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News Release

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Florence Wolfinger is Named Leisure Worlder of the Month for December

LAGUNA HILLS--She is usually seen knitting, waiting for a program to start, watching TV, or standing in line at an estate sale. She knits, not for herself, but for arthritic and stroke patients. She knits exercise squeeze balls, armbands, kneecaps, wristlets and slippers. Then she donates them to the Veterans Hospital, the Saddleback Community Hospital, to Beverly Manor and to friends. She also knits teddy bears for the children in Saddleback Hospital and the Albert Sitton Home.

Florence Wolfinger will be honored for her contributions to Leisure World and the community as Leisure Worlder of the Month for December. A special ceremony to commemorate the event will be held on Monday, December 3, at 10:00 a.m., in Clubhouse Six. The public is invited to attend.

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Wolfinger 2/2/2

Florence was born at 132nd St. and Riverside Drive in New York City, but most of her young days were spent in Harlem. She devoted most of her time to the Dutch Reformed Church, which provided religious guidance and education, plus activities for every age level seven days a week. At an early age she learned to schedule her life, while she learned the skills of dressmaking, millinery, gymnastics, art, music, drama and dancing. Since those days, music has remained a major interest. She has sung in church choirs, chorales, minstrel shows and even an opera.

While attending business school she was chosen for training as a statistician with IBM tabulators. Later, she was a staff correspondent and feature writer for the "Patent Trader," a newspaper based in Mt. Kisco, N.Y. She covered the western side of Yorktown and specialized in local history. She worked for the paper for more than ten years and she continued to write for it six months after her retirement to Leisure World. Three of these articles on the topic of Leisure World were later published in the "People in Action" book, which was published by S.T.A.R.S. in 1967.

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Since the time Florence came to Leisure World in 1965, she has been an active and vital part of the community. The first group she joined was the New Harmonaires, where she sang and played the ukulele for the Hawaiian singers, who eventually became the Aloha Wahines and entertained at local luaus. She also sings with the New Harmonaires.

While still a New York resident she learned the art of preserving flowers. In Leisure World, she has passed her skill on to several clubs. Her work was proudly displayed at the Leisure World library.

The Leisure World library was a natural for Florence, as she is the supervisor of the paperback section. More than 1,000 new paperbacks are received each month and each and every one is the responsibility of Florence.

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During the 15 years her husband was treasurer of Travel Club Two, she served as his secretary and as a member of the board. She also edited "Camaraderie", the monthly newsletter of the Camera Club for the year 1977. She has been a member and served on the advisory board of the Leisure World Historical Society since its founding and she has contributed pieces to its journal. In 1982, she was recognized as Volunteer of the Month by Beverly Manor, and later that year, the Leisure World library honored her hours of service by placing her name on their plaque. She and her husband are also active members of two ballroom dance clubs.

Florence says she is a firm believer in recycling. When she ran out of material for her squeeze balls, she ripped apart old scarves and sweaters to keep knitting. Shortly, her friends donated more yarn, and she was back in business. The squeeze balls are stuffed with squares of foam rubber which are wrapped in clean, discarded plastic bags. The teddy bears are stuffed with stockings and panty hose.

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