

'Dreams' distributed throughout the country

"Fulfilling Retirement Dreams," the story of the first 25 years of Leisure World, can now be found in university and college libraries, in speciality collections, and in the files of a selected group of large corporations interested in assisting employees with retirement planning.

Irene Puhlmann, Historical Society board member, and coordinator of volunteers, realized that preparing 8,000 copies of "Fulfilling Retirement Dreams" for mailing would be work, but she says she had no idea how involved it would be. Nor did she realize that even with an excellent group of willing volunteers, not more than 500 could be completed in one afternoon.

"It was work," she stated, "But it was a labor of love. We enjoyed getting the book ready for distribution. The whole country should know about our wonderful community, and the many opportunities available to the residents here. We are so lucky!"

And just how involved was the job? It broke down to seven or eight operations. Every envelope had to be stamped with a return address and a postage indicator. A letter from Society President Claire Still, went in each book. An address label was attached. After the envelopes were sealed, separated by location, and packed 25 to a box, Bob Dozier, Society treasurer, took over, transporting them to the post office.



Irene Puhlmann

Irene and her volunteer group do other activities for the Society, including preparing bulletins for mailing, assisting at program meetings and dinners, and sorting and labeling the materials presented to the society.

Since the Leisure World Historical Society is the official "keeper of the archives," clubs, organizations and individuals all contribute materials that document the history of this community. And the volunteers get materials ready for placement in the archival storage area, under the direction of Helen Clark.

This is not the first big volunteer activity Puhlmann has been involved in. She was among the early volunteers who went door to door collecting money for the hospital. She was one of the first Pink Ladies, giving more than a 1,000 hours in the old Medical Center doctors offices. She served on the Aliso Creek Study Team, and was very involved with the cityhood issue.

A Mutual 15 board member, and the member of the GRF board for three years, she also had "paid" Leisure World work experience as director of the Move-in Hostesses, and creator of the Information Center, which now handles more than 50,000 calls a year.

However, she says she has never worked with a nicer group than her volunteer "book" crew: Bea Carter, Carol Franks, Marian Olson, Ruth Truitt, Elsa Swan and Bobbie Puhlmann. Other office volunteers include Lillian Curtis, Janet Smith and Kay Wentworth.

Presently, some of the local sales offices are using "Fulfilling Retirement Dreams" as gifts for new residents. Residents who did not purchase the book last summer when it was released as a part of the 25th anniversary celebration may purchase a copy in the Society office.

For more information, contact the office secretary, Blanche Miller, between 10 a.m. and noon Monday through Friday, at 951-2330.