

New Year's Leisure Worlder jumped right in

Frank Duelks once said he'd never live in Leisure World. "There's a lot of old people living there."

That was quite a few years ago. Now, he admits, "it was the best move we ever made."

Duelks and his wife Honor moved to Leisure World in 1974, and almost immediately he became involved as a director of former Mutual 73, then as director and president of Third Laguna and still later as a director and President of Golden Rain Foundation. During his term as GRF president, Duelks counts as his major achievements the settlement of two lawsuits; the Bradford National and the Laguna News-Post.

For his involvement and concern about Leisure World, Duelks will be honored as a Leisure Worlder of the Month for January at a ceremony on Wednesday, Jan. 6 at 10 a.m. in Clubhouse 6. The ceremony is sponsored by the Leisure World Historical Society and Home Federal Savings.

Frank Duelks is the most modest of men and the most soft spoken. In spite of numerous provocations during his term as GRF president, he kept his temper and voice under control. Only with strong encouragement will he speak about himself.



Frank Duelks

Born in Los Angeles, he received his business education at Woodbury

College, and immediately began what was to become a long career through many mergers of a company that ended up as Southern California Gas Co.

It was while he was an auditor with the original company, Los Angeles Gas and Electric Corp. that he met Honor, who had moved to the city from Nebraska and was in billing. "The billing clerks would get 50 cents for each perfect tape," Duelks recalls the days before computers. "I gave her an error on two tapes," meaning she lost \$1. Honor was unaccustomed to having errors and inquired as to who dared give her an error.

Frank laughs as he thinks about this young woman from the farm country marching into his office in indignation. And he says "I think she married me to get even." They have been married for 54 years.

During his many years through the many mergers of Southern California Gas, Duelks rose through the accounting ranks ending up as the supervisor of 50 employees and in charge of employee training and hiring for many departments.

When he was 50-years-old Duelks decided that golf looked like an interesting game. It wasn't long be-

fore he was addicted, and that addiction followed him to Leisure World where he has been Green and Rules Chairman for the Laguna Hills Men's Golf Club. He has given up counting the number of times he has "shot his age."

Duelks was also a private pilot and owned his own plane taking his family on vacations to most of the southern and mid-western states. Honor however, he says, was not much of a traveler.

So Duelks took matters into his own hands. In 1964 he went to a travel agent and made arrangements for a trip to Hawaii. He came home with the tickets, and told Honor he was going, with or without her. She went "and loved it." They have been traveling ever since, and have been to every continent.

In fact, after retirement, they sold their house and spent six months visiting 14 European countries. They came back with no house to move into.

They rented a house on Balboa Island thinking this was where they wanted to buy. But friends on the Island lived in Leisure World and so they came to visit and bought and have lived happily ever after.