

Great World

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It is always been a joy to write our congratulatory column about the person chosen as Leisure Worlder of the Month. And this week it is especially nice because the life story of our neighbor has been one of winner, winner, winner.

And that story brought some smiling memories because of one of the activities in the early life of Honoree Violet Royer.

Mrs. Royer was honored by the Home Federal Savings and Loan and the Leisure World selection committee for her contributions to the development of the swimming program as teacher and performer in the Aquadettes.

But the smiling memory pertains to her 16-year-old days when she entered and won a marathon dancing competition. Those days are gone forever, but the marathon dance fad really took America by storm.

It is nice to know that someone has been such a winner.

She took up golf at the age of 49 and later after moving to Leisure World she just about took up the championship for women competition, with 12 championships. She also was three times champion of the Western American Women's title and for five years was club champion at

Hesperia Country Club.

It is inspirational for all of us to review the achievements of this remarkable woman who says "I always try for the spectacular" and "I've always been determined to do my best in everything I try. I tell myself if I'm going to do it, let's do it well."

Those are remarkable quotes, and most appreciated.

Besides her teen-age dancing triumphs, Mrs. Royer was a tomboy, climbing trees, performing acrobatic feats as Muscle Beach and swimming in the surf near the Santa Monica beaches where she grew up as the youngest in a family of five children. She said of her parents understanding of her youthful vigor: "They just threw up their hands and let me go."

Her life story also is one of the American tradition of hard work and determination helping lead to financial success. She married at 18 and worked as a waitress to help add to the family income. Her husband, the late Edmund Royer who was to become a successful tile contractor, said his company was the "business that tips built."

Violet Royer's children are Ronald, a priest in Lakewood, Sister Judith, a teacher-nun at Loyola Marymount University and Carole, an expert skier who resides with her husband at Mammoth Lakes.

So our April honoree is a winner even in the second generation and it is indeed a pleasure to say thanks and to add our congratulations for her recognition.