

# LEISURE WORLD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Presents

## LEISURE WORLDER OF THE MONTH

FEBRUARY 1999

### JAN NELSON McLAUGHLIN

The Leisure World Historical Society is pleased to present **JAN NELSON McLAUGHLIN** as the **LEISURE WORLDER OF THE MONTH** for **FEBRUARY 1999**.

Jan was born in the Nebraska town of Osmend. Subsequently the family moved to Lincoln and it was here that our honoree received her primary and secondary education. She spent some time at the University of Nebraska before enrolling in the Nurses Training Program at Lincoln General Hospital where she obtained her R.N. (Registered Nurse) certification in 1946. Following R.N. completion she returned to the University for several more academic years but did not obtain a degree.

Ralph D. Nelson and Jan were married in 1949 and the nuclear family eventually included son Dan and daughters Karen and Kirsten. After the children had grown to maturity, Jan launched herself into a nursing career.

During 19 plus years (1968-87) Jan was employed at Bryan Memorial Hospital starting as staff nurse and ascending the ladder to Assistant Head Nurse, Head Nurse and concluded the final 14 years as Director of Nursing Services.

Community and civic activities were also beneficiaries of Jan's participatory bent. She was a 4H Leader, a Den Mother, PTA Secretary, President and Council Member and Church Administrative Board Secretary. In her profession she functioned as a Red Cross "on call" Disaster Nurse and was a member of the American Nurses Association, the Nebraska Nurses Association and the Nurses' Association of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She was also a member of the University of Nebraska Alumni Association.

Over the span of time the nuclear family grew to include two son-in-laws, a daughter-in-law and 11 grandchildren. Three additional grandchildren came along with Jan's recent marriage to Charles McLaughlin (1998).

Despite all her activities Jan found time to travel extensively in the U.S. and enjoyed overseas trips to England, France and Hawaii.

Leisure World became the recipient of Jan Nelson's interests and activities when she and Ralph moved into the community in 1987. She became an active member of the Saddle Club as Columnist ('88 and '89) and Secretary ('90 and '92), She lent her swimming abilities to the Aquadettes and also functioned as Vice President ('91) and President ('92) before retiring from "active" swimming in 1997. Jan is a member of T.R.P., the Nurses' Emergency Task Force, American Ballroom Dance Club, the Laguna Canyon Foundation and the Historical Society. She served on the United Mutual Board and was Vice President in '93 and '94. Afterwards she served on the GRF Board and held the offices of Secretary ('96 and '97) and President ('98). During Board membership she was active on a variety of committees. Her enthusiasm was jolted by the loss of her husband, Ralph, in early 1990.

Throughout her lifetime's experiences family was, and still is, a predominant element. It is no surprise, therefore, to get a "family" response to the question about "most important and personally satisfying things". In her own words: "My family is most important and what I'm proudest of".