

Former resident honored in California

When the United States entered World War I, Howard E. Moore was a senior in high school. He graduated a short time later as valedictorian and class president and in military uniform.

The young enlistee was sent to France where he served with the Army scouts in a reconnaissance role patterned after that of the legendary Indian scout. Moore performed his task with distinction and was awarded a battlefield commission.

These early adventures set the tone for a long life of continuing service and accomplishments that have won Moore recognition as Leisure Worlder of the Month in Laguna Hills, Calif. The program honoring the retirement community's leading citizens is sponsored by Home Federal Savings and the Leisure World Historical Society.

His color portrait will be unveiled in a ceremony held Wednesday, Sept. 1, in the local Rossmoor Pavilion. The picture will then be on view for a month at Home Federal's Laguna Hills office before being presented to Mr. and Mrs. Moore at a similar public gathering in October.

Born on a Northwestern Pennsylvania farm on land settled by his great-grandfather in the early 1800s, Moore was two years old when his family moved to this area where he lived most of his life until retirement. His future as a history buff was enhanced by a boyhood spent near the sites of the four forts in Franklin as well as the old Pioneer Cemetery, where one can see stones marking the graves of Revolutionary War veterans as well as those of the War of 1812.

He became a soldier himself just two weeks after America enlisted in World War I. "That's how long it took me to get my parents' consent to enlist," he recalls.

Eventually sent home from France as a lieutenant to teach scouting maneuvers to trainees, he was preparing to sail overseas again when the armistice was signed.

After his discharge, Moore joined the Franklin plant of the Chicago Pneumatic Tool Co. as an apprentice and studied mechanical engineering with the International Correspondence Schools of Scranton, Pa. The next 42 years saw him ascend the chain of command from service engineer to general plant manager.



HOWARD E. MOORE

Moore family became involved in the war effort. Wife Marion returned to the plant secretarial job she held when she first met Howard and the couple's three sons all served in the military.

Peacetime activities for Moore included numerous civic involvements in Franklin. A hospital and bank director, he also served on the boards of the Salvation Army, YMCA, United Fund, library and school district.

He became a steward and trustee of the local Methodist Church where he had earlier organized and led a troop of the Boys Brigade, a predecessor of the Boy Scouts. He also was a founder and commander of Franklin's American Legion Post.

Moore brought those same talents to Leisure World where he has been on the United Mutual nominating committee for the past three

years, serves on Saddleback Hospital's scholarship committee and highly active in the United Methodist Church.

Augmenting an interest in photography, he joined the local Camera Club and attended Emerita Institute classes in slide presentation and tape recording. His library of slide-tape shows presented to clubs throughout Orange County includes such topics as western artists, travel, Masonic heritage and the early days of the oil industry in his hometown region site of America's first oil well in 1859.

Another large influence in Moore's life is Masonry. He is a life member of the York Rite Bodies in Franklin and of three other Scottish rite bodies in Pennsylvania, serving as thrice potent master of the Oil City Lodge of Perfection and president of the Venango County Shrine Club.

His devotion to the fraternal organization gained recognition in 1968 when he was coronated a 33rd degree Mason, an unsolicited honor conferred on approximately one in every 200 members of the order. Moore's Masonic activities in Leisure World include National Sojourners and the High Twelve Club. He is former president of the latter group, which raises funds for youth scholarships.

Although his life has been steeped in American history, Moore refuses to dwell on things past. A voracious reader, he keeps up to date by faithfully following the news in the Wall Street Journal and three other newspapers.

He and his wife spent eight winters in Florida and the Southwest before choosing Laguna Hills as their retirement home in 1968. In addition to the obvious amenities of the community the weather was a top drawing card for Moore.

"He hated the Pennsylvania snow so much that I did most of the shoveling," his wife interjects. "If I see a little snow on Mt. Baldy, that's enough for me," Moore adds.