

### Camera focuses on quiet activist



Steve Zuk/The News

January's Leisure Worldeer of the Month, Marvin Taves, is surrounded by a plethora of video equipment. The honoree however, will have someone else doing the video honors at his ceremony on Jan. 4.

### Taves is named first Leisure World honoree for 1995

By Cheryl Walker  
The News

Since 1992, Golden Rain Director Marvin Taves has videotaped the Leisure Worldeer of the Month ceremonies creating a permanent record of the festivities for the community's most notable members.

Come Jan. 4, though, he'll have to step aside and let his assistant, Carlann Luetzow, do the job - as he stands in front of the camera as the Leisure World Historical Society's honoree.

Taves has done much to merit the recognition - though you'd never know it, since he prefers to work out of the spotlight.

As his nominator for the distinction, former Golden Rain Director Milt Adamson, explained, Taves chief characteristic is his modesty.

Dubbing him the "quiet activist," he says, though, that Taves is meticulous in his attention to planning and detail, always remaining firm in the resolve to try to achieve perfection no matter what task he's asked to do.

The former Third and current Golden Rain Director has demonstrated these admirable traits in community government for six years serving on a variety of committees and special study groups.

His resume includes work on

#### Ceremony facts

- Who:** Marvin Taves
- What:** Leisure Worldeer for January
- Where:** Clubhouse 6
- When:** 10 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 4
- Sponsor:** Leisure World Historical Society.

the maintenance and construction, government and public relations, finance, TV services, architectural control, legal, human resources, officers and community relations committees and joint attorney selection group.

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# TAVES

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He also founded the Video Club and has served as a member of the Community Association, Theatre Guild and Tennis, American-Italia and Nifty Fifties-Sixties clubs.

He even acted as executive producer for Leisure World's 25th anniversary video, "Heaven on Hold" and is credited with creating the Laguna Laurel task force, a sub group of the Golden Rain government and public relations committee.

He was one of the first Golden Rain volunteer representatives on the board of the Laguna Canyon Foundation.

The Foundation's goal is to raise money to purchase five parcels of land west of Leisure World from the Irvine Co. to preserve the property as a wilderness park.

Foundation Executive Director Mary Fegraus praised Taves for his dedicated and efficient efforts on behalf of the organization, in particular making a number of "excellent" videos which were later broadcast on Channel 6, to help people understand the value of preserving the property.

**Background:** No stranger to hard work, Taves, the oldest of six children, was born in a 16-by-20 foot wooden cabin in Ossette, Mont. He soon demonstrated the academic brilliance that would lead to his earning a bachelor's degree, two master's and finally a doctorate.

Although Taves originally planned to pursue a career in the ministry, he gravitated instead to

sociology and psychology.

"I always had an interest in people and was very people-oriented," Taves recalls.

In his long people-oriented career, he worked as a university professor and administrator, Fulbright professor, sociological researcher, and federal government administrator.

One of the key turning points in his career came from his participation in the first-ever conference on aging at the White House in 1960 where the federal government turned to the young researcher for information about the wishes, needs and perceptions of older people.

The data he compiled was received so favorably that he was asked him to head field service operations for the US Administration on Aging.

In the capacity of director of research and development, he was responsible for initiating and testing the feasibility of programs for older Americans on the local, state, national and federal levels and was able to bring to realization many programs still in use.

Among the most notable are the Foster Grandparent Program, which won the praise of former First Lady Nancy Reagan in her book "To Love a Child" for its success in bringing together seniors and children with physical, mental or emotional disabilities; the Congregate and Delivered Meals Program for the elderly, which provides nutrition to lonely and homebound seniors; the Senior Employment Corps; Education Grants Program, which helps educational institutions develop gerontology programs; and the Elderhostel Program, which

provides opportunities for continuing education for older Americans.

He even served as project director for the nationally broadcast senior-focus TV series, "Over Easy," starring Hugh Downs and authored numerous books, bulletins, articles and reviews on topics from religion (he holds a master's degree in theology) to technical papers.

**A home in 'heaven':** Taves, who moved to Leisure World in 1985, said he heard about the community while it was still a gleam in Ross Cortese's eye and the developer was seeking federal aid to make that dream a reality.

Taves credits his new neighbors with urging him to run for office in his mutual.

Even though his service stints as a mutual and Golden Rain director have included some controversial and hectic moments, Taves takes it very much in his stride, noting that he had successfully weathered 30 years of meetings with high-ranking government officials where his fate was on the line.

"I always had to be responsible for what I did-if you get the reward, you get the responsibility as well."

Although even his wife, Mary, calls him Goody Two Shoes, Taves who traces his heritage to a strong pioneer family of Dutch Mennonites, says he's only following the advice of his father who advocated keeping one's temper in check and mouth not engaged in idle or injurious talk.

"We were taught not to say anything bad about other people: if you couldn't say anything good about something, you didn't say anything at all."