



LEISURE WORLD NEWS

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Photo by Rod Veal/The News

Don and Esther Morgan energize the many clubs they belong to. Esther also has a love affair with African violets which she grown in her kitchen window.

Couple get Society honors

By Cheryl Walker
The News

The Historical Society hasn't done it often, but occasionally they find a couple so outstanding that only giving both partners Leisure Worlders of the Month honors will do.

And that's what happened for November to Don and Esther Morgan.

The couple came to Leisure World in 1987 and have made themselves invaluable assets to a host of community clubs, both as a team and as individuals.

Esther is known for her work with Ebell and the Women's 9-hole Golf Club while Don has made his mark on the Men's 9-hole Golf Club. Together they've proved outstanding members on the Minnesota, California, Ballroom Dance, World on Film and Lawn Bowling Clubs.

"They are just wonderful people, they energize a club," says Charlotte Schaefer of the

Towers, who has known the pair for decades.

Bill Behrend, former Lawn Bowling Club president, says the couple is "always working" to make a club click.

Wallace Knutsen, Lawn Bowling columnist for The News, agrees noting that the two are "very popular and we're very very pleased they are being honored."

The couple moved to Leisure World on the advice of friends after a varied life which included living in more than a score of different homes.

Being willing to start anew, though, is nothing new to the native Californians who enjoy a good challenge.

One might say, it's even in the blood since Morgan is a descendant of Francis Martin Pomeroy, a scout for Brigham Young and founder of Mesa, Ariz.

Morgan chose auditing as a career, a decision that kept him constantly on the move as he traveled to work on construc-

tion, development and management projects in the Golden State, Utah and Hawaii.

(He even did payroll work for the crew that built a hangar at the former Marine Base at El Toro.)

He married Esther, who had grown up on a farm, in 1940 and she raised their family and kept them performing well while they followed Don to his far-flung assignments.

She rejoined the workforce after their children were

grown.

When she did, she worked as a medical assistant until she joined her husband as they took over a macadamia farm in the Aloha State.

In Leisure World, they quickly learned that the way to really get the best from the community was to get involved and doing so while pursuing their favorite interests: golf, dancing, lawn bowling, bridge and socializing.

"There's a good group in each club we belong to," explains Don who says both he and Esther were surprised they were the Society's choice since "all we wanted to do was have fun."

Fun, yes, but the Morgans were ready to roll up their sleeves too handling membership duties, taking on club officers duties (Morgan was a popular president of the Lawn Bowling Club), helping the club achieve goals like improving clubhouses, making up rosters and otherwise using their computer skills to make members lives easier and better.

"I've been told I'm the girl who 'can't say no'," says Esther with a smile who, in addition to her club work, creates beautiful figurines, plates, paintings, decorative boxes and purses.

And Esther has a green thumb for African violets while Don's is for practical fruits and vegetables which he grows for their and their neighbor's consumption.

Don says Leisure World has more than repaid them for their efforts.

He says he hasn't been disappointed in any way.

He explains, "We love everything here, the beautiful facilities and especially all the people with different ideas. Here, we feel part of a family."

Ceremony facts

Who: Don & Esther Morgan

What: Leisure Worlders of the Month for November

When: 10 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 1

Where: Clubhouse 6

Sponsor: Leisure World Historical Society.