

Laguna Woods History Center  
Community Oral History Project  
Recording Log

NARRATOR: Maxine McIntosh

INTERVIEWER: Jennifer Keil

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VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/oF8OpLkUIts>

**ABSTRACT:** Maxine McIntosh was born in Orange, California. She attended university at Chapman University with her husband. She became a 4th grade teacher. In her 50s, the McIntoshs moved to Laguna Woods. That was in the 1990s. Maxine is a thirty-year resident. She has served on the GRF Board and has helped with elections.

### **00:00:00 Introduction**

**Background:** Maxine McIntosh was born in Orange, California, attended Chapman University, and worked as a 4th grade teacher. She moved to Laguna Woods in the 1990s and has been a resident for thirty years, serving on the GRF Board and participating in community elections.

### **Arrival and First Impressions**

**First Perspective:** Maxine was introduced to Leisure World by a friend. She was impressed by the beauty and safety of the community, particularly noting women walking safely at night with their dogs

### **Choosing a Home**

**Home Selection Process:** Maxine and her husband worked with multiple real estate agents before selecting a home that met their needs. They chose a unique property shaped like a Maltese cross, one of only eleven in the village

### **Knowledge of Founder Ross Cortese**

**Ross Cortese's Vision:** Cortese carefully planned the community to meet the needs of aging residents. He had to adapt his plans due to financial constraints imposed by the FHA, leading to a mix of cooperatives, condominiums, and tower living options.

## **Community Involvement and Observations**

**Community Amenities:** Maxine appreciated the beautifully maintained environment, the sense of safety, and the variety of clubs and activities available. She highlighted the effective management and responsiveness of the community's staff

**Favorite Amenities:** Swimming and walking were her favorite activities, and she valued the community's extensive club offerings, including the Daughters of the British Empire

## **Changes Over Thirty Years**

**Infrastructure and Services:** Significant changes included the addition of Clubhouse Seven, improved bus services with smaller buses, and the construction of new schools. Maxine advocated for maintaining extensive bus services to support aging residents who may no longer drive

## **Renaming and Cultural Shifts**

**Renaming to Laguna Woods Village:** The community's name was changed from Leisure World to Laguna Woods Village in 2005 to avoid negative connotations and potential legal issues with the original name. The renaming process involved a community contest to select the new name

## **Conclusion**

**Community Spirit:** Maxine emphasized the strong sense of belonging and safety within the community, noting that many residents share similar positive experiences and feelings about living in Laguna Woods Village