

LEISURE WORLDER OF THE MONTH

MARCH 1996

WALTER B. PENN

The Leisure World Historical Society is pleased to announce the selection of WALTER B. PENN as Leisure Worlder of the Month for March 1996. This event is sponsored by the Ross Cortese Commemorative Fund.

Walter hails from the "show me" state of Missouri, having been born in Wellsville. He received his primary and high school education in his city of birth before matriculating at the University of Missouri where he completed a B.S. degree in Agriculture. In subsequent years he attended Columbia University in New York for a series of executive courses to expand his business training.

Combining agriculture and business, Walter's working career included assignments as a farm manager, assistant loan supervisor, executive vice president of a savings and loan and other executive positions in business and banking. He applied his expertise in Iowa, Washington and New York.

Walter's social and community participation included membership in the Kiwanis, service on many Chambers of Commerce, the Red Feather Charity, United Way and as director of a local water board. He received special recognition for his work as a member of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Oversight Committee for Agricultural Lending for the United States.

Military service was Walter's call during the years 1942 to 1945. His progression began as an apprentice naval seaman with step-ladder movement through Officer Candidate School, officer status in 1942 and service as a Line Officer and Executive Officer before being separated from the U. S. Navy in 1945 as Lieutenant, Senior Grade.

Leisure World became home to Walter and his wife Ruth in 1979. It wasn't too long before he became active in the Washington State Club (president for 2 years), the Laguna Hills Mens Golf Club (board member and president in 1989), the Los Amigos Bowling League (president, 2 years), the Leisure World Bowlers Club (board member) and Leisure World governance. In the latter service area Walter functioned as a Director of the Third Mutual Board, a Director, Treasurer and two term president of GRF.

The Family Penn includes daughters Margaret (Peggy) and Susan and twin grandsons Matthew and Mark. Walter's travels summed up by him "all States in the Continental U.S."

When speaking of his accomplishments and life's satisfactions Walter says very directly: "I never had a job that I didn't like".