

NEWS

UP CLOSE: AL POTTER

An intimate look at one of south Orange County's interesting personalities.

"Live life to the fullest" — that's Al Potter's motto. Retirement for him means rising at 5:30 every morning. He doesn't have to; he wants to.

"Every day is exciting for me. I always thought when I retired I would sleep late every day, but there is so much to do. Retirement is a whole new way of life, and of all the 50 years my wife and I have been married, the last 12 since we moved to Leisure World have been the happiest."

Potter is chairman of the Grounds and Water and the Recruitment committees of the Golden Rain Foundation. Previously, he served for three years on the Third Mutual as chairman of its landscape committee. He attends four meetings a week, and when he is not working on a project for the community, he is out having fun on the tennis court, on the golf course or at the bridge tables.

The former "Leisure Worlder of the Month" is enthusiastic about everything he does. At 72, he swims about three miles a week and takes classes through Saddleback College's Emeritus program. He also takes an active part in the commu-



Leland Holder/The Register

Al Potter has been involved with the landscaping at Leisure World.

nity's government. "I really believe that retirement can be the most fascinating part of a person's life," Potter said.

■ **Born:** Morrison, Ill.

■ **Reared:** Morrison, Ill.

■ **Time in Leisure World:** 12 years.

■ **Previous residence:** Clinton, Ohio.

■ **Marital status:** He and his wife, Portia, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary next year. They plan to spend a week at Yosemite National Park with their daughter, Georganne Friedrich, and her family.

■ **Children:** A daughter, Friedrich, and three granddaughters: Beth, Karen and Cristine, who live in Garland, Texas.

■ **Religion:** Presbyterian.

■ **Political affiliation:** "I'm a registered Republican but I vote independently."

■ **Work experience:** Potter started his own water-softening business in Clinton, Ohio. He continued for 34 years in partnership with his wife, who ran the business while he was in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He retired in 1973.

■ **Clubs and affiliations:** Toastmasters Club. "I've been a toastmaster for 35 years and it has really taught me to think on my feet." Also, the Presbyterian Church Men's Club and Bridge Club.

■ **Hero:** Ralph Smedley, founder of the Toastmasters Club in the United States.

■ **Hobbies:** Reading. "I read about three books per week." Golf, tennis, skiing and playing bridge.

■ **Last book read:** "To the Honor of the Fleet" by Robert Pilpel.

■ **Favorite president:** Abraham Lincoln.

■ **In the morning:** "Three times a week I like to swim for a mile, and the rest of the time I walk."

■ **Favorite comic strip:** "Doonesbury."

■ **Favorite television show:** "Washington Week in Review."

■ **Last movie:** "Tootsie."

■ **Favorite food:** Blueberry pie a la mode.

■ **Favorite restaurant:** The Velvet Turtle.

■ **Magazine subscriptions:** Time.

■ **Last vacation:** "Three years ago I took a golfing trip to Hawaii. But living in Leisure World is like being on vacation all the time. You don't need

to get away to have a good time."

■ **Proudest moment:** "When my wife said she would marry me."

■ **Most embarrassing moment:** "When my wife and I were playing a golf mixer with another couple and I missed four shots in a row."

■ **Secret to happiness:** "Whatever you do, do it enthusiastically. Go all out; that way things turn out to be more fun and more interesting."

■ **Secret to success:** "Marrying the right woman: someone to stand behind you, with you, and keep pushing you."

— Compiled by Sarah Salkeld