

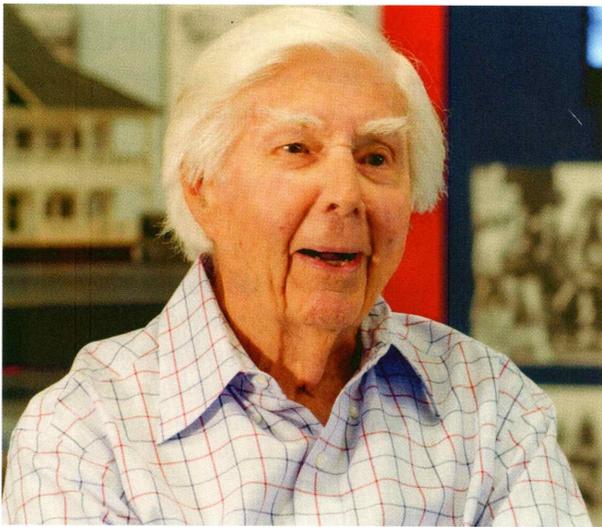
BALBOA ISLAND LIVING

A PRIVATE SOCIAL PUBLICATION EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE RESIDENTS OF BALBOA ISLAND • July 2020

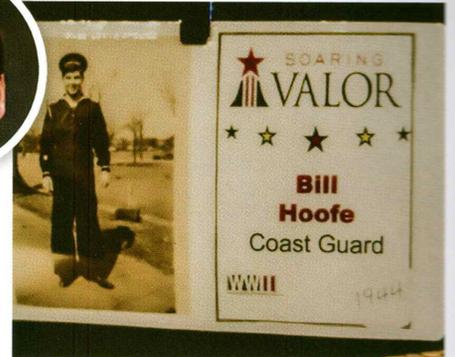
meet the
Dollanders!



**Happy Birthday
America!**



By Pete Weitzner, producer, Balboa Island Museum's "Legacy Videos"



HISTORY

William J. Hoofe III is Still Inventing at 95 *A Better Idea for the Wheel?*

William J. Hoofe III created a pretty good life for himself and his family. Actually, he invented it.

"I'm not an engineer, just sort of a dreamer, Hoofe said. I come up with the idea and have them patented."

First patent was a push-button lock for sliding doors. That was about 15 patents ago. If you're an Island resident or frequent visitor you've seen his most lucrative invention. It's vinyl roof panels, like the ones atop Shanghai Pine Gardens Restaurant on Marine Avenue. The form and lightweight of the panels were Hoofe's selling points and building materials his specialty.

Timing proved to be another Hoofe forte. He and his family moved to Newport Beach in 1969, purchasing the building at 223 Marine Ave., known best as the CIAO building, for its lower tenant, CIAO Italian Restaurant. There were three efficiency apartments above. All for "about \$100,000."

Before that Hoofe held a lucrative position with B.F. Goodrich Co. in Akron Ohio. The U.S. largest manufacturer of vinyl had poached Hoofe from the company he started with his dad - there was just one problem with Goodrich.

"We had enough of the cold weather. We wanted to come out here where it was warm," Hoofe said.

The Hoofe family had migrated from England, to Connecticut to Minnesota and Ohio - and then the light bulb went off inside the inventor's head.

"I have a cousin from Connecticut who visits and when he does, he says 'Boy, you live in Shangri-La.' I say 'That's it. It's Shangri-La.' We just love it here. I wish we'd have come here years ago."

Once here, Hoofe never left. He moved his family from their home in Harbor View to the CIAO building in 1990, renovating and remodeling the structure, adding a master bedroom onto the back and bringing the downstairs to code for a restaurant - CIAO, which replaced a music store and doughnut shop.

Hoofe is a veteran of World War II. Coast Guard Seaman First Class Hoofe's uniform is proudly displayed in the Museum's military exhibit.

He turned 95 in April. Slowing down the creative juices is not an option. He recently patented the wheel. No lie. Okay, a new design or assembly of a wheel.

"Is the current one not good," I asked.

"I think it's fine. I think I have a better idea," Hoofe said.

You can learn more about Bill Hoofe by visiting the Balboa Island Museum at 210 Marine Ave. and checking out Hoofe's Oral History/Legacy Video. You can also watch all the Legacy Videos online at <http://www.balboaislandmuseum.org/oral-history/>.

Visit the Balboa Island Museum Newport Beach - join the fun and discover more about the Island and Newport Peninsula's rich history - or just join neighbors to work on the jigsaw puzzle.