

LEISURE WORLD

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JANUARY

PRESERVING TODAY FOR TOMORROW

volume 1

2000

number 1

Sunday February 6 CH5

That's the date for our annual dinnerdance/program/meeting. It is always a gala affair, and this one, the first of the new Millennium, promises to be spectacular! Chairpersons, Jan and Charles McLaughlin, urge you to make your reservations early -- and include your friends, relatives, neighbors! Details are on the enclosed blue sheet. Affiliate representatives are cordially invited to join us for this occasion, and we welcome our Associates. Black tie optional.

Monday 7:30 pm January 17 CH 3

Dr Mathew Ross, former Professor of Medicine at Harvard, UCLA and UCI, will present a seminar on End of Life Issues. Open to all residents, registration is not necessary. See page 5.

2000 Directory

The copy for the Directory must be ready by January 15. Members paying late will be included in the addendum or in the Newsletter.

Demographic Survey

The Historical Society is embarking on a new, major project. Read all about it on page 4.

Volunteers Needed

There will be a general orientation for persons interested in volunteering in either the office or archives of the Society on Wednesday, January 29. We need both regular volunteers and substitutes. Please call if you are interested. 206-0150. If you are interested in becoming a Docent, call Justine Ratner, 583-7274.

from the President's desk....

The holiday season is over. We've survived Y2K (?). It's a little early to worry about income taxes...and too late to do any of the things financial planners always suggest. That leaves two possible choices: Look back and bask in accomplishments, or look forward and count the challenges. Since I'm an optimist by nature, I prefer to look forward and I hope most of you follow that same philosophy. So here's my thoughts and concerns for the the Historical Society-----Also known as an **Annual Report**.

Programs: Milt Ray has done a splendid job of starting us on a new program schedule aptly named,"Leisure World and the outside World." Seminar participants had been enthusiastic and involved. The current series with Dr Mathew Ross is a first for us and perhaps for Leisure World. The question: What do the rest of you want for programs? Should we sponsor lectures on todays world? On the history of Orange County? On the arts? We would appreciate your thoughts on programs.

Trips: Jean Downs planned and executed some excellent trips for the Society. We had no trips planned in the last few months. Should we sponsor trips? What kind? How long? Are you interested in trips to historically significant places? Let us know.

Archives: The volume of work has increased as people become more aware of the resources available. Our archivist, Marge Williams, and her helpers are using the computers all the time. Should we continue to accept materials from clubs not Associates? Should we charge for research?

Oral Histories: In limbo. We need someone with some experience in interviewing to be responsible for this program. Are you that person?

Speaker's Bureau: Calls for speakers are few, but increasing. We have the resources for speakers on any subject related to Leisure World. If your club needs a speaker consider us. You may request a specific person to speak, or can ask Chairman Harry Schwartz to assign a speaker. Some of the Leisure World history is quite fascinating. We'd like to share with you.

Globe: Bring it home in 2000! A symbol of Leisure World and the Leisure World life style, it has historical significance and should not be "lost." Some are not in favor of preserving it. How do you feel?

Demographic Survey: A new commitment for us, and one that has great implications for the future. I believe this will be the beginning of more extended relationships with the community and with Universities. It will give us positive "visibility." For more information, contact the Committee Chairman, Sid Aronson, or any member of the committee.

From the President's desk (con't from page 2)

Research: We have the materials necessary for research of many kinds. It should be pulled together, and perhaps published by us. If you have a topic of great interest to you, it is probably of interest to many others. Is there a good history of the computer movement in Leisure World? Of the club houses and decisions for their use? Of the religious groups?

Docents: Under the direction of Justine Ratner, the docent led tours continue to be very popular and give the Society very positive exposure in the community.

Leisure Worder of the Month: Due to construction in CH 6, four months were dark. This is the one program in the community which gives residents the opportunity to nominate persons who are contributing to the "good life" of Leisure World. All candidates are not selected, but the committee makes very effort to be fair, impartial, and responsive. Some candidates approved by the committee do not wish to be honored, usually for very personal reasons. Since all information on candidates not honored is confidential, "failure" to select is sometimes a problem.

