

# Second generation resident named LWer for December

Ward Payne and his wife Ruth could be called true second generation Leisure Worlders. When Ward Payne retired at the end of 1980, the Paynes moved to Leisure World and into the manor that had previously been owned by Ward's parents. Coming to the community in 1964, the senior Paynes, along with Ward's aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Rouse, were among the earliest Leisure World residents. His aunt still resides here.

Payne served his country in two wars, worked his way from a 40-cent-per-hour shipping clerk to regional sales manager and today contributes to life in Leisure World.

To celebrate all his accomplishments, Ward Payne will be named "Leisure Worder of the Month," on Wednesday, Dec. 6. The public is invited to attend the ceremony, which begins at 10 a.m. in Clubhouse 6. HomeFed Bank and the Leisure World Historical Society jointly sponsor the program.

Payne was born in Dallas in 1919. When he was two years old, his family moved to Hollywood. He graduated from Fairfax High in 1937 and immediately started to work at Hall-Mack Co., a manufacturer of bathroom accessories, then a privately owned firm headquartered in Los Angeles. His first job, in the shipping department, paid 40 cents an hour.

Payne moved progressively from the shipping and order departments to architectural promotion/sales. His new position consisted of calling upon architects for the purpose of having Hall-Mack materials included in their bathroom specifications.

He was inducted into the U.S. Army,

March 1941, and stationed at Ft. Sill, Ok., then Ft. Warren, Wy. On Dec. 7, 1941, his artillery unit moved out to Ft. Lewis, Wa. and set up their 155mm howitzers on the Washington coast to help repel the expected Japanese invasion.

While at Ft. Lewis he met Ruth McCleary, a graduate of the University of Washington who was working for Boeing in Seattle.

Payne was selected to enter Infantry Officer Candidate School at Ft. Benning, Ga. in mid-August 1942, graduated "Armistice Day" Nov. 11 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant. Payne was assigned to Camp McCain, Mi., and obtained an important few days leave in February 1943 -- a leave that enabled he and Ruth to marry at the home of his uncle and aunt in Oklahoma City.

He received overseas orders on D-Day, June 6, 1944, and after a short time in England joined the 9th Infantry Division which was engaged in heavy combat on the Germany-Belgium border. Ward was a rifle platoon leader in battles of Huertgen Forest, Ardennes, across the Rhine at Remagen, where he was wounded and sent to the General Hospital in Liege, Belgium.

He returned to action later to overrun the Nazi concentration camp at Nordhausen and free the prisoners.

After the war, Payne rejoined Hall-Mack in Los Angeles. He was assigned a five-state sales territory in January 1950 covering Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North and South Dakota.

The Paynes purchased a home in Des Moines, which they sold in June 1951

## Leisure People



**Ward Payne**

when he was recalled into the Army.

This time, Ward was assigned to Ft. Riley, Ks., then sent to Korea to serve as a captain with the 40th Infantry Division until January 1953. He was awarded an additional Bronze Star and cluster to Combat Infantry Badge.

Following his time in Korea, he again

rejoined Hall-Mack and was promoted to the newly created position of eastern sales manager with an office in Clifton, N.J. Hall-Mack became a division of Textron Inc., and he assumed responsibility for all East Coast sales -- Maine to Florida -- plus operation of the branch warehouse and world-wide Export sales.

Textron sold Hall-Mack to Scovill Manufacturing in 1975. Payne immediately obtained a position as eastern sales manager for Franklin Brass Co. of Los Angeles, a company that had been a major competitor. He spent the next five years in an almost identical capacity with that firm.

When the family finally moved to Leisure World, the Paynes promptly became engaged in activities. Both of them became members of the Garden Club in while Ward was president of the Tennis Club. Ruth is active in the Ebell Club and served as president. They are active in the Mayflower Congregational Church of Laguna Hills where Ward is presently serving as Moderator and Ruth is the Church Clerk.

Ward was elected to the Board of Directors of United Mutual in 1986 and served as its President in 1988. At the present time he is a member of the Golden Rain Foundation board and Chairman of the Security Committee.

Other Leisure World activities include being President of the Washington Club and a member of Saddleback Kiwanis Club. His hobbies include tennis, swimming, a prolific garden plot, and walking "the world's most beautiful dog," the Paynes' Golden Retriever, Amber.