

Leisure Worlder

OF THE MONTH

MARJORIE HARTMANN

"This building might be called 'Hartmann's Hacienda,' " quipped Russell Disbro, General Manager of PCM, at the ribbon-cutting ceremony before the opening of Clubhouse Five.

When he snipped the ribbon Ferdinand Hall, President of Golden Rain Foundation, also chose to single out Mrs. Marjorie Hartmann for her outstanding contribution in helping to bring the new \$2-million structure into being. "She's the gal who really worked on this clubhouse, from 1975 through 1977, and then when elected to the Golden Rain board again in 1979. She was in at the start and still is chairman of Clubhouse Five."

Marjorie and her husband Andrew moved from Long Island to Leisure World only a few years prior to her election to the Golden Rain Foundation and selection as chairman of the Clubhouse Five Committee.

The choice was more than a coincidence once it became known that she had spent not a few years as auditor and later comptroller for the prestigious New York architectural firm of Eggers & Higgins. Among its many projects are the Jefferson Memorial Archives Building, the National Gallery of Arts in Washington and the Theodore Roosevelt wing of the Museum of Natural History.

The planning for a \$2-million clubhouse with a "floating" dance floor to accommodate 300 couples and a banquet area for 420 people with a hotel-type kitchen Marjorie admits turned out to be an enigma for this special committee. She laughs and says, "Little problems keep popping up but if I'm going to be given the credit for programming the functional phases of Clubhouse Five then I guess I must also take the blame."

Born in New York of Hungarian and Austrian parents, Marjorie majored in accounting at City College of New York. Her business career ran the gamut from a job with a cosmetics firm to real estate management and eventually to Eggers & Higgins. To mention all the bases Mrs. Hartmann touched in her illustrious business career is impossible.

Recall with Marjorie a couple of memories. When she was associated with James Metcalf, drama critic for the *Wall Street Journal*, she helped organize a stag dinner for 500 people for the great personality John Drew on the 50th anniversary of his years on the stage. The program was the "Nine Muses", she remembers, and in the pageant were such famous actresses as Ethel Barrymore, Katherine Cornell and Helen Hayes among others.

It is not that she lacks appreciation for musicals when she shudders to hear a tenor trilling, "Rose Marie, I love you . . ." it is only that Sigmund Romberg rented the penthouse of a Fifth Avenue hotel she once managed at the time he was composing this song in one of his famous musicals. The constant repetition still haunts her.

Travel was a big thing in the lives of Marjorie and her husband Andrew before his passing. Back in 1928, when she made her initial trip to Europe on a student tour she recalls her first airplane trip. In order to visit her mother's people in Budapest she had to fly from Vienna in a twin-seated biplane. "I was scared to death at the time," she said, "the plane seemed to be put together with paper and paste." Now, a million flying-miles later and the comfort of giant airliners, that plane may have just seemed that flimsy.

The Hartmanns often saw Leisure World during its early days on trips out west to visit their Marine son at Camp Pendleton.

"On the spur of the moment one winter day after Andrew had retired from his job as marketing manager for Consolidated Edison, we decided to make the big move," Marjorie recalls.

In the early years before her first term with Golden Rain, Marjorie worked as a volunteer at the Medical Center and at Saddleback Hospital. She also joined such clubs as Opera 100, Philharmonic, Latin America, Republican and Ebell where she served as treasurer, naturally.

Marjorie lists as hobbies cooking, the theatre and travel and says, "My mother taught me to cook at an early age and you know Hungarians are good cooks."

With Clubhouse Five now operating she hopes to take to the road again. "I want to see China," says Mrs. Marjorie Hartmann.