

History buff is glad to be away from snowy east

When the United States entered World War I, Howard 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 World of the Month for September. The program honoring the community's leading citizens is sponsored by Home Federal Savings and Loan and the Leisure World Historical Society.

His color portrait will be unveiled in a ceremony at 10 a.m. Wednesday, September 1, in the Rossmoor Pavilion at Valencia and Carlota. It 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, Pa. farm on land settled by his great-grandfather in the early 1800s, Howard was two years old when his family moved to nearby Franklin where he was to live most of his life until retirement.

His future as a history buff was enhanced by a boyhood spent near the sites of four colonial forts and Franklin's old Pioneer Cemetery, where Revolutionary War veterans lie beside those of the War of 1812.

Moore became a soldier himself just two weeks after America entered 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 Company 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.

During a career that spanned such major influences as the depression and World War II, there are many tales to tell. Moore began working a seven-day week when the company became a wartime military supplier and subcontractor for Packard airplane engines.

He recalls the unprecedented addition of 1,300 "Rosie the Riveter" female plant workers to the all-male staff he supervised and the self-described "Father Confessor" role he filled for his hard working and fun living work force.

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 these same talents to Leisure

World where he served on the United Mutual Nominating Committee for three years, serves on Saddleback Hospital's scholarship committee and is active in the United Methodist Church.

Augmenting an interest in photography, he joined the local Camera Club and attended Emeritus 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 1960 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 Marion 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 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," says Moore.



Howard Moore