# Historical Hi-lites

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#### IN MEMORIAM



DR. MERWIN H. WATERMAN

It was indeed a sad day on Sunday, June 10, when Dr. Merwin H. (Jim) Waterman died in Saddleback Community Hospital after a short but severe illness.

The membership of the Leisure World Historical Society was both grieved and shocked at the loss of its president, who had done so much over recent years to lead the society in its many activities and endeavors. Jim touched so many of us with his qualities of leadership and understanding, his enthusiasm and sense of humor; and above all, by his personal warmth.

Dr. Waterman and his lovely wife, Margaret, came to Leisure World after retirement from the University of Michigan, where he served for nearly 50 years as a faculty member and administrator in the field of Finance and Economics. As Professor Emeritus, Jim remained closely identified with the university, where he received three degrees and taught generations of students.

With his background, he brought to Leisure World an inevitable desire to serve his community. In 1973, within a year of his arrival in Leisure World, Jim became a director of Third Laguna Mutual, and subsequently its president. From there, he was elected to the Golden Rain Foundation Board of Directors, and was president in 1977 and 1978. Meantime, Jim was active as a member of the Board of Directors of the Leisure World Historical Society, and in 1980 became president. He was likewise active in the cademian Society, the Michigan Club, the Saddleback Kiwanis Club, other service clubs, and as consultant to numerous committees and groups of involved residents. He became a "Leisure Worlder of the Month" in October 1978.

Dr. Waterman will be missed. Rarely does a man have the opportunity to influence so many people for so many years. He did, and those of us who knew and worked with him are grateful for the privilege of knowing this man.

Dr. Tracy E. Strevey, Editor

A memorial service for Dr. Waterman was held on Friday, July 6 at 10 a.m. in Clubhouse 6. The Waterman family suggests that persons wishing to make a gift in memory of Dr. Waterman do so to the Leisure. World Historical Society, or to the Waterman Memorial Fund at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48109.

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## HONORS FOR MARIAN L. FOX

At the March 22 annual meeting of the society, President Waterman introduced a resolution commending Marian L. Fox for her numerous contributions to Leisure World, and especially to the Historical Society was adopted at the March annual meeting. The resolution also established her as "director emeritus" and Miss Fox remains a part of the leadership of the society.

In addition, various groups and organizations have made gifts to the society in her name, in recognition of her many contributions to the Leisure World community.

### **REFLECTIONS**

by Mary Drane

For more than two years the Leisure World Historical Society has been providing short articles weekly to the Leisure World News on community events that occurred 15 years ago. A few of the news briefs from yesteryear that were published as "Reflections" in recent issues of the Leisure World News are reproduced here.

The venerable sycamore tree in Aliso Park in Leisure World, Laguna Hills, estimated to be more than 400 years old, will be designated an historical landmark in ceremonies planned Wednesday, May 1, at 11 a.m. by the Aliso Canyon Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. (Issue of April 25, 1968)

Approximately 30,000 letters were mailed this past week to prospective purchasers advising them of the new condominium program in the next unit. This Sunday, June 2, the real estate section of the Los Angeles Times will contain a full page ad announcing the opening of the next unit as a condominium project. (Issue of May 30, 1968)

Members, friends and dignitaries will witness a milestone event in the 77-year-old history of St. George's Episcopal Church, when groundbreaking ceremonies for a new sanctuary are held on Sunday, Aug. 4. (Issue of August 1, 1968)

Negotiations were completed this week between the Golden Rain Foundation of Laguna Hills and Rossmoor Corporation for the purchase of the Medical Center, the adjacent land, and land for Clubhouse 3. (Issue of July 4, 1968)

Pursuant to a recent agreement with Rossmoor Corporation, negotiations are underway for the leasing of the golf course on Aug. 1, 1968 by the Golden Rain Foundation. The lease will provide for maintenance of the course by the foundation's Physical Properties department. The agreement also provides that Golden Rain will be responsible for maintenance costs, utilities charges and taxes on the facility. (Issue of July 11, 1968)

Leasing of the Laguna Hills Motel to Hyatt House Corporation of Burlingame, Calif., was announced this week by Harry Brunson, president of the Laguna Hills Motel Corporation. The least became effective Saturday, Feb. 1, for a 20-year period. (Issue of February 20, 1969)

### **ARCHIVES ACTIVITY**

The Archives committee, consisting of Helen Clark, Marion Fox, Isabella Leland, Carl Johnson, Cliff Johnso Bob Price, Eleanor Riley and Claire Still, is involved in collecting and organizing gifts of archival materials donated to the society. Recent gifts received include Histories of the Audubon Society and many others, color prints of the 1972 Leisure World Parade, rosters of World War I Barracks No. 1116 and Auxiliary, Rod & Gun Club, Democratic Club, Shriners, and World War I flags. Other materials include slides, video cassettes and assorted printed materials.

