

September LWer is good luck charm

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Because the first two companies that John Stransky worked for failed, he used to worry that he was bad luck. But having Stransky around has proved to be good luck to those who know him since his leisure time is mostly taken up in helping others.

In recognition of those efforts, Stransky will be named Leisure Worlder of the Month on Wednesday, Sept. 2 at 10 a.m. at a ceremony in Clubhouse 6. The public is invited to attend the program sponsored by Home Federal Savings and the Leisure World Historical Society.

Stransky was born in the small town of Pukwana, S. Dakota in 1904. He had owned the local phone company and at the start of World War 1, with his brother called to service, young John maintained and installed new phones for the company.

The family moved to Chicago then to Los Angeles in 1923 where Stransky attended USC receiving a degree in electrical engineering.

His first job was with Qualiton, a firm that made sound equipment for theaters. Stransky said he would work all day, then he and a helper would drive to the theater work all night and the next day to get ready for the first sound show, stay until the first sound show was shown then go home and back to work in the morning.

He next worked with Tiffany Stahl

Studios and while there took flying lessons. That company closed after three years. During those years John met and married his wife Ruth. They have been married now for 55 years.

At Monogram Pictures, Stransky said the main problem was rushing to the bank to cash your pay check, hoping there was enough money in the company account. Monogram later merged to form Republic Studios. John, by now, had two children Jane and John, and became active in the Cub Scouts leading the troop and staying with the scouting program even after his son left scouting.

He was awarded the Cub Scout Master's Trophy and the "Order of Merit" from the Los Angeles Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He also served nine years on the vestry of St. James Episcopal Church.

When Republic built a new recording studio Stransky did music recording. He moved to Universal Studios in 1960 and organized and was first treasurer of the Cinema Audio Society.

He received a nomination for "Outstanding Achievement in Sound Mixing" from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, and an award from the Cinema Audio Society for "Outstanding Achievement in the World of Sound." His hobby was photography, and he and Ruth became involved and won trophies

for the slide shows.

The honoree retired in 1970 and following up on his volunteer work became the photographer for the La Brea Tar Pits diggings, and starting doing recordings for the blind.

In 1978 the Stranskys moved to Leisure World and he gave up his work with the tar pits and recording for the blind.

Since moving to Leisure World the couple has produced more slide shows which they show to clubs and organizations and to elementary school children, a project they really enjoy.

Stransky even gives the youngsters demonstrations on electricity, simple machines and other science projects.

He works as projectionist and shows programs at the Camera Club's annual "Film Festival," and has produced and donated a slide show for the South Coast Youth Shelter.

A member of the Saddleback Kiwanis Club since 1980, Stransky three years ago became chairman of the Joplin Youth Center project. He and other club members visit the boys at the minimum security facility teaching them how to conduct meetings, keep notes, give speeches and generally to be friendly. He recently received an award from Joplin for "Outstanding Service in Helping the Boys."

He also received an award from the



John Stransky

Orange County Probation Department for "Outstanding Volunteer Service to the Orange County Probation Department," and Kiwanis International 41 gave him an award for "performing Dedicated Service as Joplin Service Gents Chairman."

In the last few weeks, the call went out from the new Laguna Hills Meals Center at Willow Tree, for a public address system. It came as no surprise when John Stransky and another Leisure Worlder provided the system.