

February honoree

# Portrait to be hung in formal ceremony



George Bouchard

It hardly seems plausible that one who gave cornet lessons for 50 cents a session would eventually earn the honor of being named Leisure Worlder of the month, despite the fact that one of his pupils won national renown as a musician.

George Bouchard, who was soloist in Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey band one summer for the munificent sum of \$2.50 a day, and what his stomach could stand at the circus chow wagon, wisely turned from toots to torts.

One of the most prestigious attorneys on the west coast for more than four decades, Bouchard was elected to the Golden Rain Foundation in 1971 and was president in 1973.

Because of his many contributions to the community since he became a resident in 1968, Bouchard has been selected Rossmoor's Leisure Worlder of the Month for February.

In the presence of his many friends his color portrait will be hung in a place of honor in the

rotunda of the Rossmoor new sales office, Friday, Feb. 2, at 10 a.m. It will remain on exhibit until March 2 when it will be presented to him in another informal ceremony.

"After we moved to Leisure World in 1968, Marion and I never had a moment of regret," said Bouchard. "I don't know anywhere in the world where you could find so many friendly people, nor where you can enjoy so many amenities for so little."

After 60 years of marriage, his wife Marion passed away last year. Bouchard has two daughters, Mrs. Jeanne Perry of Atherton and Mrs. Patricia Sprigg of Ventura; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Born in Trout Lake, Mich., Bouchard first attended Lawrence College in Appleton, Wisc., where he earned his bachelor of arts degree.

A sliver of a lad who weighed only 155 pounds, young Bouchard played left halfback in football. In talking of his college days, Bouchard

is more proud of the fact he could run the 100-year dash in 10 seconds and was Wisconsin state champion in both the 100 and 220 for four straight years.

While a student at Lawrence, Bouchard discovered that his talent on the cornet would help pay his way through college. "The school had no band but we had a pickup orchestra that played at dances."

He was teaching high school in Fond du Lac, Wisc., to earn money for law school, when World War I engulfed the nation. Rejected as officer material because of weak eyes, Bouchard talked an Army engineer into looking the other way when he enrolled in the ambulance corps.

On his return to the states, he enrolled at Michigan and paid his way through law school by teaching English. Bouchard also found time to serve as student editor of the Michigan Law Review and was elected senior law class president.

He was named to the Order of the Coif, national honor fraternity and stood third in a class of 104 at graduation.

Following five years of practice in Milwaukee, Bouchard obtained an appointment as legal counsel for the Internal Revenue Service. In 1927 he was sent to San Francisco as IRS counsel for all the states west of Colorado. "I was the only lawyer the IRS had west of Denver in those days. There probably are almost a hundred now."

In 1929 Bouchard went into private practice and three years later helped found the firm of Latham, Watkins and Bouchard, a firm in Los Angeles with 143 attorneys now.

During the next 30 years, he served as a member of the Board of Trustees, Los Angeles Bar Association; Board of Governors, State Bar Association of California; was a member of the House of Delegates of the ABA and also was president of the Chancery

Club. He was a member of the California Club for 37 years and the Los Angeles Country Club for 28 years.

It was after retiring from law that the Bouchards decided on Leisure World as the place to live. "A lot of my friends in La Jolla kidded me about moving to Leisure World," Bouchard recalls. "Now more than a dozen of them have followed me here."

In addition to his activities on GRF, Bouchard is a member of the Thursday Luncheon Club in Corona Del Mar and a member of the United Methodist Church.