

# LEISURE WORLD NEWS

Thursday  
October 29, 1998

## *The art of giving*

Couples' interests range from medical to table tennis



David E. Caballero/The News

Bill and Louise Meiklejohn were named Leisure Worlders of the Month for November by the Historical Society.

By Cheryl Walker  
The News

**B**ill and Louise Meiklejohn never had children so they decided to make the men, women and youngsters of the Saddleback Valley members of their extended family in a unique way.

The couple, selected by the Leisure World Historical Society to be Leisure Worlders of the Month in November, have donated funds to make two special facilities possible at Saddleback Memorial Medical Center: the Critical Care Pavillion and the Oncology Cancer Center.

One improves SMMC's emergency and critical care facilities; the other offers state-

of-the-art diagnostic equipment for the detection and treatment of cancer.

Meiklejohn also sponsors, in his name, a scholarship at his alma mater, the University of Pennsylvania, and an annual senior table tennis tournament in Leisure World.

Olga Feingold Kahan, tournament director, can't say enough good things about the couple who have made the tournament a reality and "one of the richest in U.S. Table Tennis competition."

While Nolan Draney, SMMC's Foundation president, says his institution is "extremely blessed to have Bill and Louise as its benefactors" noting that they well deserve the Historical Society's kudos for their generous giving of

finances, time, resources and efforts not just to the hospital but to the community at large. "They are a treasured asset."

The Meiklejohns, though, say they were surprised when they were notified of the honor since they felt they only saw needs and set out to fill them.

### Ceremony facts

**Who:** Bill and Louise Meiklejohn

**What:** Leisure Worlders of the Month for November

**When:** 10 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 4

**Where:** Clubhouse 6

**Sponsor:** Leisure World Historical Society.

For example, with the table tennis tournament, Bill, an enthusiast of the sport from his school days, says he was watching television when he became aware there were all kinds of senior tournaments for golf, tennis and so forth and thought "Why not table tennis too?"

Louise said that volunteering at the hospital made her realize the emergency room was cramped and overstressed and decided to do something about it.

The Meiklejohns, who (at least on Bill's side) are second generation Leisure Worlders, note too that they always try to contribute where funds are needed most - since they understand the value of a dollar.

**Background** Bill recalls that, as a child, he went barefoot to school because his family couldn't afford to buy him shoes.

The California native said his family worked in the orange groves until his father bought a truck and started a delivery service that soon joined with others and became United Parcel Service.

Although his dad eventually became the second largest stockholder in the firm, company policy forbade Bill from following in his father's footsteps.

Instead, he got his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Pennsylvania and worked for Northrup 18 years until his retirement.

Louise, a native of Delaware, went to Banks Business College in Philadelphia, met Bill on a blind date and, although she'd worked in insurance early in her career, eventually became Orange County superintendant of schools in charge of accounting, a post she held for 18 years.

The two retired early and became ardent travellers, particularly enjoying the pleasures of cruising on short and long sea voyages.

The pair also enjoyed square and round dancing and at one time offered free classes in Leisure World, their home since 1969.

Asked why they decided to become benefactors Louise replied that she doesn't want the federal government to collect it in taxes, "We'd rather invest it in something that does something good."