

Great World

By Ross W. Cortese



We are happy once again to add our voice to those who have been congratulating Wallace T. Filson who has been chosen Leisure World for the Month of January in the Home Federal Savings and Loan program which recognizes outstanding members of our community.

For a fellow who once vowed that he didn't want to "live with all those old folks," Filson has become an ardent spokesman for our community as a place where "there are more young energetic old people than anywhere," as he puts it.

And Filson himself is a prime example of that kind of spirit.

In the 13 years he has been a resident of Leisure World, Filson has served as director and president of Mutual 28, and later Third Laguna Mutual which he helped organize to merge with 28. He worked also with Saddleback Area Coordinating Council and with the Golden Rain Foundation.

He comes by all this expertise through more than 50 years as a lawyer working with Prudential Insurance Company as resident

attorney and for a few years in private practice after his retirement from the insurance firm at age 65.

Retirement was not for this energetic gentleman who during his college undergraduate days worked as a tent man for the traveling Chautauqua shows. In the early 1920s these shows were America's medium for entertainment and educational experiences. They were phased out after the advent of radio and later television, but in their prime, the tent shows were outstanding.

"We worked like the devil," Filson recalled "travelling all over the country." He also recalled that it was during one of those travelling experiences in the East that he met his future bride. They were married 52 years before Mrs. Filson died in 1978.

Again, it always is a pleasure to write of these outstanding people who are recognized each month by selecting committee from the Historical Society and honored in ceremonies by Home Federal. Our congratulations and thanks this month to Wallace T. Filson.