

Burns works way up to LWer for October

Rodney Burns came up through the ranks of Leisure World. Shortly after he and Margaret moved into Leisure World he ran for and was elected to the board of Mutual 56. After its consolidation into Third, he was elected a director of that board, becoming in his third year, president. From there it was a logical jump to the Golden Rain Foundation.

An active community member, Burns will be honored as Leisure Worlder of the Month on Wednesday, Oct. 7. The ceremony which begins at 10 a.m. in Clubhouse 6, is sponsored by Home Federal Savings and the Leisure World Historical Society. The public is invited to attend.

Born in Moundsville, W. Va., his family soon moved to Oklahoma City. Burns attended the University of Oklahoma studying mechanical engineering and business and graduated with a business degree.

Shortly after graduation he and Margaret married and moved to Gary, Ind., where he joined United States Steel Corp. After working in the mill for a year he was transferred to sales then assigned to the district office in Pittsburgh, Pa.

A member of the Reserve Officer's Training Corps while in college, Burns was called into active duty in December 1940. He was assigned to General Patton's Second Armored Divisions and he and "Maggie" did some state hopping. One of their "homes" was Camp Cooke, now the Vandenburg Air Force Base in Lompoc, Ca.

Following Command and General Staff School, Burns was ordered to England in 1944 as a anti-tank officer, responsible for coordinating anti-tank defense between divisions under the demand of VIII Corps. His ship was hit by a mine while crossing



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the English Channel. The second time, Burns made it to France then to Germany.

Following his army service, he returned to the steel business, retiring in 1974.

Moving to California was an easy decision since the couple's son, daughter-in-law and baby daughter lived in Irvine, just a stone's throw from Leisure World.

Burns' last year on the GRF board was as chairman of the Capital Improvement Committee, and in one capacity or another he was on that committee for 10 years. A firm believer, he says, in trying to improve the facilities of the community, he remembers the committee as a place where ideas were discussed with recommendation that would be for the benefit of residents.