Volunteers: The Society is dependent on volunteers. Several have given over a 100 hours of service in 1999. When they are unable to work, they find a substitute. It takes time to learn enough about the working of the Society to be able to answer questions, or to find answers, but most of our volunteers are becoming very knowledgeable--and very valuable! Thank you, volunteers in Archives, on the computers, and at the front desk!

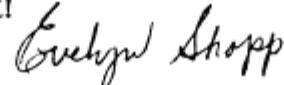
Publicity: We have had excellent coverage in the Leisure World News and on Channel 6 this year, and we are most grateful. Tom Gaylor prepares the news stories, and arranges for participation on Channel 6. If you have ideas for stories, call Tom at 707-4501.

Membership: Ward Payne and his membership committee have been very active, and are confident that 2000 will be a great year! We are especially pleased with the increase in Affiliates and Associates. Membership must be the concern of every member--Ward would welcome your ideas. Call him at 837-7198.

Historically Advantaged members are those who are 90 and older, and are willing to admit it! We'd like to identify all members in that category. To date, our oldest members are Olive Title and Elsie Canuteson. If you are eligible for membership, please call the office 206-0150 and give your birth date and state of birth.

Newsletter reporting, editing, publishing has occupied many hours of my time, since I am not accomplished in either field, but I really enjoyed doing it, and appreciate the very kind remarks about it. Thanks to John Bradley for mailings.

Thanks to our office manager, Marge Rice. I'm fortunate to have her able assistance. And thanks to a willing and knowledgeable board. You've been great!



Demographic Survey

The United States Census Department, acting as the official archivist of the Federal Government conducts a national census every ten years. The department acts merely as a gatherer and compiler of anonymous vital statistics, and does not use the data for any purpose, other than to make it available to federal, state and local agencies, who critically require such information.

On a much smaller but similar scale, the Leisure World Historical Society accepts as one of its roles the gathering and compiling of statistical data about the residents of Leisure World and Laguna Woods, and making this data available for planning purposes.

In line with that responsibility, the Leisure World Historical Society has entered into a partnership with two divisions of the University of California (UCI) to prepare and conduct a Demographic Survey of the Leisure World and Laguna Woods populations. The Historical Society is underwriting this project and the UCI Institute of Brain Aging and School of Social Ecology will provide survey and computer expertise.

The survey will be conducted utilizing a scientifically devised random sampling of the populations.

The City of Laguna Woods vitally needs demographic information in order to file for possible government grants, so it was decided to also include

the three residential entities in Laguna Woods, but outside the Leisure World gates, in this study.

The survey questionnaires are being developed by the University in consultation with the Leisure World Historical Society Survey Committee and the Laguna Woods City Manager. It is anticipated that the survey will be conducted in early 2000.

In order to insure absolute privacy and anonymity, the strictest Federal and University guidelines will be followed in conducting this survey.

The Leisure World Historical Society Survey Committee is Chaired by Syd Aronson and consists of the following individuals: Lou Bernoff, Bert Black, Ira Joss, Brenda Ross & Bebe Shaddock. Ira Joss serves as liaison between the University and the other entities involved in this project.

On Dec. 6th, Leisure World Historical Society Board, the Survey Committee, and a representative from the City of Laguna Woods were invited to an open house at the Institute of Brain Aging at which the nature of the work of the Institute was explained and demonstrated. As was so well stated by the Institute Director, Dr. Cotman, the Institute is "interested in behaviors that contribute to successful aging,and to social factors that promote health and productivity"

The Leisure World Historical Society believes that it is most fortunate to be working with such a capable and highly respected University partner in this most significant venture.

NEW ADDITIONS FOR THE WALL OF HONOR

Verla L. Brown
John Dalls

Maryan Feingold
MILLI W. Hicks

Hawaiian Bowling and Travel Club
Hellenic Social Club

Names are added to the wall twice a year. and should be up in about three weeks. about the Wall of Honor, call the office 206-0510. Individuals, clubs, businesses are all "on the Wall."

