

LEISURE WORLDER OF THE MONTH

July, 1996

HELEN MENCHER

The Leisure World Historical Society is pleased to announce the selection of Helen Mencher as Leisure Worlder of the Month for July, 1996. This event is sponsored by the Society and supported by the Ross Cortese Commemorative Fund.

Our honoree hails from the Empire State having been born in New York City (Harlem) and received her basic education there. Her advanced education was received at U.C.L.A. where she obtained a Graduate Certificate in Systems Analysis (highest level).

Helen's working career occurred in two phases. She spent the better part of 14 years in the field of nursing in the New York environs. After receiving her Graduate Certificate from U.C.L.A., she joined the Los Angeles County Library System as Clerk Typist and progressed up the ladder's rungs as Executive Secretary and County Librarian to her final assignment as Staff Assistant to the Financial Deputy. Her duties spanned the areas of budget, personnel, purchasing, work performance studies and contracts. She was instrumental in triggering the passage of a special piece of legislation that established the library system as a Special District.

Working full time did not preclude Helen's participation in community and civic activities. While in California she functioned in the American Red Cross as a member in a Disaster Reserve unit and as an instructor in Disaster and Earthquake preparedness. She was also involved in the writing and publication by the Red Cross of two books for assisting elderly and disabled in disaster scenarios. Helen was a Board member of the San Fernando Valley Senior Center and served as an appointed member on the Los Angeles Council on Aging, as well as it's president. She was subsequently elected to the California Senior Legislature and was the recipient of many honors and awards recognizing her contributions to community and civic groups.

A little over five years ago Helen came to Leisure World and immediately plunged into an active life. She became a member of the Historical Society, London Club, New York Club, Theater Guild and Opera 100. She was elected to the United Mutual's Board of Directors and is currently in her second term. She has participated in many United and GRF committees and served as United's First Vice President.

Helen's nuclear family includes sons George and Arthur and daughter Edie. The extended family includes six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, plus daughters-in-law Lenore and Kriste and son-in-law John. Her husband of 55 years passed on in 1988.

The interest in different places took Helen to the Far East, Middle East, Europe, New Zealand, Russia, Canada and Guatemala.

Helen's concept of service and satisfaction is summed up in her own words. "...I care deeply about my neighbors, my friends and the people of Leisure World, and I shall continueto be of service"