



Noel Hatch sits next to one of his in-progress oil paintings. The Laguna Woods Village resident and Third Mutual director will be honored as the Historical Society's honoree for February. > H. LORREN AU JR., THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

FEBRUARY HONOREE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NAMES NOEL HATCH HONOREE OF THE MONTH

Third Mutual director named February honoree

BY CLAIRE WEBB
LAGUNA WOODS GLOBE

Noel Hatch is a lawyer, former bishop, painter, Third Mutual director in Laguna Woods Village and now the Historical Society's honoree for February.

"It came out of the blue," said Hatch at his home on Paseo del Lago East. "I was pleased and appreciative."

Hatch, a native of Los Angeles, earned a law degree from Stanford University and practiced corporate and business law at a downtown law firm for more than 30 years.

Hatch then moved to Utica, New York with wife Sally to serve as a mission president for the Mormon church in 1994 and also a bishop within the church for five years. He said he was charged with overseeing a mission and advising more than 150 young adults.

"It was our responsibility to take care of them," Hatch said.

He also took care of his own four children and now has 12 grandchildren, who are spread across New York, Colorado and Palmdale, CA.

Currently, Hatch said he is working to put together a book on the family's his-



Hatch, with wife Sally of 50 years, sits in their home in Laguna Woods Village. Hatch, a former corporate lawyer and now Third Mutual director, will be honored on Feb. 3 as the Historical Society's honoree for February. > H. LORREN AU JR., THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

tory including genealogical research he has done specifically on the last four generations. He also said he makes an

effort to continue his passion for oil painting at least one day a week.

"I have a great love of art and paintings," said Hatch, who said he often visits The Irvine Museum to see American Impressionism work that highlights California.

Following his time leading young missionaries, Hatch and his wife of 50 years toured the United States before making their way to Orange County. Hatch said one of the most memorable parts of the journey was driving down the Atlantic coast through historical sites like Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

"I have always been a Civil War buff," he said. "It was a grand experience."

Hatch and his wife came to Laguna Woods 13 years ago thinking it would be a temporary move, said Hatch, but they ended up finding a home.

"We really fell in love with the area and the community," Hatch said.

Although Hatch retired in 2008, a great deal of his life has been spent in service to the various communities he has lived — whether through his church, local schools or city government. Hatch spends much of his time

now engaged in the Village's governance, such as serving as a Third Mutual director.

One of the issues he said is very important for Laguna Woods Village is Long Range Planning, which all the mutual boards and GRF will likely take part in.

"There are a number of issues that have to be decided as a group effort," Hatch said, such as how the community should look and what it should offer in the coming years.

He has also been involved in Third Mutual and Golden Rain Foundation committees such as Long Range Planning, Broadband Services, Maintenance & Construction and Finance, among others.

Hatch generally can be seen injecting his brand of unique humor into even the most intense of situations at community meetings.

"Sometimes it helps to diffuse situations," he said. "It helps to throw a little humor in to liven it up."

Hatch will be honored by the Historical Society of Laguna Woods on Feb. 3, at 10 a.m. at Clubhouse 6.