

Great World

By Ross M. Cortese



When the Leisure World Historical Society in cooperation with Home Federal Savings and Loan selected Marian L. Fox for the Leisure Worlder of the Month for October, a most deserving lady, and we are happy to add our words of appreciation and congratulations.

Marian Fox ended a great career of service helping to make sick people well as a nurse, to come to Leisure World in 1969 where she began helping people in many other ways through voluntary service.

Miss Fox, interestingly enough, probably would not have seemed a likely candidate for such a remarkable and successful career in nursing when she was a young school girl in the grape raising country of Westfield, New York.

She dropped out of high school at age 16 and spent some time with relatives elsewhere before she seemed to get a direction for her life.

Thanks to her mother, she was encouraged to enter nursing training, at Batavia Hospital School of Nursing where after a timid beginning she went forward with determined zeal.

She completed advanced courses in operating room techniques at Bellevue and Harlem Hospitals in New York and St. Mary's in Rochester, Minn.

This determination

paid off. One of her early rewards was to be selected by a New York University professor to become assistant nursing service director at the University of Pennsylvania where she earned her masters degree.

Her nursing career meant much travel and different positions including nursing director at Parkland Hospital in Dallas, nursing chief at the New Orleans Veterans Administration Hospital and a 15-year stint as assistant nursing division director for the American Hospital Association which called for extensive travel throughout the U.S. and Canada to conduct continuing education programs.

When she retired, she found in Leisure World what she had never had before...a real home. "I had spent most of my life in nurses residences and in hotels," she explained. Here she has donated her expertise to First Laguna Hills Mutual, the Orange County Election Board, Daughters of the American Revolution, American Association of University Women, Travel Club and Woman's Club along with the Historical Society and, of course, the Saddleback Community Hospital. She volunteers on Sunday at the hospital because she says "That was always the hardest day to staff."