These plaques have been ordered If interested in more information

The Search for Personal Freedom End-of-Life Issues

Dr. Mathew Ross, former Professor at Harvard, UCI and UCLA Medical Schools is presenting a lecture-discussion series which involves the participants in an open, lively, spirited discussion of some of the major issues confronting all of us as we look ahead to our inevitable futures. His presentations include material from an historical point of view, utilizing literature, music, mythology, the *Bible*, medicine and psychology to address the issues we must all face at the end of life.

Our 21st century will be compared to those of the ancient and contemporary civilizations around the world. Discussions will include our ideas of longevity, life and death, the right to die, the good life, dying well in and out of the hospital; patient autonomy vs. benevolent paternalism; spiritual and alternative medicine.

And finally, there will be discussion on how to include your family, your doctor, your clergy, and others in one's wishes and plans for one's well-being, including eventually dying with dignity.

Dr. Ross wants to make each session practical, rewarding, meaningful, and a challenging intellectual and emotional experience. He will use questionnaires, reading lists, visual and other aids, including handouts. Although each session builds on the previous one, each is complete and separate, and individuals may attend one or all of the sessions.

The seminars are open to all Leisure World residents. All seminars are held in CH3, DR 1 at 7:30 pm. All are on the third Monday.

January 17 February 21
March 20, April 17 and May 22

Did you happen to notice

that the December 30 issue of the *Leisure World News* is not only an issue worth saving for historical reasons, but also because some of the information came from Historical Society materials?? Part of the story on Cortese, for one, came from Fulfilling Retirement Dreams, our twenty fifth anniversary book, edited by Dr. Tracy Strevey.

Speakers Bureau

Where is it? When was it built? How did it happen? What's the history?

These types of questions--and many more--can be answered by Speakers Bureau members. We are available to clubs, groups, and interested people in the community, and are willing to use the resources of the Archives and other historical sources to cover any related Leisure World topic.

Please contact the Speakers Bureau Chair, Harry Schwartz, or call the Historical Society office at 206-0150 to make arrangements for time, date and subject.

A Stitch in Time Saves....

An article in a recent magazine suggested the the Y2K scare was a good reason for reviewing, evaluating, and revising wills. The author pointed out that estate plans should be periodically reviewed since children become independent, grandchildren are born, and loved ones die. Wealth may increase or decrease. Needs, concerns, goals change. We all know this is true, but unfortunately, says the author, some of us act as if those things only happen to other people.

Thanks, Depositors at

Freemont Investment and Loan

For 1998, we received a check for \$700 from **Freemont**. Depositors listed the Historical Society as their choice for the special bonus award. For 1999, we will receive approximately **\$850!** If you are depositing new money, or rolling over old accounts, ask that the Historical Society be given credit. **\$1000 in 2000??**

WELCOME. NEW MEMBERS!

Gunilla Amdur	Edwin Keating
Ann Bialy	Erma Kernigan
Eleanor Bonasso	Irene Lazzara
Helen Berger	Kathleen Porto
Lorraine Donley	Helene Spitz
Beverly Dumas	Donna Strafford
Ralph Ginoro	Dora Thrall
Margaret Guieler	Virginia Vader
Earl Hackney	Betty Van Horne
Mary Hackney	
Marie Hall	
Sylvia Jacobs	T.M. Walker
Jean Janowsky	Shirley Warren
Sidney Janowsky	Dora White
Nancy Johnson	Elaine Wolman
Donna Jumper	Lane Wolman
Eugene Jumper	

The **LEISURE WORLD FOUNDATION**, formed in 1997 in "response to the needs of elderly residents in our community who were experiencing temporary financial problems" has as their theme *People Helping People*. Most cases are referred to them by the L.W. Social Services Department. Out of 16 board members, 12 are members of the Historical Society!

Bob Dozier, Director Emeritus, reports that he was the oldest alum present at the April Pomona College Alumni Day. He is a graduate of the class of 1923.

in memoriam

Jack Taylor

(Jack and Irene Taylor were November Leisure Worlders of the Month. Due to illness, he was unable to attend the ceremony.)

Archivist's Corner

(Archivist Marge Williams is in Houston, recuperating from knee surgery. Before she left, she wrote the following article, as well as the continuation of the earthquake story on page 7. Fran Lindberg, assistant archivist, and the able volunteers in the Archives, are eagerly awaiting her return to active duty.)