The committees also is planning special exhibits in the administration building, the library and Clubhouse 5 in connection with the twentieth anniversary celebration in September.

If you have any items relating to the 20-year history of Leisure World or its residents which you would like to deposit with the society, please tell us.

Claire Still, Archives Chairman

#### THE HIKERS CLUB

by Evan Baker

With its 150 members, the Hikers Club is one of toldest and most active in Leisure World. It was organized Feb. 16, 1967. Cullen Weems was the first president and Dr. Thomas J. O'Connor is the present incumbent. The club's objectives are companionship, physical activity and harmony with nature. Weems suggested that the club's motto be: "We shall hike, come hail, rain or high water."

The ages of members ranges between 52 and 90. One hiker remarked that when he reached 90 he would go on shorter hikes.

At 8 o'clock every Saturday morning the group meets at the Clubhouse 3 parking lot where cars are pooled for a trip to the selected location of the hike. Locally, Aliso Creek is about the only place where they can commune with nature. Laguna Beach and Upper Newport Bay offer good possibilities for hiking in the sand or observing shore bird activity. But before any hike takes place the trailmaster has covered the ground to make sure there are no obstacles or restrictions that might interfere.

Historically important places like Dana Point, where Richard Henry Dana, Jr., wrote the book *Two Years Before The Mast*, or Modjeska Canyon where Madame Modjeska entertained at picnics, are among the club's favorites. Other hikes include Laguna Beach, San Juan Capistrano, O'Neill Park, Niguel Park, Mason Park and the San Clemente area.

A breakfast committee sets up folding tables at the half-way point so hungry hikers can refuel. Members of t group are identified by red bandana handkerchiefs and by the songs they sing along the way. Their creed restricts littering, picking flowers, smoking in restricted areas. They walk facing traffic with not more than two abreast. It is truly a happy club.

## THE BUSY, BUSY WORLD OF PAPERBACKS

#### by Florence Wolfinger

The paperback section of the Leisure World Library is the busiest and most popular section of our lovely library and I must admit, the most overloaded and most abused. Originally, the shelves were to go against the walls at the end of the building, an arrangement which would have saved space, allowed for better vision and easier filing. However, we've managed to cope, and one Saturday morning not long ago, with the cooperation of the very devoted team that works with me each week, we added 19 shelves to accommodate the new paperbacks that were pouring in, many from the Orange County Library.

Approximately 11,000 paperbacks were donated last year, most of them new and greatly appreciated because the life span of the new paperback is very short, a problem of plastic binding. By comparison, we still have on file paperbacks that cost 25-cents when issued that are still holding together after all these years, having been bound with fish glue that no longer is used.

Except for the books with pages missing, nothing is wasted. I spend at least an hour each week mending the most popular books. We have a reserve section in our workroom to store about 100 of the more expensive new ones that will eventually replace those in circulation. We are continually checking the westerns, romances and the mysteries for extra duplicates to send to Saddleback Hospital, and to the Veterans Hospital in La Jolla. Duplicates in mint condition that we do not need are given to the Saddleback Hospital boutique shop, and the others go to the Thrift Shop. According to Ann Caruso, who is our contact with area schools and colleges, there is an increasing demand for romances and science fiction for the teenagers.

And let's not forget the hundreds of our duplicate paperbacks sent to the military in Vietnam in Red Cross ditty bags until the war ended, and to the Marines returning home via El Toro airbase.

Our paperbacks advertise Leisure World around the globe, as our traveling friends tell us of coming on paperbacks bearing our stamp in foreign hotels and in ships' libraries, appraently left behind by other Leisure World travelers.

The paperback section was started on one or two skimpy shelves when our library first opened, in a card room in Clubhouse 2, 1966. They were just dumped together haphazardly as the donations came in. That is where I came in.

It had not been my intention to get involved in library work again—retirement to me meant moving into new fields of endeavor. But I was trapped. Back in my hometown in New York, we had a beautiful library, once a private home on a 26-acre estate that had been given to the town to be used for that purpose. The community could only afford to pay a very modest salary, allowing the sole librarian, a widow with two children, living accommodations on the second floor. As I recall, it was in the

early 1950's that donated paperbacks started coming in. First, they were piled on a table. Our librarian consulted with the volunteers who helped and—you guessed it—I suggested that they be filed according to subject material, in a corner of the reading room. Instantly I was in charge of the paperback section and stayed with it until I retired to California in 1965. That gave me just about two years respite until I was involved again.

