

LEISURE WORLD

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JULY

PRESERVING TODAY FOR TOMORROW

VOLUME 1

2000

NUMBER 4

JOINT MEETING

Community Association/ Historical Society
Thursday, July 27, 1:30 pm Clubhouse 5

Speaker: Kevin Clark

Director for "TOWN PROJECT"

**Hear about the plans for this project which begins
near Gate 7 and goes all the way to Moulton.**



If you received one of the 2000 questionnaires mailed in Leisure World for the demographic survey and haven't returned it to UCI, please mail it. This is an important document for our community. See page 6.



**See page 8 for information on programs planned for fall.
These will be open to the public, so invite your friends.**



Newest project: Locating all the second generation residents in Leisure World. See page 3.



"Historically Advantaged" members: Who are you? We'd like to know you! See page 6.

PRESIDENTIAL CHATTER

Evelyn Shopp, President

Time to look at the first 6 months of 2000. Fortunately, our list of successes is high! This is due to the outstanding support of the board and the volunteer staff, and to the efforts of our office manager, Marge Rice. Major activities include:

Program chairman John Bradley and his committee have been very active. The evidence is on page 1 (Joint Meeting), page 6 (Where the Money Is) and page 8. And there is more to come.

Membership chairman Ward Payne and committee members meet on a regular basis and have achieved success, even though 1000 will not be reached this year. They plan to begin contacting potential 2001 Affiliates.

Archives activity continues to increase with many queries from outside the area. The volunteers have done a most commendable job while Archivist Marjorie Williams has been away. With her return, expect even more activity.

Results of the Demographic Survey are fantastic! UCI staff expected the usual low percentage return. But Leisure World is different--as we already knew--and as of July 1, more than 1200 questionnaires had been returned. Co-chairs, Syd Aronson and Ira Joss, deserve a "big hand" for a job well done.

Oral History Project (*Who Says You Can't Go Back?* page 6) is keeping Dr. Mathew Ross busy, and providing a lot of interesting material for our Archives. This had been in the "talking" stage for years.

Other activities are reported throughout the Newsletter. This is the 4th issue for 2000, all on schedule.

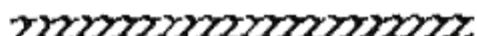
The 1981 article from the Leisure World Historical Society Spring Quarterly on Clubhouse 2 (page 7) brings an historical perspective to the saga of Clubhouse 2. Hope you enjoy it.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!



in memoriam

Jack Rouman
Leisure Worlder of the Month
January 1997



SPEAKER'S BUREAU

Harry Schwartz, Chair

Does your club need a speaker? The Speaker's Bureau was established to provide speakers for meetings and special events. We are prepared to provide historical and cultural information on Leisure World, the Historical Society, Orange County, cityhood, the air base, past celebrations--and we have Archival material on a variety of other subjects.

Evelyn Shopp was a speaker at a recent meeting of the High Twelve Club. Harry Schwartz is scheduled for an October meeting of WCSO. The College Club has also requested an October speaker.

For more information, or to make a request, contact the Society office, 206-0150, or the Chair at 586-6255, or send in a written request.

**SECOND GENERATION RESIDENTS**

Did you know that Bob Miller and Ward Payne, members of your Historical Society Board of Directors, are second generation residents of Leisure World?

That fact came to light when we were discussing the Oral History Project. If the memories of our old timers are worth preserving, how about the second generation residents? Why did they come to Leisure World? Did they inherit their manors; come while their parents were still here; move in to assist with care of parents? Are they supporters of and workers in the community?

The first phase of that "study" is underway, with 16 second generation people identified to date. There must be many more. If you are one, or know one, give us a call at 206-0150, and a short one page questionnaire will be sent you.

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If you can think of another "project" of this type, we'd be interested. For instance, how many residents have lived in 2 or more residences in Leisure World? Don't know what value that information would be, but it would be fun to have! Or how many couples have been married since moving to Leisure World? How many couples have 5 or more children? 20 or more grand children? 10 or more great grand children? Great great grandchildren? How many residents have MD's, PhD's, JD's etc etc? How many play the violin? See--it is endless!

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Ward Payne, Chairman

The wide-awake, perceptive, ever alert members who read this Newsletter every other month are of course acutely aware of the many advantages of membership in our Society, which is certainly one of the "Crown Jewels" of Leisure World.

However, it is possible that some of us have a friend(s) who for one incredible (to us) reason or another have not been fully cognizant of all the outstanding activities and accomplishments of the Society. These include: Sponsorship of the prestigious "Leisure Worlder of the Month" ceremony, day trips, seminars, docent conducted tours of Leisure World for prospective and new residents; and an ongoing variety of programs.

