

Parker Earns Honor

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

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

Selected as Leisure Worlder of the Month for October, a portrait of Parker will be hung in the main rotunda of the Rossmoor Leisure World sales office during the month.

A LIFETIME OF MAKING music, of making people happy, 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, 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 nine years ago, Newell and Eileen Parker have been 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 Hi-12 Club. From all these activities, come the mottos by which he lives: "Service before Self" and the Golden Rule.

The music lessons that began at age four in Port Huron, Michigan, his birthplace, started paying off when Newell reached high school. There he played cornet in an orchestra and later in the city band. The Parker family moved to Hollywood in 1912 and young Newell soon began studying voice, piano and organ under prominent teachers. Before long, he was teaching piano, accompanying well-known singers at concerts and became a church organist.

IN ONLY SIX YEARS, January 1918, he was invited to become organist for the world-famous Mission Inn at Riverside. Soon the engagement was interrupted by 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 "doughboys" was recognized and when the unit was shipped to France it became united with many other units to form 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 returned to the Mission Inn and stayed for 43 years. When he left in 1969 he was presented a citation by the City County and Riverside Mayor Ben Lewis for his many years of service to the city.

Newell played for the Easter Sunrise Services on Mt. Rubidous, 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. He and Mrs. Parker are class-taught Christian Scientists.

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.

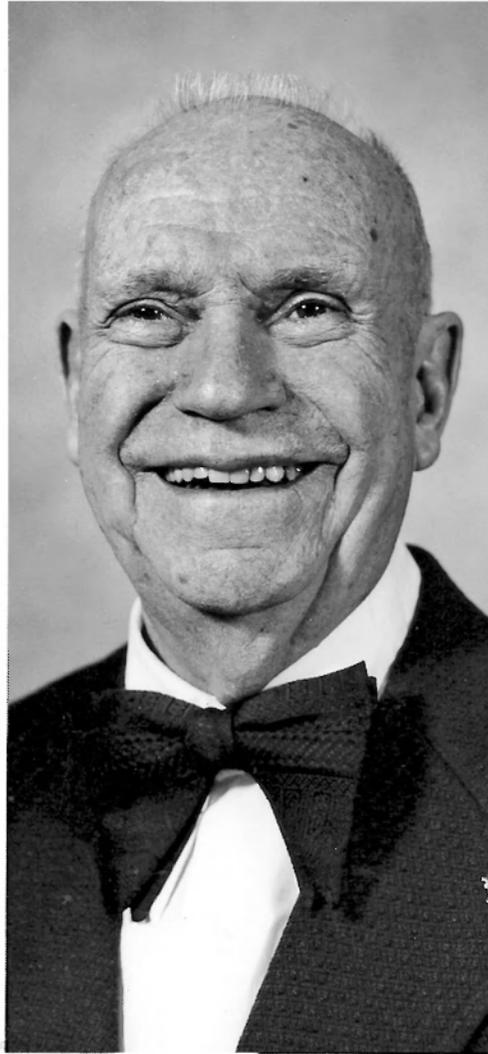
Newell's Masonic career also started in 1920. He became a Master Mason in Evergreen Lodge #259 in September of this year. He is a member of the Long Beach Scottish Rite, KCCH, Royal Order of Scotland, Robert Bruce Assoc., Red Cross of

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.



NEWELL PARKER
...Top Honor

To keep busy, 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 also plays golf. He has had two holes in one and played in numerous Pro-Am competitions.

NEWELL AND EILLEEN were childhood sweethearts and will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Feb. 13. They have two sons and three grandchildren.