
Leisure Worlder of the Month

Bud and Lee Hermann

The desire of Bud and Lee Hermann to participate has not only brought them happiness, but has brought happiness to others at Leisure World. Since their arrival in 1972, the couple has helped in many ways to enhance Leisure World. To honor them, they have been named "Leisure Worlders of the Month," by the Leisure World Historical Society. The Hermanns will be honored at a special ceremony on Wednesday, July 1, at 10:00 a.m. in Clubhouse Six. The public is invited to attend the program, which is sponsored by Home Federal Savings and Loan Association.

Wilbert "Bud" Hermann, born in Quincy, Illinois, was influenced throughout his life by music. His father, a church organist, encouraged his five children to learn and enjoy music. Bud studied violin and piano and played clarinet in his high school band. After studying science and mathematics for three years at Quincy College, he left school to perform with a dance band. Later, he studied watchmaking and engraving at Bradley Polytechnic Institute in Peoria, Illinois and opened a jewelry store with his brother, Charles. With the coming of World War II, Bud worked at the Puget Sound Navy Yard in Washington as an instrument maker. During this time, he played with the Bremerton Symphony and studied violin with the concertmaster of the Seattle Symphony. After the war, Mr. Hermann moved to Los Angeles where he met his future wife. They married and settled in Glendale. There, he was employed by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena where he worked on the development of a fused quartz accelerometer and optical proximity sensors, the same that were designed for use on the space shuttle. While he lived in Glendale, he played with the Glendale Symphony and built a three manual electronic organ. He later built his own computer.

Lillian "Lee" Hermann was born in Virginia and at the age of six migrated to Cincinnati with her family. She received a degree in Fine Arts from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. In 1942, she came to the West Coast, doing art work in the recreation department of a company involved with aircraft sub-assembly. She worked at the Disney Studios after the war as a Disney Player. Disney Players visited hospitals and army rest and relaxation centers entertaining the soldiers. After Disney, Mrs. Hermann worked in advertising until she became a color consultant for a large architectural firm in Los Angeles. During this time she worked on many school projects in areas such as Costa Mesa and Garden Grove, where small rural districts were growing. She served as president of the Los Angeles chapter of the Association of Women in Architecture and was national president of that same organization.

While at the Leisure World, Bud and Lee have set up the present Leisure World Jewelry and Enameling workshop. Because of the overwhelming success, a new studio was needed and it was the Hermanns that were instrumental in its creation. The Hermanns were founding members of the Jewelry and Enameling Arts Club, with Lee being instrumental in bringing the finest jewelers in the Los Angeles/San Diego area to the club for workshops and speaking engagements. Lee is also a member of the Festival Committee. Lee has been president of the Jewelry and Enameling Arts Club for two terms and the Rock and Gem Club. She has taught enamel classes for seven years, and has coordinated the spring Arts and Crafts show for five years. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hermann retired in 1972, upon arriving at Leisure World. Since their arrival, they have pursued their interests in jewelry, genealogy and the computer. "Our decision to live in Leisure World was one of the happiest of our lives."