



LEISURE WORLD NEWS

www.oeregister.com/lagunawoods

Thursday
May 27, 2004



NEWS PHOTO BY ROD VEAL

Joseph Heller, in his Leisure World home, is the Leisure Worlder of the Month.

Society's choice keeps up amenities

By Cheryl Walker
The News

"A dollar value for every dollar spent" was the campaign slogan of the man who has kept that promise as the Golden Rain Foundation maintenance chairman and second vice president.

Now, the Historical Society has selected Joseph Heller as its June Leisure Worlder of the month for doing just that, and more.

He's a certified journeyman carpenter, master cabinet-maker and inspector trained to oversee welding, concrete, masonry and re-inforcing steel.

He's also a member of the Camera and Computer clubs, Community Concerts, Opera 100 and Meals-on-Wheels program.

And, he's served as a construction consultant for Temple Judea and an advisor and director of the Third Board be-

fore being elected to Golden Rain.

His expertise in all phases of the construction industry has made him the right man to head GRF's maintenance committee as it considers the best way to keep aging amenities in top form.

According to current Golden Rain President Maurice Kravitz, Heller is "a tremendous asset to GRF and the community in his diligence to get the facts on any situation and follow through to a conclusion."

Former Golden Rain President Milton Robbins added that Heller's background in the construction industry makes him a tremendous asset not only in the maintenance and construction committee but as a board member.

Says Robbins: "He's a hard and conscientious worker, always with the goal of maintaining and improving all of Leisure World."

BACKGROUND

The New York native served in the Army/Air Corps during World War II then, after discharge, he moved West, to Southern California, and opened his own custom cabinet shop and did general carpentry work, displays and tenant improvements.

In the mid 1970s he closed his shop and started working for the Los Angeles housing authority as a building inspector.

He retired in 1987 and a few years later moved to Leisure World. In June, he'll celebrate 15 years in the community.

He credits former Third President Tom McCauley with challenging him to get into mutual governance. And he's worked as an advisor or director ever since.

Heller points out that although he's not the most flam-

boyant member of the board, he works hard to get things accomplished and does so because he knows how to get along well with the other members of his board and staff. "I have an excellent rapport," he explains.

But Heller is not all work and no play. He enjoys classical music, ballet, fine art, volunteerism and learning new things, like the endless search for knowledge about computers.

In fact, it was his interest in computers that got him involved as a charter member with a rather unique group.

It meets for lunch every Monday at a neighborhood restaurant and solves all the problems of Leisure World, the state, the world and, of course, computers.

Heller says the group started when he and several other male "fossils" bought computers and got together once a week to learn what to do with them.

The group calls itself the "Romeos," says Heller. But they're not the last of the red hot lovers.

They do, however, have a passion: for good talk, food and fun.

The letters of the word, he explained, are abbreviations for "Retired Old Men Eat Out."