

# Historical Hi-lites

Published by the Leisure World Historical Society of Laguna Hills, California

Spring 1984

Volume 2 Number 1

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank you for your kind reception of the Fall 1983 issue of "Historical High-Lites." We have a good crew working on this new communication medium. Here is the Spring issue and we solicit your comments and suggestions.

Since last reported in LEISURE WORLD HISTORY, Vol. 3, the list of Leisure Worlorder-of-the-Month honorees has grown to include Marjorie Berger, Wallace Filson, Helen Jacobs, Stanley Leland, Irene Puhlmann, Charles Troy, Bunnie Gormley, Carl Opsahl, Louise Reno, Harold Winn, Ethel Mabie, Harry Schafer, Lillian Lever, Edwin LeRoy, and James and Alice White. The award ceremonies hosted jointly by Home Federal Savings and your society are proving to be ever increasingly popular and pleasant community events honoring Leisure World history-makers.

This year 1984 is a historical landmark for Leisure World. It is the 20th anniversary of the opening of the community's gates to residents. Your society plans to participate in and contribute to the September celebration of that event sponsored by the Recreation Division of PCM. Our January membership dinner party was sort of the kick-off event of this anniversary year when it honored six people from the many who were responsible for community guidance in its earliest days. They were Ross Cortese, A. Oakley Hunter, Robert Price, Tracy Strevey, Margaret Nelson and Marjorie Jones.

Our 1983 policy of more programs. There was a Community Service program in February and our annual membership meeting is scheduled for March. Watch for details, time and place announcements. In March, the terms of five directors of the society will expire. Please help us replace them by sending suggested names to the Nominating Committee at the society's headquarters.

Merwin H. "Jim" Waterman  
President

## SOCIETY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 1983

Many members of the society may be interested in the financial status of the society as of the end of the fiscal year. The following breakdown indicates sources of income and broad items of expenses. The society is solvent and maintains a sound financial base. The new budget has been prepared and will be submitted for approval.

The financial report of the Historical Society for 1983.

### Sources of Income:

Annual and life memberships	\$ 4,540
Contributions from banks, commercial establishments, clubs and individuals	\$ 3,240
Bank interest earned	\$ 1,853
Sale of historical journals and miscellaneous income	\$ 1,064
Total income	\$10,697

### Expenses:

Rent for office and storage space	\$ 1,637
Salaries and taxes for part-time office secretary	\$ 2,961
Office supplies and postage	\$ 1,402
Miscellaneous expenses	\$ 1,058
Total expenses	\$ 7,058
Net income for the year	\$ 3,639

Cash in checking and savings accounts totaled \$23,809 at December 31, 1983.

The Historical Society ends the year with 45 life members and 394 annual members, a total of 439 members for 1983. There were also 227 members who had prepaid their annual dues for 1984.

Robert Dozier  
Treasurer

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT AND PROGRAM

The 1984 membership campaign is now in full swing with 305 members to date; 260 total annual renewals plus 45 Life members. If you have not already sent in your \$10 dues, bring or mail your check to the Historical Society office in the Administration Building, Room 25, or bring it with you when you come to the February 21 meeting at 2:00 in the Auditorium to hear Vic Knight, the humorist.

Mark your calendar for the March 22, 9:30 a.m., general meeting in Clubhouse 3, when Dr. Tracy Strevey, longtime resident and member of the society will speak on the subject "The Meaning of History." Dr. Strevey holds a Ph.D. in History from the University of Chicago and for many years taught invarious universities here and abroad.

Also, a drawing will be held for the Carribbean cruise. You need not be present to be eligible to win the cruise. Other prizes will be given away for which you must be in attendance. Bring a friend.

## Leisure World 20th Anniversary SOCIETY WILL PARTICIPATE

Your Historical Society will be an important participant in Leisure World's twentieth anniversary celebration.

As you know, we started the anniversary year with our Pioneer Recognition Dinner Dance on January 31 at which time certificates of recognition were presented to Ross Cortese, Allan Oakley Hunter, Marjorie Jones, F. Margaret Nelson, Robert Price and Dr. Tracy E. Strevey.

