

# LEISURE WORLD NEWS

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Don Leach/The News

A cap worn by Leisure World's first bus driver is only one of the many items Historical Society Archivist Claire Still says is stored in a crowded room at Clubhouse 1. Still, the keeper and cataloguer of Leisure World history, says all the material in the archives is available for research.

## DECEMBER HONOREE

# History won't stand still for archivist

By Cheryl Walker  
The News

**H**idden in the archives of the Leisure World Historical Society is a collection of sand dollars said to be 12-million-years-old excavated at building 207 Majorca.

But to Claire Still, December's Leisure Worlder of the Month, the most important items in the archives are many of Leisure World original documents.

Stored in metal filing cabinets, clamped in ring binder scrapbooks and stacked in acid-free boxes in the three-room suite in the Administration Building and temperature-cooled archives at Clubhouse 1 are the official papers, photographs, newspapers, club records, audio and VCR tapes, and miscellaneous testaments and fascinating trivia of the birth and growth of a community unique in all the world: Leisure World.

The Historical Society selected Still, its former president, as December's honoree for her contribution in the formation and continued expansion of that collection which is being preserved for residents, their children and grandchildren and historians.

Irving Goldberg, current Historical Society president, says Leisure World was lucky to have someone

### Ceremony information

The Leisure Worlder of the Month Ceremony for Claire Still will take place:  
**Time:** 10 a.m.  
**Day:** Wednesday, Dec. 2  
**Place:** Clubhouse 6

with Still's background and experience "especially with her expertise as an archivist."

Still modestly says her job was made "relatively simple" thanks to the groundwork laid by co-worker Marian Fox, who'd accumulated and organized clippings and other materials from the beginning of the Society, but her professional touch is evident throughout.

Still's been associated with the society for nearly a decade, but her experience organizing collections goes back at least another decade before that.

The Nebraska-born Still began her professional career as a social worker but, after moving to California in 1959, she decided to switch paths and pursue an earlier love: for libraries.

She received her master's degree in library science from the University of California, Berkeley then joined the staff of the Medical Li-

brary at Stanford University, where she remained until she retired.

While working at the Medical Library she held the post of History of Medicine Librarian organizing and cataloguing the papers of faculty members.

She also was active in the Stanford Historical Society and Palo Alto and Menlo Park Historical Associations and is currently a member of the Saddleback Area Historical Society.

Asked what attracted her to library work, Still replies "a love of detail"—and the challenge of sorting, classifying, cataloguing and inventorying hundreds of items "so someone who wanted to do research could do it easily."

If Still has one regret about volunteering her retirement years to the Society, it's that its collection is the best kept secret in Leisure World.

"People don't see what we have," laments Still. "We don't just want to acquire and store things, we want residents to use them."

Still points out that the society's holdings are a genealogist's or historian's dream with slides, early Channel 6 tapes, oral histories of Leisure World pioneers and more all available for personal research and study.

"There's not many museums where you can handle things like that," says Still. "And all a resident has to do is come and ask."