



Ernest J. Billman

GRF president

Billman honored as LWer of the month

Ernest J. Billman, president of the Golden Rain Foundation, has been chosen Leisure Worlder of the Month of October. An oil portrait has been commissioned and it will hang in the rotunda of the Leisure World sales pavilion during the month and then will be presented to Mr. and Mrs. Billman.

During his business career, "Ernie," as he is well known to many Leisure World friends and neighbors, was regarded as a leader in Southern California's Title Insurance industry. He is now Chairman of the Board, Retired of Safeco Title Insurance Company.

Leadership comes naturally to Ernie. Since he and Mrs. Billman retired to Leisure World he has been an active member of the Men's Golf Club, Men's Social Club, Opera 100, Rod and Gun Club, Key Club and the United Methodist Church. In addition, he has served as vice president and director of Mutual 44 and is serving all the residents of Leisure World as president of the Golden Rain Foundation. He was elected a director of GRF in 1974, served as vice president in 1975-76 and became president in May of this year.

Ernest Billman was born in Topeka, Kansas on December 26, 1907, the first child of Harry and Addie Billman. When he was two, his father was transferred to Los Angeles.

Upon graduation from Poly High School in 1926 Ernie applied for a job with the Title Guarantee and Trust Company and ever since his working years have been spent in Title Insurance and allied fields.

In addition to training on the job he attended night classes given by the American Institute of Banking, taking classes pertaining to contracts,

escrows and other subjects relating to real estate transactions.

In 1929 he was assigned to the Realty Tax and Service Company which was a tax and bond reporting company in which Title Guarantee and Trust had an interest. After two years as assistant manager he returned to Title Guarantee where he commenced training to be a title officer, expanding his activities into escrow work and ultimately being placed in charge of public relations.

Ernie left Title Guarantee and Trust Company in 1938 to become vice president of Los Angeles Escrow in charge of expansion. Since then he has held top executive positions in Southern Title and Trust Co., of which he became President, Director and Chairman of the Board.

Although retired, he is still Chairman of the Board of Security Title Corp., Hawaii, and a Director of American Title Company. He is also Chairman of the Board, Retired of Safeco Title Insurance Company.

In addition to his ability as a businessman and leader, Ernie has a great liking for people and this has led him into many civic responsibilities. His interest in community affairs has included active work and leadership over the years in Chamber of Commerce, Community Chest, United Crusade, Optimist Club, American Right-of-Way Association, Society of Christians and Jews and the YMCA. In most organizations he has served as President or Director. He was named "Humanitarian of the Year" by Gateway Hospital, in Los Angeles in 1969.

Ernest and Thelma Billman live at 3191-B Via Buena Vista. They were married in 1949 and have a son, a daughter and five grandchildren.