Vice President Frank LaClave is a member of the official Celebration Committee. He has arranged for one of the six days of celebration to be devoted to Historical Society's Leisure Worlder of the Month program. On Thursday of that week, an all-day Open House Reception will be held in Clubhouse 6 honoring the Leisure Worlders of the Month and displaying materials from our archives. All who have received that honor will be asked to loan the portraits and certificates they received for hanging throughout the clubhouse. Home Federal Savings will participate by furnishing refreshments, mementoes of the occasion and entertainment at various times during the day.

Your society will also participate by furnishing some of the historic motion picture films for showing during a day-long film show at Clubhouse 3.

Plans are also being made for participation in the anniversary parade to be held on Saturday of that week, when Lawrence Welk will be Grand Marshal.

All members of our society are urged to attend the Thursday Open House and volunteer to act as hosts or greeters at that event. You are also urged to help organize our parade participation. Your ideas concerning a float, or display or something else, will be most welcome.

*Frank LaClave*

## LEISURE WORLD CLUBS

### Foreign Policy Association

The Foreign Policy Association of New York encouraged establishment of a chapter in Leisure World in 1970. Paul Bremick was elected President of this first group. In 1971, the initial year's operation, there was a re-organization meeting. A number of members, lead by Michael and Helen Seidman, John Bacon and Dr. Wickliffe Stack, proposed that greater participation, franker discussion and more interest could be developed. As a result, small groups were formed with elected discussion leaders.

Meetings were held in members' homes at first and later some of the groups met in the various clubhouses as rooms became available. All groups use the Foreign Policy Association's yearly booklet, "Great Decisions", as the basis for their discussions. This has proved to be a popular and effective technique.

As of February 1984, there were 207 members and nine discussion groups.

Presidents of the association from 1970 through 1983 were: Paul Bremick, Dr. Lawrence Hill, Dr. Harold Coffman, Edwin Duerbeck, Gen. James Loome, Edward Bolster, Morris Schragar and Ruth Cooper.

### Visually Impaired Club

Soon after the opening of Leisure World, the need for an organization for residents with impaired vision became apparent to the first administrator of the medical center. Maj. Gen. Vargelund, the center administrator, contacted Warren Morgan and a subsequent survey revealed that there were about 50 people living in Leisure World who had vision problems.

In April of 1971, under the name of "Services for the Blind," the first group of about 10 persons met. Early meetings were held in the Community Room of the Great Western Savings & Loan building. Mr. Morgan brought in Dr. Wilhelm de Nuys, the director of Services for the Blind of Santa Ana. He attended meetings and brought in instructors to acquaint the members with the various techniques which have been developed to aid people with impaired vision.

Subsequently, the club meetings were moved to Clubhouse 1 and they are now held on Thursday mornings in the Art Gallery of that building.

In 1975, the organization changed its name from "Services for the Blind" to "Vista Nueva" (Spanish for 'new outlook') and in 1979 the club became "Visually Impaired Club."

The club has received the help of many volunteers who have played an important part in its success. The members who have various degrees of vision loss are encouraged to take active roles in running the club. Totally blind persons have held offices and many who suffered from quite severe visual handicaps have also served as officers and given other essential help.

## LW STREET NAMES REFLECT SPANISH HERITAGE

Several years ago, the Leisure World News published an article about the community's street names and following is an excerpt of that information:

When Leisure World was first conceived, it was decided that street names would be Spanish to retain the original cultural influence of Southern Orange County.

Then the residents came. Many were from the southern, northern and eastern portions of the country where Spanish was rarely spoken.

When they arrived in Leisure World they were baffled. "What is a Calle Aragon?" "How do you pronounce Avenida Sosiega and Avenida Despacio?"

Leisure World resident Marjorie Jones was aware of the confusion concerning street names. Out of curiosity and with the help of two Spanish-English dictionaries and a Spanish-English travel book, she researched the English translation of many of the community streets. Myra Bedel Cochran of Leisure World wrote a guide to pronunciation and understanding of the Spanish-name streets and a combination of Ms. Jones and Mrs. Cochran's research was used to explain the English translation of all streets in Leisure World. Thelma Titus of Leisure World and Jeanne Egasse of Saddleback Community College have made recent contributions to the subject.

The accompanying list of street names includes the Spanish name, the English translation and the phonetic pronunciation. Street names are marked with an asterisk to indicate that the phonetic pronunciation was not available. The translations for three of the street names were uncertain, therefore they were omitted.

