

Leisure Worlder

OF THE MONTH

GEORGE BOUCHARD

It hardly seems plausible that one who gave cornet lessons for 50 cents a session would eventually earn the honor of being named Leisure Worlder of the Month despite the fact that one of his pupils won national renown as a musician. You see, the catch in this is that his erstwhile trumpet-player went on to gain high acclaim as a violinist.

George Bouchard, who also was soloist in Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey band one summer for the munificent sum of \$2.50 a day and what his stomach could stand at the circus chow wagon, wisely turned from toots to torts. No Harry James was he.

One of the most prestigious attorneys on the West Coast for more than four decades, Bouchard was elected to the Golden Rain Foundation in 1971 and became its president in 1973.

Because of his many contributions to the community since he became a resident in 1968, George Bouchard has been selected Rossmoor's Leisure Worlder of the Month for February.

"After we moved to Leisure World in 1968, Marion and I never had a moment of regret," said Bouchard. "I don't know anywhere in the world where you could find so many friendly people; nor where you can enjoy so many amenities for so little."

After 60 years of marriage, his wife Marion passed away last year.

Born in the little town of Trout Lake in northern Michigan, George first attended Lawrence College in Appleton, Wisconsin where he earned his bachelor of arts degree.

A sliver of a lad who weighed only 155 pounds at the time, young Bouchard played left halfback in football. His friends will tell you the Bouchard of today is built more like a defensive tackle. In talking of his college days, George is more proud of the fact he could run the 100-yard dash in 10 seconds and was Wisconsin state champion in both the 100 and 220 for four straight years.

It was while a student at Lawrence that Bouchard discovered his talent on the cornet would help pay his way through college.

He was teaching at Fond du Lac, Wisconsin High School to earn money to go to Michigan law school when World War I engulfed the nation. Rejected as officer material because of weak eyes, George talked an Army engineer into looking the other way when he enrolled in an ambulance corps. So he got to France, anyway.

Lovely, blue-eyed Marion Van Dyke, also a school teacher, was waiting for him when he got back to Fond du Lac. They were married in 1918.

At Michigan he paid his way through law school by instructing in English in the University. George also found time to serve as student editor of the *Michigan Law Review* and was elected senior law class president. He was named to the Order of the Coif, national honorary fraternity — the Phi Beta Kappa equivalent in law school — and stood third in a class of 104 at graduation time.

Following five years of practice in Milwaukee, Bouchard obtained an appointment as legal counsel for the Internal Revenue Service in Washington. In 1927 he was sent to San Francisco as counsel for the IRS in all the states west of Colorado.

In 1929 Bouchard went into private practice as a tax consultant and three years later helped found the firm of Latham, Watkins and Bouchard (now Latham and Watkins), one of the most prestigious law firms in Los Angeles which now has more than 50 attorneys.

During the ensuing 30 years he served as a member of the Board of Trustees, Los Angeles Bar Association; Board of Governors, State Bar Association of California; represented the Los Angeles Bar Association House of Delegates and also was president of the Chancery Club in Los Angeles.

He was chairman of the Army Air Corps Price Adjustment Board for the western states in 1941-42.

Bouchard was a member of the California Club for 37 years and the Los Angeles Country Club for 28 years.

It was after retiring from law following eight years of practice in La Jolla, that George and Marion Bouchard decided on Leisure World as the place they wanted to live. "A lot of my friends in La Jolla kidded me about moving to Leisure World," George recalls. "Now more than a dozen of them have followed me here."

In addition to his activities in Golden Rain, Bouchard is a member of the prestigious Thursday Luncheon Club at Corona Del Mar and also is a member of United Methodist Church.