

Sample Chapter Newsletter Article – 75th Anniversary Celebration *March 2008*

IREM Celebrates 75 Years: 1933-2008

By Linda Jackson, CPM, Vice Chair, 75th Anniversary Work Group

It was the 1950s. For the first time, the U.S. Census indicated a population of over 100 million people with the geographic center of the U.S. remaining in Indiana.

Along with the population, America's post-war economy was booming. War effort manufacturers re-tooled for the good life ... washers and dryers in every tract home! Urban renewal began, and coupled with the Housing Act of 1949, new opportunities for property managers were available for those who were prepared! And IREM was right there helping with those preparations!

Additionally, the role of the property manager expanded into new territory as we began taking on the role of enhancing properties and creating more valuable assets for ownerships. New courses such as "Managing the Management Office" and "Developing and Managing Investment Property" were also developed to meet the needs of the 1950s' real estate managers. The CPM[®] Candidate level was established, and new exams were required for our CPM[®] designation.

This decade also marked the beginning of IREM's commitment to members outside the U.S., as we opened our doors to international expansion. At the end of the decade, Ms. Purita Kalaw-Ledesma, a real estate manager from Manila, attended an IREM course in Boston.

And of very special note, this was the decade that produced all of IREM's female presidents thus far (and I'm sure it's okay that I mention names) ... Beverly Roachell, CPM[®], Jo Anne Corbitt, CPM[®], Patricia Nooney, CPM[®], and Reggie Mullins, CPM[®].

Ah, yes ... the 1950s. Take a moment for just a few of the interesting facts from that era:

1950 – 11 masked bandits pulled off the \$2.8 million **Brinks robbery** in Boston and Paper Mate introduced its first **leak free ball point pen**.

1951 – Richard Fuller patented the Geodesic Dome, used in many futuristic constructions.

1952 – The first **triple jump** in figure skating was performed by U.S. athlete, Dick Button.

1953 – The first **color television** went on sale.

1954 – Dick and Mac McDonald now had **eight restaurants**.

1955 – **Disneyland** opened in Anaheim.

1956 – U.S. Interstate highway system began after signing of the Federal-aid Highway Act.

1957 – Inventions included the **laser** and the **hula hoop**.

1958 – **Airline passenger service** began with a flight between New York City and Miami, and the **first plastic Coke bottle** appeared.

1959 – The first Daytona 500 race was run and **Lee Petty** took the checkered flag!

We liked Ike. We loved Lucy! We laughed at The Honeymooners. We leered at a guy named Elvis Presley. Oh yes, we were “All Shook Up” ... and still are to this day. And for those of you who thought Elvis had left the building ... then you missed a stellar ‘Elvis’ performance by our own Jay Windsor, CPM, last October in San Antonio during the national IREM meeting during Governing Council. **Elvis was there indeed hope you were, too.**

But if you missed it, now is the time to remind everyone to become an ACTIVE participant in your IREM chapter. And certainly become an active participant as we celebrate 75 years of excellence! Check out www.irem.org/75th for more history and fun!