

# Leisure Worlder

OF THE MONTH

## NEWELL PARKER

For Leisure Worlder Newell Parker, life has been a song.

He started creating music 79 years ago, at the age of 4, and he is still at it. Music has been his career. Friendship and service have been his life work.

A lifetime of music has included work as an organist, pianist, singer, choir master, teacher, accompanist, concert master.

During a 43-year engagement as concert organist at the world-famous Mission Inn in Riverside, Mr. Parker had the opportunity to play for many well-known persons including presidents, foreign chiefs of state, Hollywood celebrities and the like.

Since retirement to Leisure World in 1968, Newell and Eileen Parker have been highly active in community affairs. Newell has served as President of the Michigan Club, Masonic Club, Laguna Hills Shrine Club, Scottish Rite Club, Former Rotarians, and as Vice President and Treasurer of the Laguna Hills Community Concerts Association. He is a charter member of Laguna Hills High Twelve Club. From all these activities, come the mottos by which he lives: "Service before Self" and the Golden Rule.

At the start of World War I, Newell enlisted in Base Hospital #35, a Los Angeles unit, and before long was at Camp Kearney in San Diego. Music soon caught up and a glee club was formed with Newell as accompanist. The group's ability as entertainers of the "dough-boys" was recognized and when the unit was shipped to France it became united with many other units in a huge base hospital. He then became director and accompanist. Song and fun helped relieve the pain and loneliness of thousands of men. At the end of the war, the hospital had 17,500 patients.

When peace came, Newell became organist at the Mission Inn in Riverside and stayed for 43 years. When he left in 1969 he was presented a citation by the City Council and Riverside Mayor Ben Lewis for his many years of service to the city.

Newell played for the Easter Sunrise Services on Mt. Ruidous, near Riverside and was connected with each Easter Sunrise Service for the next 40 years. He became organist for First Church of Christ, Scientist, Riverside in 1919 and continued for 40 years.

His affiliation with the Boy Scouts of America began in 1920 and he is still a member of the organization. He was President of the Riverside County Council for five years and was awarded the Silver Beaver.

Newell's Masonic career also started in 1920. He became a Master Mason in Evergreen Lodge #259 in September of this year. He is a member of the Long Beach Scottish Rite, KCCH, Royal Order of Scotland, Robert Bruce Assoc., Red Cross of Constantine and a member of "El Bekel" Temple of Shrine, Long Beach. He was Grand Organist for the Grand Chapter and Grand Council of California. He was installed for 33 consecutive times in the Grand Council and 30 times in the Grand Chapter.

In 1962 he received from "The General Grand Chapter, U.S.A.", the Distinguished Service Award for service to the Grand Chapter of California (only one award issued each year).

He became a member of the Riverside Elks Lodge in 1920 and has been organist for their "Annual Memorial Service" for many years.

Newell's affiliation with the American Legion has lasted almost as long and for many years he was musical director for the Drum Corp.

He has also served as First Dean in the American Guild of Organists, Riverside-San Bernardino Chapter, also President of Music Teachers Association of California with honorary life memberships in both organizations, the Riverside Opera Association, Riverside Musicians Association, Riverside Community Players Theatre in the Round.

Newell and Eileen were childhood sweethearts and will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on February 13, 1978. They have two sons and three grandchildren.