HEAVEN ON HOLD

Late in October, several of us attended a local history conference at Cal State Fullerton, where the subject of study was the history of Orange County. Our Society was represented with a display of materials, and I appeared on a panel and made a presentation.

For this, I used a video produced for our twenty-fifth anniversary, entitled Heaven on Hold. I strongly urge that every one make an effort to see this video presentation on Leisure World. It is a professional job and not at all out of date. I wonder why we aren't all singing the two songs that I heard on the tape, written by residents for the anniversary.

We have several copies of the video here in the Archives, and the Library also has a copy. Please consider checking it out at either place, or viewing it here. You will enjoy Heaven on Hold.

(This video was the brain-child of Shirley Levy. She directed its production, working with camera man Marvin Taves.)

RETURNING TO THE STORY OF ALLEN AND FRANCELIA, AND THE EARTHQUAKE OF 1933, COMMONLY CALLED THE LONG BEACH EARTHQUAKE . . .

They corresponded occasionally after Allen returned to California, she serving as a sort of "Dear Abby" as he wrote of problems with his best girl. In the spring of 1932 Allen wrote that he and his girl had broken up, that he had some tickets for the 1932 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, and wouldn't she come out to see them with him?

Francelia had three weeks left of her vacation from the Boston Public Library and barely enough money for the round trip by train. So she accepted. (Her folks did their best to persuade her to take a trip to Europe instead.)

Now Allen discovered that he wouldn't be home at the time of her arrival! His Sister had been teaching in Oregon and he had promised to drive up and bring her home. That proved to be the time.

So the Andersons met Francelia's train and took her back to their Pasadena home until Allen and Mignonne were back in their home in Anaheim. The Andersons gave her a lovely time that included an overnight stay at the hotel on Mount Wilson.

Then for several days Allen's mother, Fannie Goddard, and Mignonne and Allen entertained her nicely in Orange County. Allen did take her to the Olympics the day of track events where they saw Babe Didrickson (ED. NOTE - OF BEAUMONT, TEXAS) make some records. And he took her to a dance at the Pavilion in Balboa.

On her last day, since her train for home could be boarded at Los Angeles, they all four drove up to the Anderson home for dinner. All drove to the

station to see her off. But as soon as Francelia was in Allen's car he started off, leaving the others to come in another car. And on that ride, looking back at the beautiful mountains, she finally decided that MAYBE she could live in Southern California.

The two agreed to wait and see if, in spite of being so far apart, they still felt in love by Christmas. They did! So Allen sent her an engagement ring at Christmas. (He had already tried it on her while she was visiting him.)

From then on their letters continued at the rate of two or more a week. It added up to a huge stack of letters!

The big Long Beach Earthquake struck on March 10 of the next spring. But they were married in Boston on June 30 and Allen took two summer courses at Harvard before he drove his bride back to live in Garden Grove, California. They arrived on the 2nd of September and all nature seemed peaceful. But several weeks later they were wakened in the early morning by a hefty after tremor that woke them and made them both sit straight in bed. And smaller tremors continued at intervals for a year after. So Francelia experienced small samples of what Allen had written about.

Supposedly the letters were destroyed a few years after the couple's marriage. But more than sixty years later, Francelia discovered, in the bottom of a small wooden box covered with cowhide, that had belonged to her Vermont great-grandfather, the five letters which Allen had written so long before, describing his earthquake experiences.

The letters will follow in our subsequent issues. . . .

**SUGGESTIONS
FOR YOUR "DO" LIST**

PAY DUES.

RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER.

CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING.

ATTEND THE JANUARY 17 SEMINAR.

(Bring a friend.)

SEND IN RESERVATION FOR THE ANNUAL DINNER.

(Black tie optional.)

**MARK THE FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL, AND MAY SEMINAR
dates on your calendar.**

**VISIT THE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY BUILDING.**

**wanted:
email addresses.
Please call 206-0150**

**Leisure World Historical Society
P.O. Box 2220
Laguna Woods, CA 92654
949 206-0150**



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Archivist	Marjorie Williams
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