

UP CLOSE: MALCOLM HESLIP

An intimate look at one of coastal Orange County's interesting personalities.

It seems appropriate that Malcolm Heslip was picked as Leisure Worlder of the month for July — the month in which US citizens commemorate their country's independence with patriotic marches.

Malcolm is something of an expert on marching bands and particularly on a celebrated band leader named John Philip Sousa, with whom he played when he first joined the Navy fresh out of high school in 1917.

"It was quite an experience for an 18-year-old kid to play with the greatest bandmaster in the world. I became well-acquainted with him and followed his career with interest right up until his death in 1932.

His father had taught him to play the flute when he was in the fourth grade and although he hasn't kept it up, he is still a music enthusiast. He and his wife, Doris, were among the original supporters of the Performing Arts Center in Costa Mesa.

So fascinated is he with Sousa's life and work that he wrote and published a book about him in 1982 called "Nostalgic Happenings in the Three Bands of John Philip Sousa," which he never sold, but rather donated to libraries and interested groups throughout the world.

Heslip, who is retired from lecturing in business at the University of California, Los Angeles, is now working on another book, "My Life and Times under 16 Presidents," though he's getting ready to change that to 17 pretty soon. "I'm doing this just for my family and friends, and I don't plan to sell it to anyone," he said.

He is also working on a book for the Leisure World Historical Society about the community's first 25 years, in preparation for the community's silver anniversary celebrations next year.

■ **Born:** St. Louis, Mo.

■ **Reared:** Mount Vernon, Ill.

■ **Time in Leisure World:** 11 years.

■ **Previous residence:** Santa Monica.

■ **Marital status:** Married to Doris for 11 years. The couple first met 40 years ago and married after they moved to Leisure World. They had both lost their spouses within six months of each other.

■ **Children:** A daughter, Susan McCormack; four granddaughters: Marilyn, Susan, Lisa and Janet; and four great-grandsons.

■ **Religion:** Methodist.

■ **Political affiliation:** Republican.

■ **Work experience:** Heslip started learning to be an engraver at age 14. Within one year, he was doing all the repairs in the jeweler's shop where he worked. Right after high school, he joined the Navy. He had been in about a month when he was chosen along with more than 100 others to join Sousa's Navy band. He played flute and piccolo in the band for seven months and said it was one of the most exciting times of

his life.

When he left the Navy at the end of World War I, he went to the University of Illinois and studied economics.

After graduating, he took a job writing advertising copy for a clothing company in Chicago and stayed there for eight years. Then he went back to the University of Illinois to study for a master's degree in business administration.

In 1931, he received a commission in the United States Naval Reserve, where he rose from the rank of captain and saw active service in the North Atlantic, Mediterranean and the Pacific. He became an associate professor of naval science at the University of California, Berkeley. When World War II ended, he earned his Ph.D. in economics at USC and then in September 1946 began working at UCLA, where he taught in the graduate school of business administration for 19 years. Heslip has now been retired for almost 25 years and is getting ready to celebrate his 90th birthday on Halloween.

■ **Clubs and affiliations:** Academians, of which he was president in 1980-81. He also wrote a 10-year history of the club from its inception in 1977. Malcolm and his wife are members of the Leisure World Historical Society, which conferred the Leisure Worlder of the Month title upon him.

The couple also belong to the Writers and Publishers Club, Opera 100, the Beethoven Club and they are founding supporters of Saddleback Hospital and the Performing Arts Center in Costa Mesa.

■ **Heroes:** Thomas Edison and Abraham Lincoln. "I was raised

about 100 miles from where (Lincoln) had lived, and I used to hear my grandfather talk about him, as he had fought in the Civil War."

■ **Hobbies:** "I collect gold coins — just American these days — but I used to collect them from all over the world. I also love to listen to music and go to concerts and operas. Traveling abroad is another of my hobbies."

■ **Last book read:** "I've been working so hard on my own book, I really haven't had time to read any others."

■ **Favorite president:** Woodrow Wilson: "He seems to have been the most cerebral president and did a great job in getting the First World War stopped."

