

Ferd Hall chosen Leisure Worlder

When Ferdinand A. Hall was a student at Northwestern he was a member of the then famous Wildcats' flying trapeze team. "I was the catch-man" says the tall and still athletically trim man who will soon step down from the presidency of the Golden Rain Foundation. He flexed his strong hand as if to say he seldom dropped anyone.

"In the job he's leaving, Ferd was still something of a catch-man, if you know what I mean," said a friend in speaking of the community problems Hall has helped to handle. Ferd is the first to admit the trapeze act analogy might have some merit.

Because of the unusual succession of circumstances Hall has been involved in community governance almost from the time he and his charming wife Florence moved in a decade ago. First he was a director of Mutual 32, and after that three times president of Third Mutual. His election to fill a one-year vacancy on GRF in 1977 was followed by being selected for an ensuing three-year term and that accounts for his presence on the GRF board for four years - one year beyond the normal tour

of duty.

Now that Hall is finished with the governance "trapeze act," the Rossmoor Corporation selection committee felt it was time for Ferdinand Hall to take a bow and so it has chosen him as its Leisure Worlder of the Month for May.

On Friday, May 2 his color portrait will be hung in a place of honor in the Rossmoor New Sales salon. His friends are invited to participate in the brief and informal ceremony at 10 a.m. The handsomely-framed photograph, embossed on canvas, will remain there until Monday, June 2, when it will be presented to him.

From the time he left the Northwestern campus at Evanston, Hall's career was insurance. He started out with the Illinois Automobile Club in Chicago, came to California in 1937 and after a five-year stint with E. Broox Randall & Sons his 40 year career was well started. Included were 15 years as vice president and Pacific Coast manager for Security Insurance Co., of New Haven, Conn.; 13 years as vice president of Mission Equities Corp., while serving as senior vice president of Mission Insurance Co.



Ferdinand A. Hall

Hall was born in the shadows of old Comiskey Park in Chicago. Although his Swedish immigrant father moved the family to Evanston a few years later and well before Urban Faber, Ed Cicotte, Eddie Collins and others led the White Sox to their first world pennant over the Giants, Ferd has forever been a lifetime American

League fan and says, "I still read the American League box scores first. I guess you'd say I am incurable." By the same token he will always cheer for the Big Ten.

Ferd was a sopping-wet 175 pound football tackle at Northwestern under the famous coach Dick Hanley; good enough to win a letter although he never earned

a starting role.

"My father was a milkman," Ferd recalls. "My brother and I took turns hitching up the wagon and accompanying Dad on his route at 1 a.m. when we were in grade school. It was automatic that I would go to Evanston Township High and then on to Northwestern."

It was while working in the Evanston post office to pay his way through college that young Hall met a blue-eyed Irish colleen named Florence McGrath.

"Ferd worked at night and since I worked days at the post office we used to exchange love notes on time cards," says Florence.

"We tried to keep our romance a secret so when I pinned her, instead of wearing my fraternity pin on her blouse Florence attached it under her collar," Fred reports. Our five children can truthfully say their grandparents came over on the Mayflower. That's where my mother and father met, on a steamer named the Mayflower."

The Halls have 16 grandchildren. "At last report, that is," says Florence with a twinkle in her eyes.

How did Hall get in-

involved in Leisure World government? He explains, "Shortly after we moved in a man came to the door and said he was with the Mutual 32 nominating committee and wondered if I'd be interested. I said I didn't think so but Florence thought because I had served on the board of directors of the Verdugo Towers condominium where we had lived, that my experience might be of some use." He was elected a director, was named vice president, and the die was cast.

Needless to say, Hall hasn't had much time to become a joiner in the community. As a longtime member of the Oakmont Country Club in Glendale it was automatic he would join the Laguna Hills golf club; and every Sunday morning at 8 a.m. mass he is an usher at St. Nicholas Church but that's about the extent of it. When he's no longer an office holder, Ferd figures he will have time to pay more attention to his golf game. He might even sit down occasionally and play the electric organ that graces their living room. The trouble with that is their living room window overlooks the eighth green of the third nine and on a still day Ferd can hear someone holler "fore."