Algarrobo— Mesquite\*  
Alta Vista— High View. ALH-tah VEES-tah  
Avenida Carmel— Rib Grass Avenue; Ribwort Avenue.  
ah-ve-NEE-dah kahr-MEHL  
Avenida Castilla— Castile Avenue. ah-veh-NEE-dah  
kahs-TEE-yah  
Avenida de la Carlota—Avenue of Charlotte. ah-veh-  
NEE-dah deh-kahr-LOH-tah  
Avenida Del Sol— Avenue of the Sun. ah-veh-NEE-dah  
del sohl  
Avenida Despacio— Slow Avenue\*  
Avenida Majorca— Majorca Avenue; Majorca, Spanish  
Island. ah-veh-NEE-dah mah-YOHR-kah  
Avenida Sevilla— Seville Avenue; Sevilla, a port in Spain.  
ah-veh-NEE-dah seh-VEE-yah  
Avenida Sosiega— Calm Avenue\*

Bahia Blanca— White Bay\*  
Belmez— Thought to be proper name.\*  
Brazo— Arm, valour, strength, power. BRAH-soh  
Buena Vista— Good or perfect view. boo-EH-nah  
VEES-tah  
Calle Aragon— Aragon Street; a family name: Aragon.  
KAH-yeh ah-rah-GOHN  
Calle Azul— Blue Street\*  
Calle Cadiz— Cadiz Street; Cadiz: a proper name. KAH-  
yeh KAH-dees  
Calle Corta— Short, narrow street. KAH-yeh KOHN-tah  
Calle de Cantate— Street of the Singer\*  
Calle Sonora— Sonorous street, harmonious street. KAH-  
yeh soh-NOH-rah  
Calzado— Footwear or footpath. Calzada: early California  
name.  
Del Largo East and West— Long, of a certain measure\*  
El Toro Road— The bull. el TOH-roh  
Luz del Sol— Light of the Sun  
Monte Hermoso— Beautiful mountain. MOHN-teh  
ehr-MOH-sah  
Paseo de Valencia— Valencia walk or drive; Valencia:  
early California family name. pah-SEH-oh deh  
vah-LEHN-see-ah  
Punta Alta— High Point\*  
Rayo del Sol— Ray of the Sun  
Ronda Granada— Ronda: clear space between a town  
and its walls. Granada: illustrious; select. ROHN-dah  
grah-NAH-dah  
Ronda Mendoza— Ronda: see above. Mendoza: early  
California family name. ROHN-dah mehn-DOH-sah  
Ronda Sevilla— Ronda: see above. Sevilla: a proper  
name. ROHN-dah seh-VEE-yah  
San Amadeo— Saint Amadeo\*  
Santa Maria Avenue— Avenue of Saint Mary. Saint Mary:  
early California family name. SAHN-tah mah-REE-ah  
Santa Vittoria Dirve— Uncertain.  
Terro— Uncertain.  
Via Alhambra— Alhambra Road. Alhambra: a proper  
name. VEE-ah ahl-AHM-brah  
Via Cabildo— City Hall View Road\*  
Via Carrizo— Reedgrass Way\*  
Via Dicha— Happiness Way. Lock Road  
Via Duenas— Owners Way or Road\*  
Via Elvira— Vera or Elivir'as Way or Road. VEEH-ah  
el-VEEH-rah  
Via Estrada— Estrada Road. Estrada: early California  
family name. VEE-ah ehs-TRAH-dah  
Via Jardin— Garden Road. VEE-ah hahr-DEEN  
Via la Mesa— Tableland or Plateau Road.  
Via Los Altos— Highway\*  
Via Mariposa East and West— Butterfly Way. VEE-ah  
mah-ree-POH-sah  
Via Miembre— Arm Road, Member Road\*  
Via Moya— Small unglazed jar for boiling salt. Also early  
California family name.\*  
Via Ovalo— Oval Way  
Via Pina— Pineapple Road or may refer to a tree\*  
Via Portero— Doorkeeper. Gateway Road  
Via Puerta— Gateway or Doorway Road. VEE-ah  
poo-EHR-tah  
Via Serena North and South— Serene, quiet, calm road.  
VEE-ah seh-REH-nah  
Via Vista— View Way. VEE-ah VEES-tah  
Vista del Honda— View of the Deep

# THE TREES OF LEISURE WORLD

by Angela Kitzinger

Ms. Kitzinger's authoritative article of "Trees of Leisure World" began in the Fall 1983 issue of Historical Hi-lites and is concluded in this edition.