■ **In the morning:** "I'm not much of a morning person, but I usually get up, read the newspaper and get to my desk by 10 a.m."

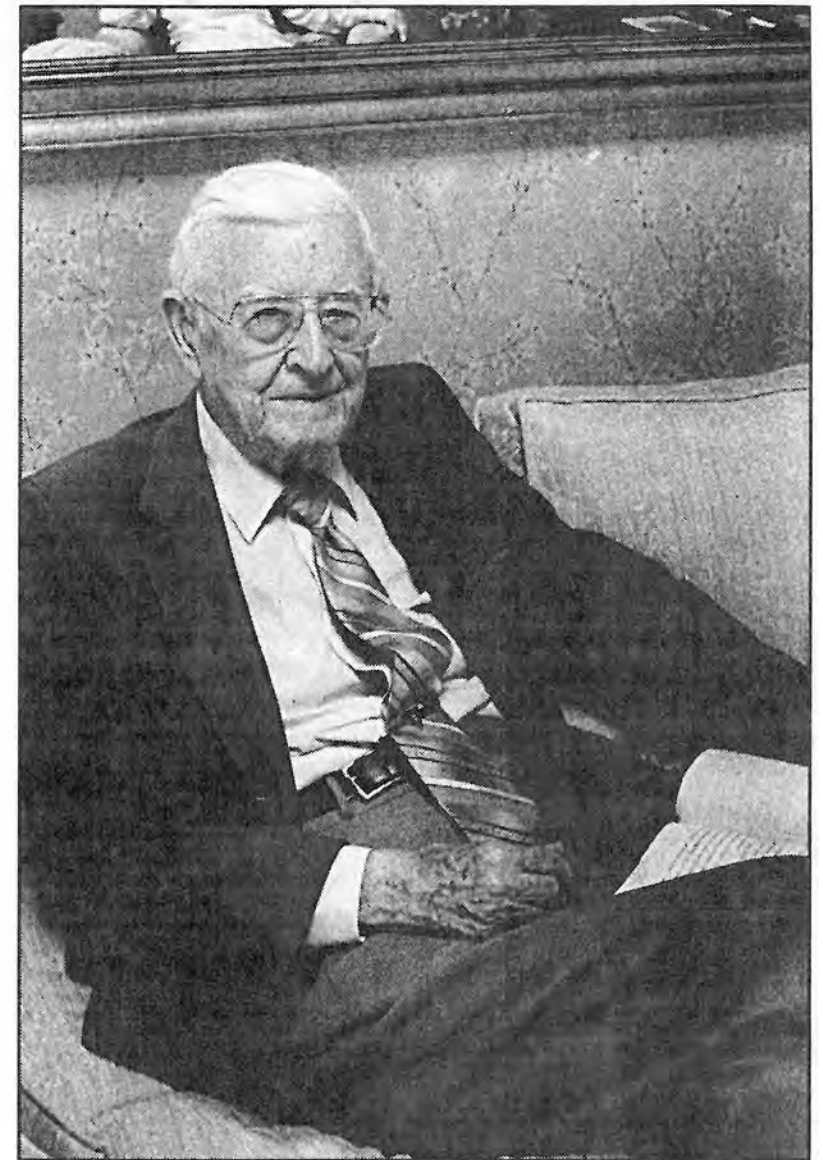
■ **Favorite comic strip:** "I haven't read a comic strip in 25 years. I just had to cut out reading frivolous things when I started working on my books."

■ **Favorite television show:** Operas and music shows on PBS.

■ **Last movie:** "We haven't seen one in over a year and I can't remember what the last one was."

■ **Favorite food:** Lobster Newburg. "But after you've eaten Navy food, anything tastes pretty good!"

■ **Favorite restaurant:** Oriental restaurants.



Leonard Ortiz/The Register

Malcolm Heslip, 89, is working on an autobiography and a history of Leisure World.

■ **Magazine subscriptions:** Time — "I've been getting it since it was first published in 1923." Also Newsweek, Numismatist (a coin-collecting magazine), The Writer and Business Week.

— Compiled by Sarah Salkeld