

Praises sung as musical stars honored as Leisure Worlders

Longtime Leisure World residents and stars of operetta and musical comedy, John and Electa Ehrle will be honored as co-honored as Leisure Worlders of the month for February. The special ceremony will be Wednesday, Feb. 1 at 10 a.m. in Clubhouse 6 and the public is invited to attend. The ceremony is sponsored by the Leisure World Historical Society and Home Federal Savings.

Electa was born and raised in St. Louis later moving to Chicago. It was there her soprano voice was "discovered" and she began singing in school and church. She and her brother also performed in amateur shows.

As she recalls, her first "show business" experience was in a road company production of *The Student Prince*.

John was born in Genoa, Ohio, grew up in Toledo and sang in the glee club and acted during high school. At Denison University he was president of the musical group as well as the glee club, and was also a gridiron star earning honors as "All-Ohio," as a guard.

After graduation he taught English and coached at his alma mater, Waite High School.

Four years later John had his big chance to break into show business in New York.

His first show was "Castles in the Air," which traveled to Chicago and play for a year. In was in Chicago that John and Electa met. She had come to Chicago to understudy the prima donna while John was playing the second lead while under study to the leading man.

"Destiny," John calls it.

They next appeared in the Chicago Company of "The Desert Song," and were married during the show's run at the Great Northern theater where they were both understudying leading roles.

Their honeymoon trip was a road company tour of "The Desert Song," which played 121 cities throughout the



John and Electa Ehrle

east and midwest.

Back in New York, John and Electa appeared in "New Moon." "Fine and Dandy" and "Face the Music."

Then Edwin Lester who founded the Los Angeles Civic Light Opera, brought the couple to Los Angeles for a three year run of "Chocolate Soldier" and "Blossom Time." The stint ended with John playing opposite Helen Gallagan in "The Merry Widow."

While in Los Angeles Beach, the Ehrles "fell in love with California." and resolved to return.

But from Los Angeles they organized and play in Toledo's Civic Light Opera then it was military service for John from which he was discharged as a colonel.

The couple continue to sing for their Leisure World neighbors and they have appeared before many clubs and organizations as well as performing in several two-hour shows at Clubhouse 3 spotlighting the music from the various shows in which they've appeared.