

Marjorie Jones' goal is compiling of LW history

The walls of Marjorie F. Jones' manor are decorated with beautiful oil and watercolor paintings...her own. Landscapes, flowers, birds, animals, they run the gamut. Because of lack of wall space she has dozens more stowed away. Included on display is a prize-winning still life "Bird of Paradise."

You might suppose, after visiting Mrs. Jones' home at 2110-P Via Puerta, that as Rossmoor Corporation's Leisure Worlder of the Month for June, she earned her laurels because of accomplishment with palette and paints.

Not so. Marjorie has hardly put brush to canvas since she moved to Leisure World 13 years ago. She's been too busy in a host of community betterment activities.

After serving as secretary of Third Mutual, its nominating committee and other similar governmental activities, Mrs. Jones found a project much more dear to her heart. It is the Leisure World Historical Society of Laguna Hills, a non-profit organization she instigated five years ago. She was recently rewarded for her efforts by being named president.

"The story of Leisure World, the most successful adult community in the world," says Marjorie, "is crying to be told."

Marjorie's host of friends will gather in the Rossmoor new sales rotunda at 10 a.m. Friday, June 1 for the informal ceremony when her color portrait will be hung in a place of honor. There it will remain until July 6. That morning, when a successor for July is named, she will be presented with the portrait.

While Marjorie's painting talents are more visible, she's long had an urge to write. Born on a little farm outside of Harper, Kansas she spent most of her years in California.

After graduating from Manual Arts High in Los Angeles, she attended normal school long enough to get a teaching credential. Two years in the Alhambra school system financed her further education at Reed College, Portland. Marjorie became a secretary on her return, a job that was short-lived because she met a young accountant named James Sidney Jones.

They set up housekeeping in Alhambra in 1921, then moved to Montrose in 1930. Their two-story home on two acres overlooking LaCrescenta Valley was well off the beaten path. It was their home until her husband's passing in 1964.

Marjorie's urge to write led her to become correspondent for the Los Angeles Times. She also wrote a

garden column for the local weekly, the Crescenta Valley Ledger.

During World War II, when Publisher Grace Carpenter's two sons were called into the service, Marjorie became the paper's editor. It was only natural she would also become involved in local politics. This necessitated attending night meetings. Her hus-



Marjorie Jones

band loaned her his 38-caliber revolver for protection and she obtained a Los Angeles County Sheriff's permit to carry it.

When Marjorie divulged this fact to some of her Leisure World friends they immediately dubbed her "Marjorie, the pistol-packin' momma." Marjorie says, "I was a good shot, too, but fortunately no one ever tested my accuracy."

The fact that he has a former "gun moll" living across the breezeway leaves Jim Waterman, recently retired president of Golden Rain Foundation, undisturbed. He calls her a wonderful neighbor, and adds, "Marjorie is good, kind and helpful; but that does not preclude a show of spark and ire if her community is threatened by word or deed. She will mount her horse and ride to defend what she sees as the good of Leisure World. Her drive in bringing to life the Leisure World Historical Society is typical of her interest."

With her background at LaCanada in municipal affairs, Mrs. Jones was a natural for office-holding in the early beginnings of Third Laguna Hills Mutual. She served on several nominating committees prior to her election as director and her stint as secretary and member of its community relations committee.

As such, she originated the practice of calling on new residents, explaining the amenities available to them and how the mutual directors and Golden Rain directors functioned. She may have started what later became official protocol.

It was while serving on the mutual board that Mrs. Jones discovered no effort had been made to put together the organizational story of Leisure World.

After many months of research she published what she called "A Chronological History of Rossmoor Leisure World" which was available to elected mutual officials and directors of Golden Rain Foundation.

This naturally led to her desire to see a history of Leisure World published. It was rekindling of an urge that first flamed years ago. Back in her LaCanada days, Marjorie wrote "LaCrescenta-Canada Valley — its History and Landmarks."

Marjorie Jones' Leisure World memberships include the Garden Club, Audubon Society and Methodist Church but she admits since the Leisure World Historical Society was formed she hasn't had much time for anything else.