

## Kemna is March honoree

**O**n August 1, 1983 the Orange County Transit District wrote the following proclamation: "The OCTD does hereby acknowledge and thank Jane Kemna for her many years of dedicated service to the district, her community and to senior citizens and handicapped citizens of Orange County."

Jane Kemna has spent most of her life in dedicated service on behalf of others. In March, she will be presented with the Leisure Worlder of the Month award by Home Federal Savings and the Leisure World Historical Society. A ceremony in her honor will be held on Thursday, March 1, at 10 a.m. in Clubhouse 6. The public is invited.

Jane came to Leisure World in 1972. At that time Orange County had received federal government funds

earmarked for a fleet of new buses. The fleet was to be accessible to the aged and handicapped, including those in wheelchairs. Enter Jane Kemna. She became a mainstay as a participant in planning for the new system and her volunteer services were valued by members of the county board of supervisors.

Acting as a voice for the aged and handicapped and as a liaison between several power-wielding groups proved to be a challenge, but never an overwhelming one.

"I played both sides of the fence," remembers Jane. "I saw myself as an individual who was trying to represent people who needed a service and a district striving to serve those people."

Today she shares the OCTD's pride as the transit service reaches more

of the district's goals each year. But Jane's track record was established long before she came to Laguna Hills.

Jane was born in Martinburg, Missouri. One week into the sixth grade, she was stricken with a bone infection which required years of hospitalization. For many years she needed the aid of crutches, and for the last six years she has been confined to a wheelchair. As a youngster, as she lay in her hospital bed, she became aware of the sacrifices her family had made and she vowed to herself, "Once I get out of here, I'm never going to cost anyone anything."

Somehow that vow has been realized. Slowly but tenaciously, she pursued her education. In 1940, she received her bachelor's degree in En-

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glish education from the University of Minnesota. Since then, she has added a master's degree in psychology and another in social work. She then took additional courses in social research and administration.

At the completion of college she was employed at Family and Children's Service in Minneapolis. She then went on to the State of Minnesota's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. In 1946 she was recruited by the Veterans Administration.

"At that time," she said, "the VA was in the process of a medical reorganization. They were opening their first out-patient clinics and medical hygiene clinics. For the first time, the VA was hiring professionally trained social workers and psychologists."

With the VA, Jane participated in setting standards in the new facilities and reorganizing services for the existing ones.

Her continued thirst for knowledge kept her on the leading edge of her field. In 1956, Jane left the midwest for an associate professorship position at the University of California's school of social welfare. Following that, she was with Cedars of Lebanon Hospital as director of psychiatric social work and administrator of the psychiatric clinic.

Her last position before retiring to Leisure World was with the Los Angeles County Health Department. As district director of public health and social services, she had the opportunity to work with many of the county's less-than-fortunate.

Jane has had a long and distinguished career, and now in Leisure World, she keeps busy, too. In addition to the work she's already been noted for, Jane has played a big part in the county's Dial-a-Ride program. She's also a member of the Leisure World Academic Club and the Historical Society.



**Jane Kemna**