

LEISURE WORLDER OF THE MONTH

Peggy Kermer

April, 1993

The Leisure World Historical Society is pleased to announce the selection of Peggy Kermer, Leisure Worlder of the Month for April, 1993.

The event is sponsored by the Leisure World Historical Society, supported by the Ross Cortese Commemorative Fund.

In this "Year of the Woman," Peggy Kermer fulfills the responsibility attendant upon this designation. As the first female president of the Golden Rain Foundation, she has met every challenge presented to her administration, both with patience and fortitude, as well as with a resoluteness that could not be denied. This is not surprising, for Peggy, from early on in her life has demonstrated a will to lead as well as the ability to succeed.

In her youth, hometown Chicago heard Peggy as the pianist in both grammar and high school musical events and in the lead role of her high school operettas. (Al Kermer was the male lead in those events but he was not yet the ultimate beau.) Pursuing her musical inclination, Peggy went on from high school to the American Conservatory of Music, and then with operatic aspirations, studied at the Cosmopolitan School of Music, George Williams College. The need for more substantial remuneration required Peggy to take night courses at the Walton School of Commerce while working successively at Marshall Field and Company, Lord and Thomas Advertising, and Foote, Cone and Belding.

Time out then for romance, with Al finally winning her hand in 1943. Military Service for Al left Peggy with a one month old tot, Al Jr. (Rick). Peggy worked at the Insurance Exchange until Al returned from service two years later.

On to California in 1955, where along with family responsibilities, (AL, Al Jr. and Catherine) Peggy was a devoted Scout Leader, Day Camp Director and activist in church affairs, where she held all levels of office in the Women's League of the Lutheran Church.

In 1964, Peggy returned to the work force as Office Manager for the architectural firm of Criley and McDowell, where she remained until her retirement in 1981. During 1980/81, she did part time service with the Management Service Institute. After an arduous search, Peggy and Al found Leisure World and became residents in May of 1981.

Within a year, Peggy was working for Security. She served at all gates except 8 and the Pedestrian Gate before being promoted to the office staff with primary responsibility for maintaining records and schedules. In 1985, Peggy was selected to serve as an advisor to the newly formed GRF Security Committee. This was followed by her election to the United Mutual Board of Directors. In her final year on the United Board, she was elected First vice-president. Following this term of office, Peggy was elected to the Golden Rain Board of Directors. She also became Chairperson of the Earthquake Disaster Preparedness Task Force. In her second year on the Golden Rain Board, Peggy was elected Treasurer of the Board and chaired the Finance Committee, the Land Planning Committee and the Sub-committee investigating the GRF leasing policy. Peggy was elected to the presidency in her third year on the Board. She attends every committee meeting possible "to keep informed on every level as she puts it. Sensitive to the public relations responsibility of her position, Peggy has entertained the Mayors of Laguna Hills and Lake Forest, along with visits to the Mayor and City Manager of the City of Irvine. Supervisor Riley has also been the object of her charming smile and blandishments in the interests of our community.

Notwithstanding all of the demands of these responsibilities, Peggy and Al have remained constant to their church affiliation, attending services assiduously and singing in the choir of the Geneva Presbyterian Church with solo appearances at other denominations.

So illustrious a career could not be otherwise crowned but by the honor of being named Leisure Worlder of the Month. A tip of our collective hats to this very deserving person.