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LEISURE WORLD NEWS

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On land or water, this team's got it all

Bouers easily make friends with people and animals

By Cheryl Walker
The News

Manny and Hamlet have it made. The two former racing greyhounds from Tijuana's Caliente Race Track were saved from euthanasia by Greyhound Pets of America's most dedicated volunteers: their new Leisure World parents, Bob and Margo Bouer.

But it's not for being volunteers par excellence at the La Habra Heights facility, where dog-loving volunteers wash, medicate and groom the former track champs for domestic bliss, that Leisure World's Historical Society chose the couple as Leisure Worlders of the Month for July.

Their big hearted caring for animals is just one of the ways the Bouers go all out to make their world a better place.

Bob, an attorney and retired physician, is a Laguna Woods City Councilman while Margo, a retired nurse, is a 9-year Aquadette, but that, again, is only part of what makes them special, says Third Mutual Board Member and Aquadette Denise Welch. "Everyone likes and respects them; they are very involved in getting the right programs and people in place."

Welch notes that Bob, besides his city duties, delivers Meals on Wheels and helps with the Orange County Transportation Authority ACCESS volunteers for mobility pro-



Leisure Worlders for July Margo and Bob Bouer with Manny and Hamlet, two greyhounds they adopted.

News photo by Rod Veal

gram.

Margo, a master swimming champion and former lifeguard, Welch says, is always available to help members improve their techniques and is a proponent of the Senior Olympics.

"She is an inspiration to us all and has contributed significantly to the Aquadettes," agrees fellow Aquadette Dottie Ross.

Former Third Mutual President Charles Hellmann and his wife Martha also former Leisure Worlders of the Month, agree the Bouers are a winning combination.

"They have been invaluable to Leisure World and the City

of Laguna Woods. It is most unusual and rewarding to find a couple where each works tirelessly and unselfishly for the betterment of our community."

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Ceremony facts

Who: Bob and Margo Bouer
What: Leisure Worlders of the Month for July

Where: Clubhouse 6

When: 10 a.m. Wednesday, July 2

Sponsor: Leisure World Historical Society

TEAM

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Background: Bob hails from Illinois. He had his bachelor's and medical degree at age 22, from the University of Illinois and his juris doctorate from Loyola University, Chicago.

The specialist in obstetrics and gynecology ("the only happy place in the hospital") spent two years in the Navy during the Korean War and, then joined the staff at several Windy City hospitals: Saint Joseph, Cook County and Northwestern Memorial.

He also taught medical law at Northwestern and ob/gyn studies at the University of Illinois, Northwestern University (35 years) and Cook County Graduate School of Medicine.

After moving to Leisure World he became active in Leisure World governance through membership in Project 21 (community planning project) and the Third Mutual Board. In Laguna Woods, besides serving as a city councilman, he was mayor.

Besides numerous professional organizations, he is also a member of the Kiwanis In-

ternational, Scottish Rite and the American Legion. And, both he and Margo, are members of the Niftys Club, California and Canine Clubs and the Reformed Temple.

Margo, from California, had quite a different upbringing from her spouse, which she revealed in gripping detail in her 2000 autobiography, "After Shock, a Memoir."

The University of Chicago graduate, former psychiatric head nurse and psychologist recalled how her wealthy parents forced her into numerous shock treatments to bring her in line with what they considered acceptable behavior.

Sadly, in the process, they erased her childhood memories, destroyed family relationships, and are complicit in a variety of physical ills Margo suffers from, in particular the multiple sclerosis which has forced her to curtail her once active athletic lifestyle.

"I could stay in bed all day, or I can be resourceful and keep myself challenged and mobile," says Margo. Those who know Margo understand there's only one way she'd be. "I persevere," she says.

"The Aquadettes are my top priority," says the choreogra-

pher of the upcoming, Aug. 21-24 "Aqua Follies" synchronized swim show's sure-to-be showstopper number "I Will Follow Him."

But she also makes designer Lucite canes and serves on the Golden Rain nominating committee.

Bob was Margo's doctor and their first date was a movie, Franco Zifferelli's "Romeo and Juliet," although it was anything but romantic -- because she got uncontrollable hiccups, from popcorn, that lasted throughout the screening and the dinner that followed.

But, in spite of their quirky start, love triumphed and they married five months later.

That's because Bob, Margo says, is one-of-a-kind: respected professionally ("he has boxes and boxes of plaques and medals") and with an easy-going personality and great sense of humor.

And Bob feels Margo is pretty wonderful too for her courage, strength and never-say-die attitude no matter what life throws her way.

Is it any wonder that those who know them agree with Denise Welch that they are privileged to call the Bouers friends? Says Welch: "They know no strangers."