



LEISURE WORLD NEWS

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Nurse is May honoree

Historical Society honors one of its own

By Cheryl Walker
The News

Historical Society President Evelyn Shopp and Helen Hanson have known each other for four decades.

The two registered nurses met as a result of their membership in the American Nurses Association and it was Shopp who persuaded Hanson to spend her retirement years in Leisure World and also got her interested in becoming a member of the Historical Society where she's served as secretary, volunteer receptionist and refreshment coordinator for Leisure Worlder of the Month events.

In May, someone else will have to step into her shoes because Hanson herself has been selected by the Society to receive Leisure Worlder of the Month honors.

But, the distinction celebrates more than her work with the Society, since the honoree has many community activities to her credit.

Shopp explains that Helen is the ideal committee member and volunteer: "Always willing to do anything that needs to be done and put in any extra hours to achieve it."

She currently is an active member of the Women's Classified Service Club and Keyboard, Film and Travelogue clubs.

And through the Lutheran Church of the Cross's social action group she participates in various charitable programs among them collecting food for Saddleback Outreach and coordinating her church's involvement with the Orange County Interfaith Shelter Program.

The latter helps the homeless become independent with a two week program that of-



Helen Hanson poses with some items of historical importance to her. On the left is a history of Leisure World. At the bottom are two Norwegian Christmas plates that link her to her family roots in Norway. The plates sit on a footstool that Hanson needlepointed.

fers housing, help finding work, transportation, food and clothing.

Hanson says she enjoys a variety of activities, including travel and taking Saddleback College Emeritus Institute classes.

Work, she adds, also keeps her mind and body healthy and focused.

Neighbor Jeannie Fleming says Hanson is a role model all should aspire to be even if they're not, like the honoree,

90-years-young. "She likes living and giving, is a wonderful friend and a delight to have as a neighbor."

Background: Hanson said she always wanted to pursue a career in nursing and discovered it afforded her a variety of options.

She worked as a public health nurse in Rochester, Minn.; an instructor in the School of Nursing at her own alma mater, the University of Minnesota; and associate professor of the Department of Nursing at St. Olaf's College, Minn.

She also volunteered with the Red Cross; served as a director of the American Nurses Association; was vice president of the American Journal of Nursing; and worked as nursing consultant for the Veterans Hospital in Minnesota.

When she finally put away her cap in 1974 and retired to a little town near El Paso, she became involved in many community groups, in particular "Discover El Paso" which arranged historical and cultural trips to acquaint local residents with the rich heritage of their state.

She also took on community service work as soon as she made Leisure World her home in 1989.

Hanson says service and work come naturally to her as a woman of the Lutheran faith and Norwegian heritage.

The latter, she says makes her predisposed to be "community minded, willing to work and a good neighbor."

In spite of her many contributions, the modest honoree says she was "totally unprepared" when Shopp offered her the Society's May honors.

"Really, I just like to work and I like to do new things."

Photo by Rod Veal/The News

Ceremony facts

Who: Helen Hanson

What: Leisure Worlder of the Month for May.

Where: Clubhouse 6

When: 10 a.m., Wednesday, May 2

Sponsor: Leisure World Historical Society