

Laguna Woods History Center  
Community Oral History Project  
Recording Log

NARRATOR: Evelyn Shopp  
INTERVIEWER: Jennifer Keil  
VIDEOGRAPHER: Cindy Keil  
DATE: August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016  
LENGTH: 01:32:28  
LOCATION: Freedom Village in Laguna Woods, CA  
PROJECT: Laguna Wood History Center  
VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/DRKjc6VYwng>

ABSTRACT: An oral history with the past president of the Leisure World Historical Society which is now the Laguna Woods History Center. Evelyn volunteered at Saddleback Community Hospital where she became The Associate president that conducted private fundraising for the organization. As a leader of the community, she was recognized as the Leisure Worlder of the Month in May 1988. As the president of the historical society, she helped them move to the current building location that is next to the library. She served at the historical society's newsletter Editor of *The Historian* in the 2000s and retired in 2007.

0:00:25 Introduction; move to sparsely populated Leisure World with deer; shopping centers; vision of community; relatives connection to Gate 11 who moved there in early 70s; USC Partnership with Ross Cortese

0:06:38 Cortese's vision to make money; development of building units and East Coast; comparing Seal Beach to Leisure World

0:10:15 Bill was an amateur photographer; Emeritus Institute; foundation hospital board; early nursing career; Oklahoma and polio epidemic; university hospitals; Polio Foundation; National Foundation; move to California; post-polio patients; hospital in Springfield, Illinois; L.A. County; volunteering for hospital in Leisure World; Saddleback Community Hospital's Foundation Board

- 0:19:43 50th anniversary book; The Globe; spent about \$75,000 moving that globe; January 1967 plane crash and international type of airport; El Toro Base
- 0:24:16 Leisure World Historical Society forming and Marian Fox, a nurse, who had been with the American Hospital Association; came on the board in 1985 as secretary; Tracy Strevey had been the first president; Marjorie Jones wrote ten year history of the community and archivist; established society September of 1977; historical society's office in the old administration building in Clubhouse 1 with a hundred eighty square feet by radio and TV system; GRF board only charged \$75 a month for it; Bob Dozier served on historical society and GRF board; extra \$25 for additional space; endowment fund; current building location; Saddleback College; Dorothy Segal donation to GRF; waiting area for the library and the historical society; raising support and capital for building fund
- 0:42:20 Historical society's fundraising; membership; archive facilities; GRF board survey
- 0:47:27 Historical society newsletter *The Historian*, a published journal; Leisure Worlder of the Month program; Farmers and Merchants Bank; Change to Honoree of the Month
- 0:54:53 Honoree of the Month in June of '88 and ceremony; Leisure World incorporation in '99 to Laguna Woods; Evelyn moved to Freedom Village from Laguna Woods Village
- 1:00:05 50th anniversary in 2014 and historical society commemorative book; historical society leadership styles of John Fuller and later Bob Ring
- 1:04:43 The Veterans History Project and camera club; requirements from the Library of Congress; World War II
- 1:15:14 The UCI study; USC had a School of Gerontology used to be the Ethel Davis School; GRF board's mailing list to find candidates that developed into the UCI 90 plus study
- 1:19:45 25 year book produced by the historical society; \$25,000 grant from Glendale Federal; \$600,000 donation was actually \$160,000
- 1:24:22 The archive and first officially appointed archivist was a Clara Still; Mac equipment; Laguna Woods History Center Archivist Fran Lindberg
- 1:27:21 The diorama. cost over \$25,000; prospective resident tours; future of History Center; closing remarks and credits