

Great World

By Ross W. Cortese

Rossmoor Corp.



"Leisure World wouldn't be what it is if it wasn't for the volunteer work done here."

We can't imagine any one statement that better tells the story of our wonderful community, and this remark came from the man who has been recognized as the March Leisure Worlder of the month, William E. Grundke.

Being honored by his neighbors and by Home Federal Savings and Loan, Grundke is a native of Germany, an American since 1927 and a Leisure World resident since 1971.

Grundke's life has been one of an interesting application of skills, first in a practical vocation that provided him and his family with comfortable living and later with a fulfillment of an artistic drive.

He was the eldest son of a painting contractor in Germany, and as custom had it, he was expected to follow in his father's trade.

Although he was lured to America as a young man, he worked in Illinois as a painter and built himself a home during a slow winter season. He had followed the skills he had learned as a house painter in Germany, but

he held on to the dreams he had as a young boy visiting the art museums in Dresden and Meissen.

He was married in 1930 to a beautiful blonde girl he had met in a bakery, and the former Elfriede Wiess of Germany still is noted for her baking skills.

The Grundkes gave up their Chicago holdings and moved to California where they owned and managed a motel in Redding. Then when they retired to Carmel, Bill Grundke began to feed his appetite for the artistic. He took up wood carving, and when he moved to Leisure World in 1971, he began to enroll in numerous art classes including those in ceramics and lapidary.

His interest in arts and crafts led him into many hours of voluntary work at Leisure World. He donates many hours to cleaning and repairing machinery in the lapidary shop. And he installed benches and wedging boards for the ceramic shop where he also ran the kiln.

To Grundke, his volunteer work has been "just plain fun."

We applaud him for his contribution.