

Great World

By Ross M. Cortese



Our usual congratulatory column for the Leisure Worlder of the month this time gives us an opportunity to salute a genuine international celebrity whose home is Leisure World when he is not in some far off "world" in pursuit of his professional endeavors.

That would be celebrated newspaper columnist and lecturer John Morley who was honored by Home Federal Savings and Loan and the Historical Society as their honoree for the month of November.

Morley has led an exciting and drama-filled life, rubbing elbows with the great political leaders of the world, writing a nationally syndicated column and spending many hours lecturing to audiences at home and abroad.

It seemed natural that he would be destined for international pursuits. He was born the son of a U.S. diplomat and a French mother in Paris, and spent his childhood in various foreign capitals of the world where his father was stationed. His temporary homes included Berlin, Vienna, Cairo, Beirut, Rome, Madrid and Athens. He learned much about the history of the countries and mastered some of the languages.

Before his college era, young Morley showed promise as an athlete, swimming as a contemporary with the great Johnny Weissmuller and Buster Crabbe at the Illinois Athletic Club where he qualified for the 1932 Olympic team, but teamed instead with Lucile in a marriage friends said was doomed but which has lasted now for more than 50 years.

Morley has been cal-

led one of the most dynamic speakers ever to appear before the San Francisco Town Hall which counts among its speakers, Winston Churchill and Norman Vincent Peale. He has won 21 awards for lecturing and reporting including the National Speaker's Trophy voted by his professional peers.

Another honor is the Senior League's National Platform Award. But Morley's most prized recognition came from the Los Angeles Philanthropic Foundation Award for news analysis and support of American ideals. He is in the company of such past recipients as President Ronald Reagan, Omar Bradley and John Wayne.

On the agenda for this wandering orator is an assignment to lecture to holiday cruise guests on the Princess sailing to Acapulco.

That will be a treat for the ship's guests, but tame stuff indeed for a fellow who once sneaked past Soviet security systems to interview Russian author Boris Pasternak then under house arrest. The violation earned Morley greater audiences for his columns "After Hours" and "I Believe." It also earned him banishment for three years from the Soviet Union. But he has written from all over the world, covering the wars and interviewing such giants as Nehru, Nasser, Ben Gurion, Churchill, Chiang Kai-Shek, Arafat and Begin among others.

We are pleased to have such a distinguished person as our Leisure World neighbor and once again extend our congratulations.