## The Naturalist Club

Many residents, singly or in groups, take a special interest in the trees and make significant contributions to the community through their efforts in behalf of the trees.

This organization, which started as the Laguna Hills Bird Club in 1965, became the Naturalist Club at the end of 1970 and expanded its interest to trees near the end of 1971. At that time, a Mr. Frank Bruins appeared before the Board as a guest and proposed that the club undertake some form of tree-labeling "for the purpose of promoting knowledge of the many wonderful trees, shrubs, and plants on our grounds." It was decided to label trees in the areas most frequented by the public: Aliso Park, Friendship Walk and the greenbelt. The Naturalist Club donated money for the early labels and has continued to give unlimited support to the project in an amount now totalling over \$2,000.

## M.J. Bergfald

It appears to be a truism that when the need arises for a person to perform some special service, that person is already waiting in the wings. So it was with M.J. Bergfald, a former English and speech teacher from Illinois who knew only one species of tree in California when he undertook the project: the olive! But M.J. was not daunted by the hundreds of unfamiliar trees with which he was confronted; he plowed into the vast and complex field of dendrology (scientific tree study) and emerged a master, eventually labeling over 135 species or a total of over 1,200 individual trees! Little wonder that M.J. is known as "The Tree Man of Leisure World!"

## Other Contributors

**Lorraine Winterer:** Lorraine, a member the Naturalist Club, brought to Leisure World a lifelong interest in trees and a scholarly orientation. She did reference work on the botanical names of trees and their country of origin and thus helped to establish the authenticity of the labels.

**Charlotte Truesdale:** Charlotte combined an interest in trees with skill as a photographer and and the result is a genuine collection of slides on the trees of Leisure World (now in the possession of the Naturalist Club under the guardianship of M.J. Bergfald).

**Bill Lang and Harold Kehlet:** These long-time supporters of the Naturalist Club desert special mention for their dedication to the trees of Leisure World. They have stood behind, encouraged, supported, and participated in every effort to preserve and enhance our landscape.

**Frank Bruins:** Saying that he was grateful for the friendships he had made in Leisure World and that he had enjoyed living here, Mr. Bruins made a generous financial contribution for the purpose of developing a collection of spectacular, interesting and colorful trees at some site where they might be enjoyed by all residents. The result is a site in the northeastern area of Aliso Park identifiable by the following label:

ALISO PARK ARBORETUM  
DONATED BY FRANK BRUINS  
1883-1982

## The Grounds Maintenance Committees

In addition to the unofficial efforts of residents in relation to the landscape, the governing boards of the mutuals take official action through their various grounds committees. These committees meet regularly and deal with a wide range of issues, *especially requests from residents for tree removals*. Following are examples of such requests:

- 1) Resident complains that a mocking bird stations itself in a nearby tree and awakens him every morning with its singing.
- 2) Resident requests removal of a large specimen tree because it is damaging his rose bushes. This would denude a particularly beautiful grassy area on a main throughfare of Leisure World.
- 3) Residents request removal of several large eucalyptus trees because they object to the annual shedding of bark on their lawn.
- 4) Resident complains that her carpeting is being spoiled by tree droppings tracked into her manor.

Examples of this nature go on and on and the committees attempt to deal fairly with residents' problems, while keeping in mind the overall importance of trees to the community. In the final analysis, the residents of Leisure World, through their governing bodies, are responsible for the values that make Leisure World what it is. If they truly value the park-like environment of the community, they will think twice for requesting tree removals for frivolous reasons. They will remember that our trees are the common property of all residents and a primary asset of the community. Should residents ever cease to value their trees, our beautiful Leisure World could all too readily revert to those bare rolling hills of some 25 years ago.

# ECHOES OF YESTERDAY

*From the Leisure World Historical Society archives on community activities and developments in 1967. Compiled and edited by Mary Drane.*

The Laguna Hills Masonic Club is planning a golf tournament open to all Leisure World Masons, November 16 at the San Juan Hills Golf Course. *Leisure World News, Oct. 26, 1967.*

Leisure World square dancers are inviting all residents to join the new square dance class beginning Friday, September 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the main lounge of Clubhouse 2. *Leisure World News, Sept. 14, 1967.*

Plans for the development of a \$20 million research development and manufacturing center just south of Leisure World Laguna Hills were unveiled Tuesday morning by J.L. Atwood, president and chief executive officer of the North American Rockwell Corp. *(The ziggurat.)*

