

An august honor for Isabella Leland

After receiving her business degree from the University of Kentucky in 1925, Isabella Leland went to work for a local bank filing canceled checks. A few months later, she was put in charge of the drafts and collections window, the first woman to ever hold such a position in that bank.

Today the go-getter spirit of those early days remains. And to recognize all of her contributions, Isabella Leland will be honored as Leisure World of the Month for August in a program sponsored by Home Federal Savings and the Leisure World Historical Society, of which she is a past president.

The honoring ceremony will be on Thursday, Aug. 1 at 10 a.m. in Clubhouse 6 and the public is invited.

A major portion of Isabella's career was spent with Time, Inc., where she began as a general office worker and quickly moved up various rungs of the ladder. She set up a department to answer customers' letters to Time and Life. She worked in the department supplying news from Time to radio stations, and in 1939 she helped design and was in charge of the Time and Life Subscriber's Library.

Isabella married her college sweetheart, pediatrician Stanley Leland, while in New York, and followed him to China when he was

appointed to head the medical activities of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

She continued her work with Time while in Shanghai, setting up correspondent headquarters and sales networks. She also found and trained employees for the Shanghai office and served as liaison with the head office in New York.

The Lelands took leave of China in 1947 when both UNRRA and Time-Life were forced to leave because of political problems in the country. Taking advantage of the situation, the couple took the long way home to New York, touring India and spending two months touring South Africa by car.

In 1949 they were on a freight ship bound for Liberia in West Africa, where Dr. Leland was to work for a private company forming a health and education program. Isabella, not content with sitting around, took a position with the Liberia Co. in information and public relations and helped the Liberian government start its own newspaper.

Their next memorable tour took them to New Mexico, where Isabella became involved in numerous volunteer organizations such as Red Cross and League of Women Voters.

In 1963 they moved to Napa, Ca. and again Isabella became a joiner. She was a member of the state and

local boards of the Mental Health Association and the Citizens Committee on Transportation, as well as the Napa County Committee on Aging.

Leisure World did not dampen her spirit. Isabella, since moving to the community in 1975, has joined and headed many groups. She was a director of United Laguna Hills Mutual from 1977 to 1980. She was active in the Woman's Club, chairing the World Neighbors section in 1977, and as chairman of the club's philanthropies she inaugurated a display detailing the recipients of the club's money. She has been a Camera Club member since 1979 and served on the Showcase Committee until 1983.

As chairman of United's Community Relations Committee she, along with Marion Fox, began the twice-yearly program for new residents. She was also involved in the tax legislation committee and the governance committee studying the possible incorporation of the community. In general, Isabella Leland has continued her record of community service since becoming a resident of Leisure World, rather than sitting back on her laurels.

Nominees for Leisure Worlder of the Month are welcome from all residents. Primary criterion is a record of service to the community. Send in-



Isabella Leland

formation to the Leisure World Historical Society, PO Box 2220, Laguna Hills 92654, marked confidential to the president. The information can also be dropped off at the Historical Society office in the Administration Building.