

Honoree wins hearts with song

When Art and Dolly Briggs attend a party, it's almost a sure bet that someone is going to ask, beg, cajole or even insist the duo entertain.

And if a piano is handy, more often than not Dolly will play while Art croons a number of songs—funny, sad and romantic.

Art Briggs' avocation as a singer goes way back to his childhood, when as a 9-year-old soprano he was chosen to perform for the Prince of Wales. He continued with his singing, professionally and philanthropically, and until recently retained an agent.

Briggs has been chosen to be honored as Leisure Worlorder of the Month for May in the program sponsored by Home Federal Savings and the Leisure World Historical Society. The ceremony will be held on Wednesday, May 1 at 10 a.m. in Clubhouse 6 and the public is invited.

Briggs attended Michigan State University to pursue an engineering degree. While there he received

a scholarship to the Detroit Conservatory of Music, later working in radio and the theater until 1936, when he married Dolly.

The couple soon moved to California and Briggs took a job with the Kelite Chemical Co., becoming vice president and general manager for the northern part of the state. Business, however, did not dampen Briggs' desire to sing, and during World War II he entertained for servicemen through the USO.

After the war, he started his own construction company in the La Canada area, specializing in custom homes. He was also active with the Church of the Lighted Window, serving on various committees and as the president of the board.

In 1964 the couple moved to South Orange County and Briggs continued his construction business and became active with South Coast Medical Center, serving on the hospital board as a member and president. He was instrumental in starting the hospital foundation, and

both he and Dolly were counselors with the scouts and other youth groups. One of Briggs' favorite "jobs" is leading backpacking trips through the Sierras.

Art retired in 1977 and he and Dolly moved to Leisure World. In 1981 he was elected a director of the Golden Rain Foundation, where he served on the architectural and capital improvements committees and as chairman of the health and welfare committee.

But music still dominated and continues to dominate the Briggs' lifestyle and the couple have performed for numerous local clubs and organizations, including GRF at its annual dinners during the time he was a director.

Briggs keeps physically fit by lawn bowling and mentally fit by writing poetry. He and Dolly are also close to their two daughters and six grandchildren, who live in nearby Laguna Beach.



Art Briggs