

# Great World

By Ross W. Cortese  
Rossmoor Corp.



Ross Cortese's guest columnist today is Mrs. Marjorie F. Jones, former Leisure Worlder of the Month and founder and president of the Leisure World Historical Society of Laguna Hills.

When remembering, 16 years seems a long time. On the other hand, time seems very short as we near the last phase of Leisure World building.

Those first days we were literally centered in pastures and farmland. Move-ins also looked at undeveloped land. As always this was offset by fantastic landscaping.

No project can be readied for first occupancy, entirely complete and in perfect order. Leisure World had confusion too. Assistance came from Seal Beach; Rossmoor Corporation; Golden Rain Foundation; Leisure World Foundation; volunteers from the Medical office; and the Security Force. All were on the job, helping. Those coming in during the last move-ins will be given the same attention, but in an experienced, sophisticated routine.

The early community grew in a regimented order; a new influx each Tuesday and Thursday. As was anticipated, many who had retired under protest found their talents were needed here. Others started clubs and groups fulfilling their wants and needs. Was it because each was a stranger to all others that they were on good behavior? "Instant Friends" was coined early. Perhaps the "Spirit of Leisure World" started and grew this way.

Business edifices outside the walls were almost a "minus". The commercial area grew as the residential area expanded. First residents could see a gas station, a barn on Moulton Ranch, a maintenance building on the hill. Construction was starting on the Rossmoor Headquarters Building, but no clinic or hospital in the beginning.

As planned from the first, the governing of the Leisure World Community was by its residents. Pre-organization, always done prior to move-in, obtained the money to build a Mutual, in compliance with Federal Housing Authority regulation. Once a Mutual is completed it takes charge. It is a very good feeling to realize that this system plus or minus a few acceptable changes, has lasted through the years and is now serving over 20,000 people. Truly it has been a significant part leading to the Grand Finale.