



Evelyn Hamil Shopp – 2008 Spirit of Philanthropy Award



In November, Saddleback Memorial Foundation honored Evelyn Hamil Shopp by presenting her with one of its four **2008 Spirit of Philanthropy** awards.

With a master's degree from Yale School of Nursing, Evelyn spent more than 30 years working at hospitals in nursing administration. She became nationally

recognized for her role in the advancement of nursing as a profession for both men and women.

Before deciding where to retire, Evelyn and Bill Shopp agreed that they were looking for an active retirement community that had a quality community hospital nearby—just in case. It was in 1980 that she and Bill decided to move to Leisure World.

Evelyn Volunteers

Since then, Evelyn has devoted countless hours of volunteer service and a significant amount of financial resources to benefit the not-for-profit organizations in this community. In fact, the time she has spent as a volunteer now exceeds the years she spent working as a nursing administrator.

While settling in, Evelyn became active in Saddleback Hospital's Associates, a group that raises funds for Saddleback Memorial Medical Center (SMMC). She was the editor for their news letter. She also held the positions of Secretary and President of the Associates.

That was the background she brought to the Historical Society when she was elected to the Board in 1985. Immediately, Evelyn was elected Secretary, a job she held for eight years. She frequently quipped, "Minutes do not really substitute for writing."

In 2007 Evelyn remarked in *The Historian*, "Ever since I had a poem published in the *Daily Oklahoman* more than 70 years ago, I have had dreams of being a writer of some kind. However, I found that creating newsletters for various groups and producing family stories to accompany genealogical research interesting and rewarding."

The Historical Society had a two-page publication in

the early years. Subsequently it was expanded to a small four-page publication, but it was never published on a regular basis until 1998. As President, 1993-94, Evelyn edited the newsletter and it was produced when there was news enough to warrant it. In 1996, she prepared a mock-up of an eight-page newsletter and proposed a bimonthly publication. The Board agreed, and shortly thereafter Evelyn became the editor.

In 1985, Evelyn joined Saddleback Memorial Foundation's (SMF) Board of Directors, where she eventually served two years as Treasurer, two years as Vice Chairman and three years as Chairman. In addition, she served on the hospital's Board of Directors in the early 1990s and more recently rejoined the SMF Board for a second term.

One of Evelyn's first donations to the SMMC helped fund a surgical suite and one of her most significant gifts was to the fund-raising campaign for the Meiklejohn Critical Care Pavilion where the intensive care unit's waiting room is named in honor of Evelyn and her late husband Bill.

Evelyn is an active volunteer in the Laguna Woods community, regularly volunteering at the Village Library. She is also a volunteer as well as a member of the Board of the Historical Society. Currently, Evelyn writes the *Bits and Pieces* column in *The Historian*, and serves as our receptionist on Tuesday mornings.

Evelyn is a member of the Saddleback Kiwanis Club, serves as historian for her church and plays bridge several times a month with different groups. In addition to being a member of the Board of Directors of the Saddleback Memorial Foundation, she is a "Visiting Volunteer" for the Foundation on Thursdays, visiting patients on behalf of the Foundation.

In June, 1988 Evelyn was the Society's Leisure Worlder of the Month. Ever since that time she has supported this program with annual donations to the Honoree of the Month Endowment Fund.

In 1999, Evelyn's commitment to Saddleback Memorial and its surrounding community earned her the distinction of the first Spirit of Philanthropy event's Community Leader of the Year award. A decade later, Evelyn still remains steadfast in her dedication, vision, leadership and financial commitment to the hospital and has been recognized as a 2008 Philanthropist Honoree.