

# "Oz" Is Back At Del

by June Muller

"Follow the yellow brick road" next Saturday (Sept. 19), to the Hotel del Coronado, to meet author Roger Stanton Baum, who has placed his feet into the giant foot steps left by his great-grandfather, L. Frank Baum.

The famous L. Frank, wrote what is probably the most beloved fantasy of all-time, *The Wizard of Oz*.

And Roger's fifth Oz book has just been released.

His success, he said, "has been humbling. I'm always mindful when we do these books. Hardly anybody hasn't grown up with *The Wizard of Oz*. We're very sensitive and try to be true to Oz.

"We have to have a good feeling deep down inside. It's a wonderful experience and very demanding. And I think, because of the name, people expect a little extra."

The "we" Roger referred to includes his wife, Charlene, who has been instrumental in pushing her husband's efforts.

In a telephone interview, Baum, who sounds like a jolly fellow, said that he never knew his great-grandfather, who died in 1919, 19 years before he was born.

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## Library To Host Baum

Youngsters will get a special treat next Saturday (Sept. 19) at 10:30 am, when Roger Stanton Baum, great-grandson of the author of *The Wizard of Oz*, L. Frank Baum, appears at the Coronado Library.

Baum will read stories and sign the Oz map created last year by the library's Junior Volunteers.

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## ter L. Frank Baum To Visit Coronado

while he was working as manager of the business checking program for the Great Western Bank, that he scribbled his *Dorothy of Oz* in spiral notebooks as a hobby.

"It sounded a little presumptuous," he remarked, "but I figured no one but me had to see it."

However, his wife typed up the hand-written chapters and the book was published in 1989 by William Morrow & Co. And Roger even had a book-signing session in Kansas.

Roger quit the business world in 1990 after the success of his first Oz book. He has written four others, *The Rewolf of Oz*, *The Silly OZbuls of OZ*, *The Silly OZbuls of Oz and Toto*, and the one to be launched at the Hotel del celebration, *The Silly OZbuls and The Magic Merry-Go-Round*.

L. Frank wrote more than his 14 Oz books and two how-tos. He also was the author of such other children's fantasies as *Sky Island*, *The Magical Monarch of Mo*, *Dot and Tot in Merryland* and *Queen Zixi of Ix*.

And his son, Frank Stanton Baum, a staid military man who retired from the Army as a brigadier general, took a shot at another Oz book, *The Laughing Dragon of Oz*.

But his son and Roger's father, Joslyn Stanton Baum, was an insulation engineer and did not try his hand at furthering the family tradition.

After L. Frank's death, the publisher selected Ruth Plumly Thompson to carry on the Oz tradition. She wrote 19 books, including one, *The Scarecrow of Oz*, that bears L. Frank's name. Others have written Oz books: W.W. Denslow, who was illustrator of the first Oz volume, and John R. Neil, who illustrated subsequent books.

Roger served in the Navy between the Korean and Vietnam Wars. He was aboard the *USS Toledo* which made a goodwill trip up the Saigon River in the People-to-People program.

He attended California State College at Los Angeles and went to work for Schwabacher & Co. stock brokerage

firm, which trained him as a stockbroker. He eventually was in charge of west coast operations for the firm.

He later was vice president for sales for Shearson-American Express and national sales manager for Players' Club International.

Roger and his wife live in Westlake Village, Ventura County.

There are four children, Ron Belkin, who is employed by the State Probation Department; Debbie Harris; Reid Baum, an assistant circulation manager for the San Fernando Valley Daily News, and Caren Baum, a Rosemont High School graduate.

## Hotel del Hosts Party To Launch Newest "Oz"

All of you Oz fans better get down to the Hotel del Coronado next Saturday (Sept. 19) from 1 - 4 pm, to meet Roger Stanton Baum at a party to launch his fifth Oz book, *The Silly OZbuls and the Magic Merry-Go-Round*.

The author is, of course, the great grandson of L. Frank Baum, who wrote 14 Oz books, six of them while residing at the Del and four while vacationing in Coronado at 1101 Star Park Circle, a home now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Pike Meade.

The party, at the hotel's Vista Walk, will feature a "balloon rainbow" entry; a children's Oz costume parade and contest for ages 3 - 7 and 8 plus, and free soft drinks, popcorn and ice cream.

There also will be a "build the Yellow Brick Road" chalk art event with each child or child-at-heart receiving chalk to add his/her "yellow bricks" to the "winding road through Oz."

Among those on hand for entertainment will be Mickey Carroll, one of the original Munchkin stars of the Oz movie; a Dixieland Band, a children's choral group, balloon artists, jugglers, mimes and an "Oz" face painter.

Roger Baum will autograph copies of his latest book, with proceeds going to Variety, the Children's Charity of Southern California.