

Trombonist honored as LWer for November

He hadn't touched his touched a trombone for more than 30 years. But that did not stop Vern McGuire from renting one soon after he moved to Leisure World, and auditioning for the Leisure World Orchestra. He was accepted, of course and today he'll contend that "saying it with music keeps me young."

On Wednesday, Nov. 2, the "young" McGuire will be honored as Leisure Worlder of the Month. The ceremony will be held in Clubhouse 6 at 10 a.m. and the public is invited to attend. The program is sponsored by Home Federal Savings and the Leisure World Historical Society.

Born on a farm near Spokane Wash., McGuire played many instruments during his school years, but his favorite was the trombone which he played in bands and orchestras.

- Job opportunities were scarce when McGuire received his degree in business administration from Washington State College (now WSU), so he traveled with the Blue Baron Dance Orchestra. Later he settled in Seattle and worked for General Paint Corp., transferring about 13 years later, to the corporate offices in San Francisco as chief accountant and ultimately became a senior vice president.

General Paint in 1960, was purchased by Glidden Co. with offices in Cleveland.



Vern McGuire

But the McGuires liked the west coast, so they moved to San Diego where Vern became assistant to the president of Ryan Aeronautical Co. Ryan soon sent him to a subsidiary in Pasadena, Aerolab Development, designers and manufacturers of sounding rockets. McGuire soon purchased the company

with two other people and Marshall Industries of San Marino. In 1967, McGuire sold his interest and retired.

When his three sons were in college, in 1970, the McGuires moved from La Canada to Leisure World, and he has been extremely busy ever since with his music, dancing, bowling, classic and antique cars, traveling and reading. He was a director of Third Laguna Hills Mutual for three years, followed by three years on Golden Rain.

He continued to serve on various committees as well as being active in the Washington State Club where he was president for two years and the official Bingo caller for many years.

His collection of cars includes a Lincoln Continental and he is an active member, outside of Leisure World, of the Lincoln Continental Owners Club.

But the trombone dominates his life. Besides the Leisure World Orchestra, he joined the Saddleback Community Band and during the summers sits in with the Anaheim Community Band. He played with the Leisure World Dixieland Jazz Group, was an original member of the Leisurettes and is currently a member of the 19-piece "Senior Class" band which specializes in music from the 1940s and 50s.

McGuire has a favorite motto taken from the 1924 Douglas Fairbanks' movie "Thief of Bagdad," "Happiness must be earned." Vern McGuire is a very happy man.

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