

*HISTORICAL SOCIETY*  
LEISURE WORLDER OF THE MONTH  
JUNE 1997

**BARBARA SHIRLEY HELFRICH**

When Barbara settled in Leisure World in 1970 she was known as Dr. Shirley, her professional name, a doctor of Veterinary Medicine specializing in treating small animals. Her major interest was dogs and cats. As she began to make friends in the community, she preferred to be addressed as Mrs. Barbara Helfrich. She is rarely recognized as Dr. Shirley, except by some of her patients she continues to treat.

Her bedside manner was unique. A "house call" veterinarian, going into a home to treat an animal in distress, she quickly sat on the floor and established a lasting acquaintance with the patient. Not only was she successful in befriending the animal, her demeanor and magnetic personality spilled over to the owners. Barbara became well known in Leisure World, and established friendships that have endured for years. In the words of one close friend: "Barbara's bedside manner impressed the owners of the dogs and cats to such an extent that lasting friendships developed."

Barbara came to Leisure World to retire, a word that is absent from her vocabulary. Retirement has not yet arrived. Her life's experience teems with accomplishment and activity, as well as the pleasures of home and family.

Important to her are the contributions she makes to Leisure World clubs and organizations she participates in. She is president of the Cat Club, an active member of the Harmonaires, Audubon Society, Democratic Club, Foreign Policy, Macintosh User Group, Historical Society, to mention only a few. Professionally, she belongs to the American Veterinary Association, American Animal Hospital Association, Academy of Veterinary Cardiologists, American Association of Feline Practitioners. That list, too, goes on and on.

Barbara received her Degree in Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University. She graduated *cum laude*.

She has one daughter and one granddaughter.

Barbara, the eternal optimist, is looking to many more years of the pleasant and comfortable life Leisure World provides.

The Leisure World Historical Society is pleased to have selected Barbara Helfrich as Leisure Worlder of the month for June, 1997. The event is sponsored by the Society and supported by the Ross Cortese Commemorative Fund.