

Leisure World

OF THE MONTH

DR. TRACY STREVEY

Dr. Tracy E. Strevey became enamoured with Leisure World before it became a reality. In the early sixties when he was Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Southern California, a young, successful builder named Ross Cortese came to the University to discuss a project to build a community for older and retired persons on a tract of land in southern Orange County.

He requested help from the University in establishing a research program to discover the needs, hopes and desires of such a group. After talking with President Norman Topping and Mr. Cortese, Dr. Strevey was asked to create a committee to research and prepare a report which could serve as a guide in developing both concept and many details of an ideal community.

Because of these early contacts, Dr. Strevey decided Leisure World would be the ideal place for retirement living and so before leaving for Ethiopia in 1966 to become Vice President of Haile Sellassie University in Addis Ababa, he bought a manor and moved in on his return in the Fall of 1967.

Dr. Strevey is recognized as one of America's outstanding educators and an authority on American history. He served 18 years with USC, first as Dean of the College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, and later as Vice President for Academic Affairs. Before coming to California in 1948, he was Chairman of the History Department at Northwestern University, and even prior to that had taught history at the University of Chicago and University of Wisconsin.

Born in a small town in Illinois, the son of a Methodist minister, Dr. Strevey grew up in Washington and Oregon. He graduated from high school in Spokane, Washington and began his higher education at Willamette University, Salem, Oregon, then to the University of Washington for his M.A. Degree, and the University of Chicago for his Doctorate of Philosophy.

It was during those many years in higher education that he served on the Executive Councils and Boards of the Academic Deans Association, The American Association of Higher Education, the Western College Association and as head of accrediting teams to many universities.

In 1955 he was appointed by President Eisenhower to the Historical Publications Commission and served a second term in the administration of President Kennedy.

In 1934 the University of Wisconsin sent Dr. Strevey and two others to the Soviet Union to bring back a report on conditions and give a series of lectures to university audiences and by radio over WTMJ in Milwaukee.

He was in Germany in September 1934 and witnessed the marching storm troopers and rise of Hitler as the Third Reich began to take form.

A world traveler, he was guest lecturer to India in 1957 for the State Department. Chairman of a team to survey the University of Teheran, Iran in 1958, and a member of a survey team to inspect colleges and universities in Nigeria, Ghana, Senega and Morocco in 1968. His travels have also taken him to Russia, Europe, the Middle East, the Orient, India, Eastern and Central Africa, Mexico and Central and South America. He has frequently lectured in various countries for the State Department speaking on American history and the evolution of the American Constitution. One such address was given to the Parliament of India.

Dr. Strevey met his wife Margaret in the Library of Congress where he was doing research on his dissertation. They were married in 1930 and have two children, six grandchildren. Their son is Colonel Tracy E. Strevey, Jr., U.S. Army Medical Corp.

Though he officially retired from USC in 1967, Dr. Strevey has access to an office at the University, belongs to the President's Council and the Board of Counselors of the School of Gerontology and attends monthly meetings.

Within a year after the Streveys came to Leisure World, he was elected to the Golden Rain Board where he served three years, the last as President. During that time Clubhouse III was built, and work started on the building of Clubhouse IV. With Bob Price, he negotiated the purchase of the golf course from Rossmoor Corporation.

Later he served on the Saddleback Community Hospital Board for more than five years and during that time the hospital was built. At present he is President of the Laguna Hills Historical Society and has just ended a term as President of the "Academian Society" composed of retired college and university faculty and administrative personnel.

Dr. Strevey has been active as a public speaker before many Leisure World service groups and clubs, speaking on national affairs, American History and the Constitution.

As Leisure World approaches the end of its growth, Dr. Strevey sees its influence growing continuously through the years. "We are at the center of the Saddleback Valley and in a few years the whole valley will be the center of a great megalopolis," he says. "But more important, is the community and its people. We are known among sociologists as the most elite of retirement communities. We have the greatest reservoir of talent and experience that is concentrated anywhere in the United States — professional individuals, retired executives, educators, lawyers, doctors, ministers, top military officers, political leaders, among others."

This wealth of talent can and should be drawn upon to guide the development and improvement of Leisure World and its surrounding areas.

Dr. Strevey has been unstinting in his talents for Leisure World.