Well, this collection grew and grew and we now have 12 categories: westerns, travel, plays, dictionaries, romances, biographies, fiction, mysteries, non-fiction, diet and health, science fiction, sex and family relations. Children's paperbacks are filed with the children's books.

I put in between 10 and 12 hours a week, spread over three days and am most grateful for the very faithful team that works with me. Each of us works one three- or fourhour day a week, with very few, if any, coffee breaks, and it is real, physical labor, as we circulate about 400 per day, and as many as 8,000 per month, 91,017 per year.

It would be nice if we could have monitors in our paperback section who would see to it that the shelves were always tidy. Readers are so careless about tightying the shelves when the remove books, although the request is posted in full view. But monitoring would be a tiresome job, I suppose, so we must leave it to the readers to tighty up. When I made this suggestion to one visitor, she declared indignantly, "It's not MY responsibility!"

On the other hand, we have readers who try too hard. The other day when I came on duty I found all the rows of paperbacks shoved to the very back of each shelf, very neat in appearance, but how do you remove a paperback from the bottom shelf when you can hardly see it, even if your hand is thin enough to reach through to it?

And we get gripes, too. One woman complained that she couldn't find anything to read. "There's just so many of them," she protested.

Well, we try, but you just can't please everybody. Occasionally, someone remarks, "That a wonderful job you are doing," and that really brightens our day.

## 20th ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE

George Rowley reports that both hosts and hostesses are needed for two-hour shifts each on Thursday, September 13 at Clubhouse 6 the day the Historical Society will be a twentieth anniversary sponsor. Portraits of "Leisure Worlders of the Month" are to be hung in the clubhouse and owners are asked to bring their portraits for exhibition on September 18. Plans for activities and entertainment are being developed and will be publicized later, said co-chairman Rowley.

Don't miss the opportunity to get a copy of the JOURNAL INDEX. It now is available in the society office and is free to all members who will come and pick it up. Should you want it mailed, please send name, address and \$1.00 for postage and handling.

Milton Adamson won the drawing for a Caribbean cruise offered by the society and Pacquet Lines. The drawing was held at the regular membership meeting on Mar. 22, 1984.

### OUR SOCIETY'S GENEROUS FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS

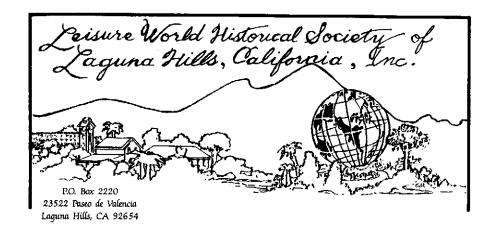
In addition to the support of its members, the society is fortunate to have interested Leisure World clubs and commercial and financial institutions in neighboring communities that give both moral and financial support to its activities. The 1983 and 1984 list includes Patrons who have made cumulative gifts over the years of \$500 or more. In addition, there are the Associates who have given \$100-\$499 during the year, Friends who have given \$50-\$99 and Other Donors. They are:

**PATRONS:** Aliso Club, Anahiem Savings & Loan, First Interstate Bank, P.P.G. Industries, Professional Community Management, Inc., Rossmoor Corporation, and Laguna Hills Leisure World Woman's Club.

ASSOCIATES: American Ballroom Club, Cass & Johansing, California Federal Savings & Loan, Chicago Clu China Dolls, Doctor's Ambulance Service, DAR Aliso Chapter No. 159, Ebell of Laguna Hills, The Forum, Golden West Publishing Inc., Mercury Savings, Security Pacific Charitable Foundation, Revenue Securities, Rossmoor Electric, El Toro Shell, and Tieloff Tours & Travel.

FRIENDS: Aero Space Club, American-Italia Club, Art Guild of Laguna Hills, Bocce Club, Ralf Edwards Broms Interiors, Coast Carpet Cleaning, Laguna Hills Women's Gold Club, Mercury Savings, Travel Club 2, and Woman's Club of Laguna Hills.

OTHER DONORS: Alpha Beta Co., Alpha Chi Omega, Art Guild of Laguna Hills, Camera Club, Central Savings, Mrs. Wilbur Chapman, Eleanor Graves, Alfred Driscoll, Kiwanis Club of Laguna Hills, Lawrence Norman, Laguna Hills Philharmonic Committee, Latin-American Club, leisure World Bus Drivers Association, Leisure World Shrine Club, Leisure Wheelers, Michigan Club, New Harmonaires, Saddleback Kiwanis Club, Soroptimist Club, and Visually Impaired Club.



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