

Rossmoor Corp. honors Fernald

The wizened physiognomy of a Chinese patriarch stares out from an oil painting hanging in the vestibule of the Leisure World home of John Marshall Fernald, M. D.

The story behind this ancient Asian with the sparse chin whiskers, reluctantly told, reveals the human warmth of this internationally-renowned surgeon.

The story goes that in the depression years, Dr. Fernald performed emergency surgery on a young woman, aware that his prospects for payment were negligible. A few months later, she brought the unframed canvas of the man she had painted in Chinatown and presented it, with apology, saying that it was all she could afford.

"As it turned out, I was overpaid," laughs Dr. John, "remember the depression years?"

Dr. Fernald's host of friends, acquired in his three years of Leisure World residence, will gather in the rotunda of the Rossmoor Sales Office at 10 a.m. on Friday, July 6 when his color portrait will be put on display after a brief ceremony. There it will remain until August 1, when the framed portrait will become his property as it gives way to Rossmoor's honoree for August.

Born in Fresno, Fernald was named after his maternal ancestor, Chief Justice John Marshall. After attending Los Angeles Poly High and U.C.L.A., he earned his doctorate at the University of California Medical School at San Francisco.

At Poly High, he met Margaret Mills, but it was some 10 years later that they were married. She recalls, "John would take me to pre-med meetings and then to Chapman's for an ice cream cone. That was our courtship."

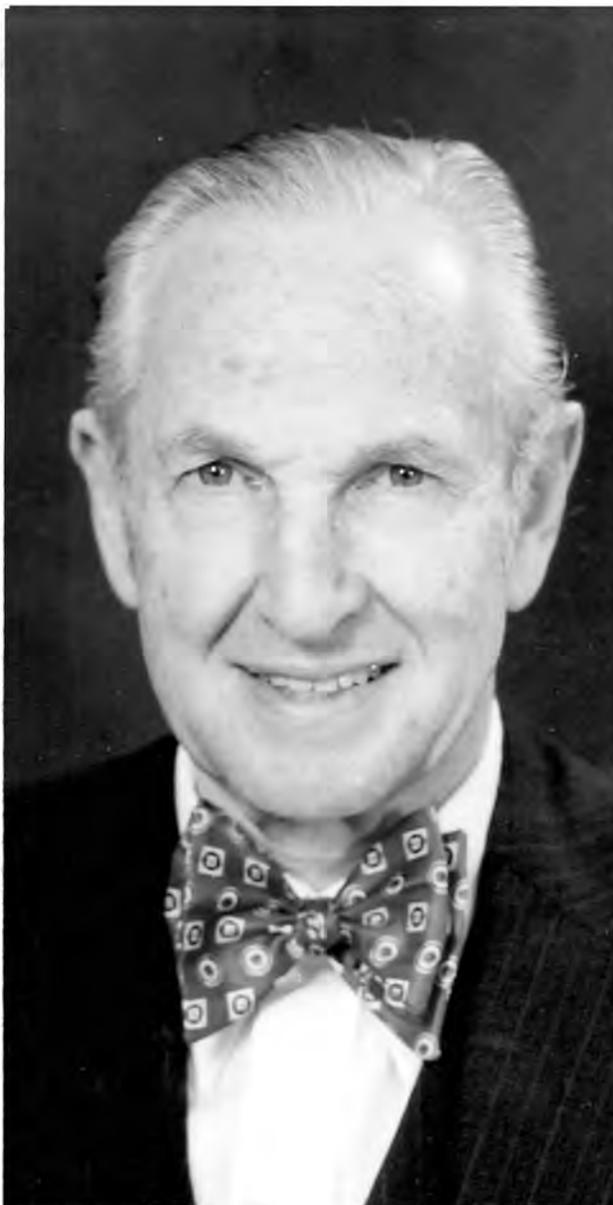
Typical for a young doctor in those days, Fernald rode the police ambulance and handled emergency cases at the old Georgia Street Receiving Hospital while establishing an office in the Wilshire District.

World War II interrupted his practice. As a medical officer in the Air Force, his first assignment was setting up surgery departments in station hospitals. During that time he also served as chief of surgery and surgical inspector.

In addition to his private practice, Fernald spent 30 years as a surgery instructor at the University of Southern California and at the California Hospital Medical Center.

Of his innumerable professional honors, perhaps these head the list: Vice-Regent and Fellow, International College of Surgeons; Fellow and Life Member, American College of Surgeons; and Diplomate, American Board of Surgery.

Of his community responsibilities, his work with the YMCA won him Los Angeles' highest honor, the Golden Book Award for Distinguished Service. Fernald became President of Sertoma International in



Dr. John Marshall Fernald

1954 and was awarded its Distinguished Service Award in 1961. The same year the Wilshire Chamber of Commerce named him their "Man of the Year."

Last year the Los Angeles City Council honored him with a large plaque bearing the city seal and reading:

"Dr. John Marshall Fernald, whose life work has

Important to be active says LWer for July

been dedicated to helping his fellow man. His special and unique human spirit is mirrored in the concern, compassion and understanding he expresses toward others."

He had served on Mayor Sam Yorty's City Planning Commission and the Committee for the Revision of the City Charter.

Even while practicing and teaching surgery, he lectured at home and abroad. Last year, he made 74 presentations of both medical subjects and motivational talks to business conferences, schools, churches and clubs. He is a member of the National Speakers Association. Locally, he is sponsored by Eldorado Bank which has just recently opened its Leisure World branch. He adds that his wife is his most severe critic for his talks.

Fernald is the President-elect of the Saddleback Kiwanis Club, immediate past president of the Leisure World Republican Club and a director in the Medical Society of Leisure World. In addition, he is a member of the Stamp Club, Saddleback Toastmasters and a trustee of the Dwight David Eisenhower Scholarship Fund. Both he and Margaret are active in their United Methodist Church groups.

The Fernalds did their travelling before he retired, including a cruise around the world. Now they satisfy their urge for foreign travel by attending Travel Club One.

"The only place we have a continual urge to go now is to Glendale to see our only daughter, Carolyn Oberg, and her son, our only grandson, John Philip, 6."

Says Dr. John Marshall Fernald, "The most important item in life is to be active and try and help the other fellow a bit. Inactivity will surely kill you."