

Great World

By Ross W. Cortese
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Belated congratulations to Rossmoor's Leisure Worlder of the month for March, Henry R. Lefebvre.

Friends of Lefebvre know he was once known as the "French Flash" for his speed on the gridiron as a fullback for the University of Southern California.

They also know the reason he was chosen as Leisure Worlder of the month was in recognition for his outstanding service to youth.

He has been honored four times by the YMCA in his native Long Beach for "Service to Youth." Over the years, the Long Beach 'Y' has received \$140,000 from Lefebvre.

And in Heritage Hall at USC, the name Henry R. Lefebvre is among those listed as donors to the fund for the Dean Cromwell Track and Field Stadium...Henry R. Lefebvre, class of 1925, \$100,000.

Other youth groups to benefit from Lefebvre's generosity include Rainbow Acres, a home for mentally retarded boys at Camp Verde, Ariz. and Orange County's Joplin Boys Ranch.

Lefebvre and his wife of 40 years, Agnes, never had children of their own, and that lack has partially explained the desire to share with others. Says Hank, "We have a guilty feeling, making so much more money that we'll ever need."

Lefebvre's major source of income is a highly successful swimming pool appliance business, and the ownership of several patents.

But it wasn't always high income for Lefebvre. After a highly successful athletic career at Long Beach Poly High School, he joined the Trojan athletes at USC where teammates described him as "swift, smart and sturdy."

When he graduated from USC, the country was in a peak of an economic depression, and jobs were almost non-existent.

With some friends he tried gold mining for a time in Yuma, Ariz., but at \$18 an ounce, the few nuggets they found were hardly worth the effort.

He played a few games of pro football at \$125 a game, but saw little future in that. Then he got a part time job at Warner Bros. studio as a stage helper, and stayed with that until World War II came along. He joined the Navy, earned chief petty officer's stripes, served as a rehabilitation officer at the Long Beach Naval Hospital and married a nurse.

It was Agnes who turned him away from returning to Warner Bros., and toward the swimming pool business and financial security.

Lefebvre's talents in arts and crafts also have produced income which is placed in his charity fund. He excells in lapidary, wood carving sculpture and painting, and he has won many honors for his works.

Among his creations at home is a bronze casting of a baseball runner sliding into second base. The second baseman is former Dodger player, Jimmy Lefebvre, Hank's nephew.

Lefebvre has a standing offer with the Laguna Hills Lions club to match the funds raised by fellow members to be used each year to charter a boat to take members of the Joplin Boys Ranch on a deep-sea fishing excursion.

An interesting, generous and outstanding neighbor at Leisure World, Henry Lefebvre helps make our community a wonderful place in which to live.