engineer. The couple eloped and married in 1932 when she was 18. They met in their high-school orchestra, in which they both played violin.

■ **Religion:** Protestant.

■ **Political affiliation:** "I'm a registered Republican, but an independent voter."

■ **Work experience:** When Drane retired 15 years ago from Exxon Corp.'s headquarters in New York City, she was personnel administrator of worldwide marketing. She had worked for Exxon for 33 years, starting as a secretary. "When I retired, they threw me the party to end all parties. I had telegrams from people all over the world with whom I'd worked." Before that position, she worked on Wall Street for five years. "At that time, Harold was attending Columbia University and we lived in furnished rooms on next to nothing. That was during the Great Depression. We had to live off-campus, as the disclosure of our marriage would almost certainly have cost Harold his



Mark Avery/The Register

Mary Drane, who is about to retire as Golden Rain Foundation secretary, sits beside some of her paintings.

scholarship... I have always been a late-bloomer. I was 44 when I received my undergraduate degree. But I am and always have been interested in taking on new challenges."

■ **Clubs and affiliations:** Leisure World Chorale, Wesleyan Ringers hand-bell group, Laguna Hills Philharmonic, and the American Association of University Women. Drane was the first woman to become a member of the Leisure World Petroleum Club, which consists of retirees from the industry. She and her husband also are members of Opera 100 and the Theater Guild, and Drane has been an officer of many of the clubs listed during the past 15 years. She also is a member of the Aliso and Ebell clubs.

■ **Heroes:** "I see heroics in various people, but I can't single out one individual."

■ **Hobbies:** "I like to take time to listen to and play music. I also enjoy singing. I'm in the Methodist Church choir in Leisure World. I also ring hand bells, play the organ and now I want to learn the mandolin. I have one, but I haven't had time to practice lately. Apart from music, I also enjoy oil painting. I painted several local scenes when we first moved here and then I got involved with the mutuels, which took up most of my time. Writing is also a hobby of mine, and I

write an article for the Historical Society in the Leisure World News."

■ **Last book read:** "Patriot Games" by Tom Clancy.

■ **Favorite president:** "I don't have one."

■ **In the morning:** "The first thing I do is read the newspaper."

■ **Favorite comic strip:** "Peanuts."

■ **Favorite television show:** "I like 'Jeopardy' and '60 Minutes.' I find them more intellectually stimulating than most shows."

■ **Last movie:** "'Carmen.' Leisure World's Philharmonic Benefit showed it a few weeks ago, but we don't go to the movies on a regular basis."

■ **Favorite foods:** "Anything fattening, unfortunately."

■ **Favorite restaurant:** "I don't have a favorite. My husband has serious food allergies, so we don't eat out a lot."

■ **Magazine subscriptions:** Advanced Management Journal, Na-

tional Geographic and Reader's Digest.

■ **Last vacation:** "Two summers ago, Harold and I toured California. We visited Yosemite and saw the redwood trees, and we went to San Francisco along the way."

■ **Proudest moment:** "When I received my BA degree after many years of night classes."

■ **Most embarrassing moment:** "When I was conducting a meeting of personnel administrators at New York University, I had a professor introduce our speaker for the evening and the professor had had one too many martinis. He just kept going on and on, and finally I started to applaud loudly in an effort to stop him. Fortunately, the rest of the audience followed me and our speaker eventually took the floor."

■ **Secret to happiness:** "Living each day to its fullest and always looking on the bright side."

■ **Secret to success:** "Hard work and sticking to things once you start them. I had to sacrifice a lot of social activities in order to get through school."

— Compiled by Sarah Salkeld