

Laguna Woods

GLOBE

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VILLAGERS OF THE MONTH

Realty agents Phyllis and Van Heflin have served the community for three decades.

By **CHERYL WALKER**
THE LAGUNA WOODS GLOBE

Husband and wife Villagers of the month are rare.

Rarer still, though, is to have two real estate agents granted the unique distinction.

Yet the Historical Society deemed Phyllis and Van Heflin worthy of the recognition for their more than three decades of service to buyers and the community. They will be honored at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6, in Clubhouse 6.

Their love story mirrors the words of the old song: "I Met a Million Dollar Baby in the 5 and 10 Cents Store," for Van, a native of Texas, was manager of the F.W. Woolworth store in Los Angeles, when he met Phyllis, a native of the Golden State, in his store and the two fell in love.

The teenagers married in 1949 in the City of the Angels and have been working partners for most of the years since.

People with long memories might remember them as the owners of The Coral Tree Gift Shop which was located where Long's Drugs now is. The two sold their business and decided to go into real estate.

Phyllis remembers the Christian Women's Club (which she organized in the mid 1960s) got her involved in



JEFF ANTENORE, CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

SERVING THE COMMUNITY: Phyllis and Van Heflin have served the Laguna Woods community for three decades.

the community and the more she and Van knew the better they liked.

The two used to sell real estate for Leisure World Realtors in the old Administration Building on La Plata, now they work out of Laguna Woods Properties office in the Laguna Woods Towne Centre with their daughter and fellow real estate agent Jennifer.

The three are top sellers and have a solid reputation.

"We live by the Golden Rule," explains Phyllis, "do unto others as you would have them do to you and when you know something is wrong, admit it."

Phyllis says she and Van divide the work with her doing the talking, him the paperwork.

"We try to make people hap-

py," she explains noting that after three decades in the business they have no intention to slow down yet.

Residents of the Village themselves since 1987, the Heflins also have tried to give back to the community that's been so good to them and their child, Jennifer, who is outselling even her mom and dad.

They've contributed to the Leisure World Foundation, are involved with the Saddleback Kiwanis, the Senior Olympics, Opera 100, the Men's 9 Hole Golf, the Saddleback Memorial Medical Foundation and Saddle Club.

They've also been very active in Geneva Presbyterian Church and members of the Republican Club.