The Construction is scheduled to begin next summer on an industrial complex to house the Dana Systems and Information Systems division of Autonetics, North American Rockwell's electronics division. *Leisure World News, Sept. 28, 1967.*

Residents of Leisure World, El Toro and surrounding areas will be served by a new Thrifty Drug Store beginning September 21 when the huge drug chain stages a grand opening of its new store in Torrocenter at El Toro and Rockfield roads. *Leisure World News, Sept. 21, 1967.*

Edward L. Olsen was named president of the Leisure World Foundation late last week following announcement of the resignation of Robert W. Carithers. Olsen has been executive vice president of the Leisure World Foundation having joined the Leisure World program in 1964. *Leisure World News, Sept. 28, 1967.*

The 80 voices of the Leisure World Chorale members under the direction of Fred Pierce will be blended in a musical program Saturday evening, November 14 at 8 p.m. at the Mission Viejo High School auditorium. *Leisure World News, Sept. 7, 1967.*

## ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

The Archives Committee was formed "To collect, preserve and own such records, books, manuscripts, charts, maps, photographs, films and other materials pertaining to the history of Leisure World of Laguna Hills and its surrounding environs in Orange County, California; to engage in research in connection therewith; and to disseminate information to the public so as to foster knowledge and appreciation of the people and events that contributed to such history."

## Archives Committee continued

In order to do this, the Archives Committee has acquired and organized files of clippings, scrapbooks, a complete file of the Leisure World News, photographs, tapes and cassettes. We now are obtaining historical information regarding the approximately 200 clubs and organizations in Leisure World. The committee has put together exhibits regarding Leisure World placed in various savings and loan association offices. There was one at the Leisure World Festival last Fall and there is currently one in place in the exhibit case in the Leisure World library.

The committee needs more adequate space to organize and display in usable form the materials already acquired and to make these available for research and public perusal.

*Clare Still  
Chairman*

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of the  
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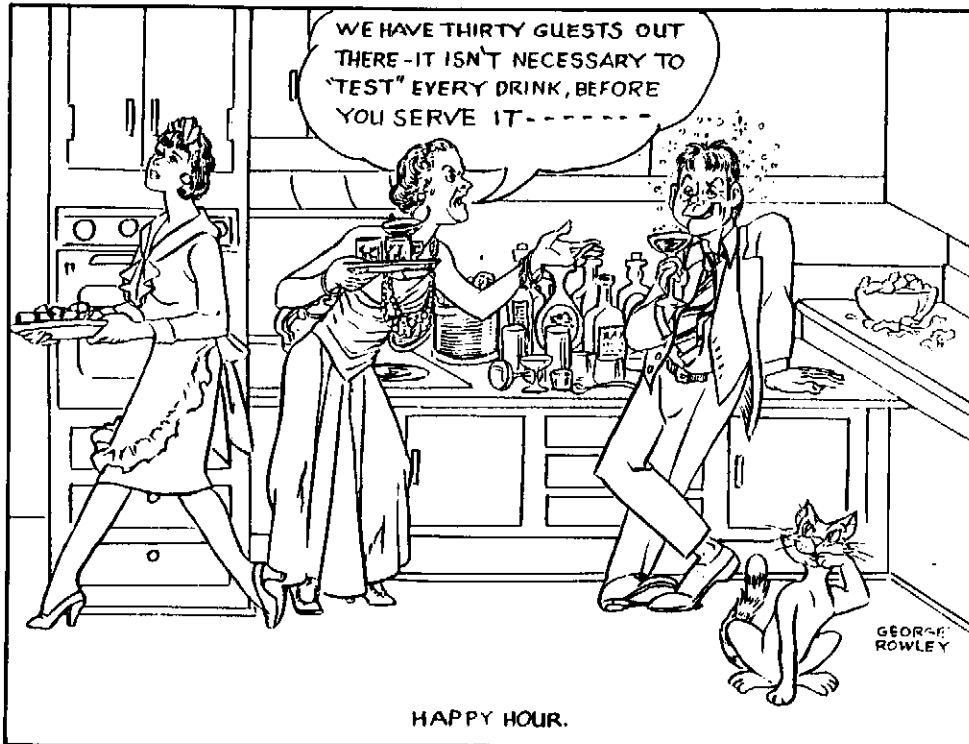
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23522 Paseo de Valencia  
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