

Former GRF president discusses future

By William H. Boyer
News staff writer

"I don't see how in Sam Hill Leisure World can maintain carrying charges much below the cost of inflation," Dr. Merwin "Jim" Waterman told fellow Saddleback Kiwanians during a recent luncheon speech.



Merwin Waterman

Waterman, a former Golden Rain Foundation president, spoke on the "past, present and future of Leisure World."

A Leisure Worlder since 1971, the former professor of finance told approximately 100 Kiwanians only one other thing about the present.

"It's been a lovely day," he said with his best poker face, "it's going to be a lovely day, and at 1:30 (when he finished speaking) you can enjoy it again."

The past

"There's an organization here that's working to keep us out of the dark," he said, "it's the Leisure World Historical Society."

A board member of the society, Waterman said a record of Leisure World is necessary because of the community's uniqueness.

"We need to know the

traditions of Leisure World," the University of Michigan professor urged. "Future leaders and governors of Leisure World need to know our past mistakes so they won't make them too."

The society needs volunteers and interpreters to research the collected memorabilia, Waterman said, as well as contributions and supportive memberships.

"The Leisure World Historical Society has been qualified by the IRS with tax exempt status," he added.

The future

All residents of Leisure World should be concerned with the community's future, Waterman said, "because we don't live in a vacuum."

Fiscal, or economic problems, community health problems, and social way-of-life problems, Waterman said,

are the three basic areas which might prove to be stumbling blocks for a successful future.

In recent years, he said, social services have increased for the Leisure World area because more people are learning about and requiring the various health and social facilities.

"Many of you don't need them (community services)," he said, "but that's today, what about two or 10 years from now?"

"Happiness," he continued, "is in part, having those community services available for when you do need them."

Security is another socially related problem residents should concern themselves with, Waterman said.

"We've got fences and barbed wire, but that doesn't mean we're not affected by the outside

and Saddleback Valley area," he said.

Although he claimed it is hard to blame kids all the time for security ills, Waterman also felt the barbed wire was a necessity.

To maintain the current atmosphere in Leisure World, he said, means the security force must be maintained as well.

Fiscal problems, not just specifically for Leisure World, but the entire country, pose some of the greatest tasks ahead of us, Waterman said.

A lot of the fiscal dif-

ficulties stem from politics, Waterman said after his luncheon speech. "It's a matter of getting the politicians to stop minting money and giving it away."

Agreeing with the principals of sunset legislation reviewing all government programs for social effectiveness and fiscal worth, Waterman said government should gear its programs more realistically.

"Programs should be more productive, not like pouring money down a rat hole," he claimed.