

LEISURE WORLDER OF THE MONTH

DR. CIWA GRIFFITHS

JULY 1993

The Leisure World Historical Society is pleased to announce the selection of Dr. Ciwi Griffiths as Leisure Worlder of the Month for July, 1993. This event is sponsored by the Historical Society and supported by the Ross Cortese Commemorative Fund.

Born in the Fifi Islands, Ciwi, the ninth in the family, moved with her English father and American mother to Australia as an infant. They relocated to Texas in 1920, and two years later, to California. When she graduated from San Francisco State College at the height of the depression, she was unable to find a job in teaching, and accepted a survey job with the WPA.

Her first teaching position was in a one room school in Monterey County. There, she tutored a deaf child, and thus started a career dedicated to education of the deaf. Most of the time, she stood alone in her efforts to change the teaching methods then used, but she emerged as a respected, internationally known authority in her field.

Dr. Griffiths did graduate study at Wayne University, and UC Berkeley; was a teacher-in-training at the Clarke School for the Deaf in Northampton, MA; studied at the audiology unit, Royal Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital in London; earned a M.S. from Massachusetts University and an Ed. D from USC. Named in WHO'S WHO OF AMERICAN WOMEN and in WORLD WHO'S OF WOMEN, she spoke at national and international meetings.

Dr. Griffiths moved from traveling Speech and Hearing teacher in Monterey County, to consultant in education for the hard of hearing, state of California, and then to coordinator of special education in San Diego County. With the help of good friends, Glen and Marjorie Bollinger, she established her own hearing center in Pasadena in 1964. The HEAR Center has won national and international acclaim.

A writer and a poet, she has been active in the Writers Club since she came to Leisure World in 1980. She served as president, vice-president, publicity chairman, chairman of prose contest, and was named Honoree of the Year in 1992. She belongs to AAUW, Philharmonic Women's Committee of Leisure World, and is President of Guild of HEAR, Pasadena. In 1991, she received the "Outstanding Teacher of the Year" Award from the Alexander Graham Bell Association. She has published one book, has another ready for publication, and has a number of major publications to her credit.