The so-called "lazy" days of summer provide an excellent opportunity to do a friend, neighbor, or perhaps a new resident a big favor by introducing him/her to the Society. Try the subtle approach--bring him/her by for a look at our outstanding diorama--and pick up a membership brochure (which just happens to have a membership application in it!) or call the office 206-0150 - and we will promptly mail you one.

And do remember that all contributions, including membership dues are tax deductible.

If you have ideas about membership, do share your thoughts with us.

NEW MEMBERS

Carol Courtwright
Manfred Krutein
Stewart Richmond

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ASSOCIATES, New

Bonsai Club of L.W.

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ASSOCIATES, renewals

Men's Golf Club

1350 VOLUNTEER HOURS

were contributed by our regular staff during the first six months of the year. This included hours in the archives, at the computer, in the airport files, and at the reception area. In addition, several people assisted in the reception area for Leisure Worlders of the month ceremonies. Helen Hanson arranges for coverage at the refreshment table, with Marie Fox as her most faithful assistant. Maryan Feingold presides over the guest book. Harry Schwartz is our regular program M.C. who not only does the program but also prepares the bio, collects the portrait at the studio, and arranges placement in CH 3.

Volunteers contributing at least 70 hours: Alberta Montvydas, Fran Lindberg, Fritzie Schwartz, Ruth Osterhoudt, Helen Hanson, Bobbie Bateman, Joan Africa, Gloria Levine and Phil Studebaker.

KNOW YOUR DOCENTS

By Justine Ratner, coordinator

Jan and Charlie McLaughlin, who have both been honored by the Historical Society as Leisure Worlders of the Month, are our newest Tour Docents.

Jan, originally from Nebraska, attended the Univ. of Nebr. and graduated from Lincoln General Hospital School of Nursing. After raising three children, while active in Scouting, 4H and PTA, she returned to work for 20 years, retiring as Director of Nursing Services.

Moving to Leisure World in 1987, she has been very active. She served as a United Mutual Board member, a GRF board member, and President of GRF. Jan, with Charlie as her campaign manager, was recently elected to the Laguna Woods City Council.

For recreation, she loves the outdoors, the beach and traveling, especially to see the children and grandchildren.

Charlie, born in Peoria, Il., has lived in California since he was 18 months old - long enough to be called a native. He grew up in Glendale, attended Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo. He retired as a citrus rancher and from his own insurance agency. Charlie is a second generation Leisure Worlder as his parents moved here in 1966. He served on the United Board and was Co-Chair of TRP (Taxpayers for Responsible Planning).

Jan and Charlie met in 1992 when both were on the United Board. Following

the deaths of their spouses, they married in 1998 and together are active in the American Ballroom Dance Club, California Club, Saddle Club, Republican Club, Community Association, and the Historical Society. As lovers of Leisure World, they find it easy to promote our wonderful way of life, and being Historical Society Tour Docents is the perfect avenue for them.

HONORED

Women's Classified Service Organization presented Helen Lyon with its honorary membership award at its June meeting. This award is given to a LW woman known for exemplary executive and professional service to the community. Helen is a musician, an active volunteer, and has held many offices. She is currently on our membership committee, and was chairman of the WALL OF HONOR committee. Congratulations!

BOARD MEMBER RESIGNS

Mary Balcom, on the Historical Society Board since 1999, has resigned. She and her husband are moving to Naples, Fl. in the very near future.

VOLUNTEERS

We are most grateful for the many volunteer hours "donated" in preparing the Survey mailings. In addition to our regular volunteers, 6 other members assisted in the labeling, folding, stuffing procedures. Couldn't have done it without you!

DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY**SYD ARONSON & IRA JOSS, CO-CHAIRMEN**

After over a year of diligent efforts, the survey documents have all been sent out. The random sample of Laguna Woods addresses, selected by UCI, included 2000 manors in Leisure World and 93 locations in the three residences outside the gates.

The enclosed, postage-paid envelopes direct all responses to Dr. Richard McCleary at UCI, who will collate the results and supply the Historical Society with aggregate data. The survey was designed to be completely anonymous and there will be no individual identification of any kind.

Leisure World News and Channel 6 were most cooperative in providing publicity for this project.

This has been a most significant undertaking for the Historical Society and we are very appreciative of our partnership with the UCI Institute for Brain Aging and Dementia, with whom we hope to establish a long and mutually advantageous relationship.

WHERE THE MONEY IS.....

A trip arranged by program chair, John Bradley, featured a visit to the Federal Reserve Bank in Los Angeles. The money is, unfortunately, under "lock and key" and the only money "out" is finely shredded! The participants agreed that the trip was both educational and fun.

WHO SAID YOU CAN'T GO BACK?

Memories may dim but they never die, and, according to Dr. Mathew Ross who is in the process of interviewing early residents of Leisure World, it is a real joy to hear our "early settlers" tell of the friendliness, helpfulness, and fun loving spirit which marked those first few years. The general tenor of the comments indicated that people had fun. The bus drivers were friendly. The administrator was helpful. Golf, bridge and parties!

