



Myra Neben/The News

Milton Ray, seated in the Historical Society office which he considers his "home away from home," discusses his activities.

## Historical Society lauds 'Most Valuable Player'

By Cheryl Walker  
The News

**T**he Leisure World Historical Society tapped one of its own as November Leisure Worlder of the Month: treasurer, Milton Ray.

Ray is proof of the adage, "if you want to get something done give it to a busy man."

Although nominally retired, he still serves on the board of

directors of three (soon to be four) private business corporations.

Even so, since the Rochester, N.Y. native became a full-time resident of Leisure World in 1991 he's used his career skills as a lawyer, certified public accountant and computer expert to simplify the administrative chores of Leisure World's Historical Society, Academians, MAC Users Group and Saddle Club.

Hearing of the society's selection, members of these groups were unanimous in their endorsement.

Academians Club member and MAC Users Club President Foster Sampson characterizes Ray as "a great guy, open, aware and sharp as a tack.

"He can take a document and analyze what should be done so quickly!"

Saddle Club President Pat Drew says Ray was responsible

for the "tremendous task" of computerizing her organization's huge membership list, an accomplishment which makes business chores and event planning easier to accomplish.

"He's a quiet, competent and very nice person, always ready to pitch in and do what ever he can."

Historical Society President Harry Schwartz adds his organization also is happy to have Ray in its membership rolls, "He's a very nice person, a genial personality."

He notes that Ray's financial skills and work on the Society's futures committee have been much appreciated by the society as well as his ability to write occasional papers and act as a Channel 6 liaison for the group.

"He's very active, very knowledgeable and carries out activities with great efficiency - he gets to the heart of the matter very quickly."

**Background** While others marvel at his output, Ray, who typically reads 10 books a week along with his other jobs, admits he thrives on challenges, the pursuit of excellence and the thrill of learning new things.

"A wise man once said to find work you like and you'll never labor your whole life," quotes Ray, who claims he even approaches complex tax work like "a game."

He received his bachelor's degree with distinction in economics and finance from the University of Rochester and his doctor of jurisprudence, Order of the Coif, from the University of Chicago, where he served as managing editor of the Law Review.

He attained membership in the bar and his license as a certified public accountant in both California and Illinois and concentrated throughout his career corporate taxation, finance and corporate acquisitions.

His work history included positions with two law firms in Chicago, two Fortune 500 companies and the Norton Simon Foundation and Museum of Art.

In the latter post and working primarily as a general tax counselor and director of taxes, he enjoyed working with the founder of the firm (whom he describes as a "fascinating person") and helping him amass works of art from auctions, museums and other sources around the globe.

After Simon's retirement, Ray segued into the academic world becoming professor of law at the University of Oregon's Law

School from which he retired in 1981.

He and his wife Arly then came back to Southern California first to San Diego then to Orange County where he worked part-time with his son Glenn's Newport Beach law firm, sat on corporate boards and served as an expert witness on a number of lawsuits.

After their Laguna Niguel home was robbed, the couple purchased a manor in Leisure World in 1987, but didn't call the community home full-time for another four years.

Besides the robbery, another factor nudging their decision to move in were the variety of amenities, particularly the stables.

At the time, Arly was stabling two horses in San Juan Capistrano. She now keeps one at the Leisure World Equestrian Center.

Ray credits Sampson with getting him involved in the community when the fellow computer enthusiast said he'd paid his dues into the Historical Society because it needed help "coming into the 20th century."

Ray soon put the society's finances on-line then, with Sampson, started the daunting task of creating a database of Leisure World News articles from the inaugural to the current issue.

More than 12 years of news stories have been input to date.

Interestingly, Ray says he wasn't always computer competent and credits his grandchildren for keeping him going and trying to learn the new technology.

Now, he doesn't know how he lived without a computer and its capacity to make almost any task easier.

In fact, he says although he's enjoyed the challenges of tax work things might have been different if there'd been a Macintosh in his youth. "I would have been a writer now."

### Ceremony notes

**Who:** Milton Ray

**What:** Leisure Worlder of the Month for November

**When:** 10 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 1

**Where:** Clubhouse 6

**Sponsor:** Leisure World Historical Society