

2/28/85

Stroke Club leader to receive honor

Members of the Saddleback Hospital Stroke Club have a camaraderie based on shared experiences and victories, large and small. And an important part of that sharing is due to volunteer Norman Freestone.

Freestone has been program and publicity director since the club was founded in 1981. Before he helped found the group, which now boasts about 40 regular members, he was active with the hospital's now-defunct adult day care center.

In recognition of his many hours of volunteer service and enthusiastic spirit of sharing, Norman Freestone has been named Leisure Worlder of the Month for March. A ceremony to mark the event will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, March 1, in Clubhouse 6. The public is invited.

The ceremony will be hosted by Home Federal Savings and the Leisure World Historical Society.

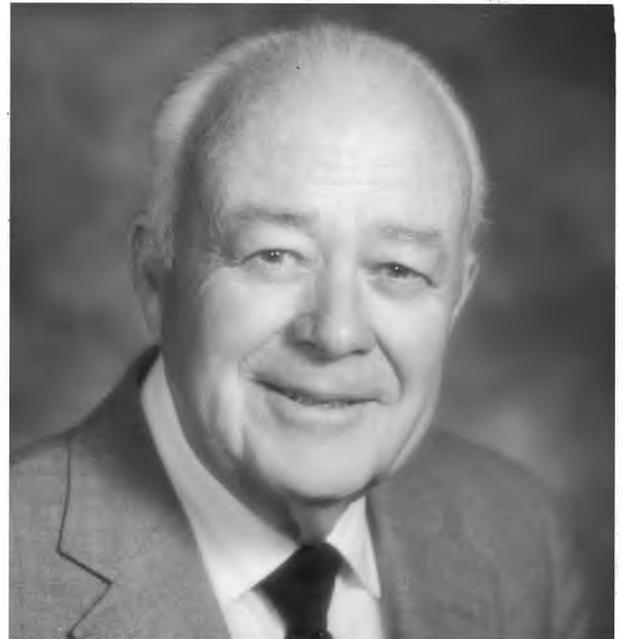
Freestone began his academic career with a degree in speech and theater arts from Brigham Young University. He received a master's degree in speech and psychology from the University of Southern California, followed by a doctorate from USC in the same subjects.

In 1941, Freestone joined the faculty of Occidental College as professor of speech and speech department chairman. He remained at Occidental until 1971, founding the college's speech and reading clinics, of which he was director.

Outside the classroom, he was chairman of the Hear Center in Pasadena from 1969 to 1971. He served as director of the language clinics at Los Angeles Rehabilitation Center, and is past president of the Western Speech Association and former editor of the Western Speech Journal.

Freestone also found time for several professional organizations, including the American Psychological Society, the American Speech and Hearing Association, the American Communication Association and Phi Kappa Phi, the graduate scholastic honor society.

He also worked with the Word Blind Institute in



Norman Freestone

Copenhagen and with the Linguistic Association of America, and was appointed by the president to the White House Conference on Children and Youth in 1960. All these experiences prepared Freestone for his work with the Stroke Club.

As its founder sees it, the club is many things, but first and foremost a service organization. It began in 1981, shortly after the closure of the adult day care center at Saddleback.

Freestone had been a volunteer at the hospital since moving to Leisure World with his wife Dora, in 1980. He decided stroke victims and their families needed a reference point.

"Most stroke victims understand written and verbal communication," Freestone explained, "but are unable to communicate effectively themselves. Victims and spouses are counseled together, or they can use the club for an outlet, a time apart from each other, if necessary."

In addition to his work with the Stroke Club, Freestone also devotes his leisure hours to the Saddleback Kiwanis Club; he is chairman of the group's Committee on Communication Disabilities, and is the new president for 1985.