Most often mentioned was the "wide open spaces" with cattle. Several spoke of the low admission costs and the reasonable maintenance fees. When clubs started, the sense of unity and some of the friendliness were gone.

The Historical Society hopes to have interviews for the Archives from all persons who moved into Leisure world through 1970. If you are in that group or know someone who is and has not been interviewed, please call the office and leave your name and number. You will be contacted very shortly. Our number is 206-0150.

HISTORICALLY ADVANTAGED

Our list of members 90 and older is still growing, but we know there are a number who are still not on our list. If you fall in this group, or will be 90 in 2000, please call. We are "collecting" birth dates and state of birth. The number is 206-0150.

CLUBHOUSE 2 by Olivia Grillo Spring 1981

Certainly one of the loveliest sites of the whole Saddleback areas is the knoll overlooking Leisure World where Clubhouse 2 now stands. When the early planners and builders of the community surveyed the splendid panorama stretching on the north and east to the Saddleback Mountains and to the south over the gently sloping valley they must have had a vision of a golf course encircling the hill with a well-planned club house on the summit.

Architects are not often granted a spot which by the topography of the site so amiably dictates its own uses. Here they were presented with an ideal situation which they used to its fullest advantage.

The golf course was the first priority. How convenient that the 2000 foot corridor to El Toro base, prohibited for residential use, fitted the ideal location for a golf course.

In 1965, when Clubhouse 2 was built, it was at first planned as a golf shop but demands for a place to hold social activities were so numerous that it was decided to plan Clubhouse 2 for dancing, dining, and club activities. The overall plan selected admirably fits this concept.

The clubhouse consists of a central area or large hall appropriate for dancing or dining for about 250 guests. At one end is a fireplace lounge adjacent to a large well-equipped kitchen.....The main lounge is flanked by two wings, each with a smaller dining room.

When the Clubhouse was opened in September 1965, there were no restaurants in the surrounding community. The new residents were anxious for a place to dine out in fairly close proximity to their homes. The Rossmoor Corporation approached Manning to provide for serving light meals in the evening in the main lounge of the clubhouse, at least until their own restaurant was completed. This arrangement was accepted and Manning served light meals from October 1965 until the following spring when they opened their own restaurant on El Toro Road where Delaneys now stands.

The clubhouse itself is on the the summit of the hill on Moulton Parkway through Gate 12. The back patio overlooks hole 10 of the golf course and the front patio faces a grassy area and slopes to the driveway, the golf shop and the tennis courts.

In 1976, during the presidential primaries, Gerald Ford paid a visit to Leisure World. This was a very festive occasion which required special organizing to handle security and the press. Security was very tight and local police were called in to help. Ford spoke to the residents from the front patio of Clubhouse 2. At that time the driveway had not been built and seats were set up on the grassy area in front of the clubhouse.

On the north side of the clubhouse a terrace and steps lead down to a small court lined with card and game rooms. In 1965, one of these rooms was used as a library. About 1000 books donated by residents formed the nucleus of the library.

Beyond the game rooms are the lockers for Pool 2. this is one of the favorite pools of Leisure World. On one end the covered patio has tables and chairs for watchers and loungers, and around the pool there is plenty of room for sunbathers. In the distance the Saddleback Range with its ever changing moods dominates the scene.

Shuffleboard courts are behind the lockers and maintenance area. Beyond the pool are the lawn bowling greens, well screened by foliage and shrubbery. This area had formerly been used for parking so a temporary parking lot was set up to replace it on the other side of Moulton.

The golf shop and tennis courts were build on the slope below the clubhouse. Because of the steep slope, none of the golf and tennis activity is visible from the patio. Even the cars parked in the driveway below do not interfere with the magnificent view of the mountains.

At night the lights of Leisure World residences in the valley below the clubhouse remind us that our homes lie in one of the most beautiful and sheltered locations of all California.

Historical Society- UCI Mini Medical School

For the past several years, the Academy for Lifelong Learning at The University of California Irvine has been sponsoring a series of lectures on medical subjects, which are open to their members as well as the general public. The speakers are distinguished Medical School faculty and the topics are presented in terms that everyone can understand. This program, which they have named Mini Medical School, has been very well attended.

As part of our ongoing relationship, with our neighbors at UCI, the Historical Society will be importing the Mini Medical School to the Leisure World Campus this fall. The first

lecture, which will feature Dr. Carl Cotman, Director of the Institute of Brain Aging & Dementia, will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 6th, in CH3, DR1 at 7:30PM.

Subsequent lectures will be held on Oct. 4th & Nov. 8th. All members of the Historical Society are urged to avail themselves and their friends of this unusual opportunity to learn about the latest advances in medical science.

Add the dates to your calendar

Sept 6 Oct 4 Nov 8

Channel 6 and Leisure World News will have additional information in August.

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