

LEISURE WORLDER OF THE MONTH

C. A. "ART" SCHNEIDER

OCTOBER, 1989

LAGUNA HILLS--A former military officer, insurance industry executive, retail operations manager and now active member of this community, Art Schneider will be honored as "Leisure Worlder of the Month," for October.

Art Schneider was born in 1911 at North Lake, Wisconsin--a small town 30 miles west of Milwaukee. He says it had 300 people then and about the same number today.

He attended grade school at North Lake. He caddied for four years, starting at age 12, at the Chenequa Country Club in Chenequa, Wisconsin. He went to high school at Waukesha, which was about 15 miles from home, because there was no high school at North Lake. Art was a member of the golf team, the high school band and the American Legion Band. He was also a member of the National Honor Society. After graduation, he entered Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill. as a Pre-Med student but transferred to the School for Business when he found that he "didn't really care for dissecting small animals."

At Northwestern, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity where he served as Treasurer for two years--a paying job that helped to finance his education. Art participated in intramural athletics and was a member of the Concert and Marching Bands. He was graduated from Northwestern in June 1933--almost at the depths of the depression--with a major in Banking and Finance. Art went to work for the Hardware Mutual Casualty Co., which is now known as Sentry Insurance Co., in Stevens Point in 1933. He worked there until 1946, with three years out for military service. He worked in the Accounting and, later, in Underwriting departments. And for three years he was a traveling auditor calling on insureds throughout Wisconsin and Michigan to determine their Workmen's Compensation and General Liability premiums after their policies expired. Art married Pat Crosby in June, 1940 at Stevens Point, Wisconsin. The Schneiders had three children and five grandchildren. Mrs. Pat Schneider died in 1978, and a year later, Art married Carlmie Ross, who had lived in Leisure World and was widowed two years before.

Art enlisted in the Army in January 1943 as a private and was sent to Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Aberdeen, Maryland for training. He went to Cadre School (a training school for Non-commission Officers) and upon completion, taught Artillery Maintenance on the 155mm. M-1 gun which could shoot a shell about 20 miles.

He put in for Officers Candidate School at the Ordnance School at Aberdeen and was commissioned in November 1943. He was assigned to the Fiscal Division, Chief of Ordnance, Washington, D.C. and was in a travel status from then until his discharge in 1946. He visited Ordnance installations throughout the U.S. Art was promoted to 1st Lt. and then to Captain while on this job. Upon release from the Army, Art returned to Stevens Point and the Hardware Mutual Casualty Co. He was in training to become Underwriting Manager for a new branch office when he received a call from the Colonel he worked for in Washington asking if he would be interested in working for the J. L. Hudson Co. in Detroit.

Art joined Hudson's in December 1946 as Assistant Office Manager. Hudson's, Marshall Field and Macy's were the three largest Dept. Stores in the country with just about the same volume of sales. Hudson's occupied a full block in Downtown Detroit. It was 24 floors above the ground and four floors under the ground level. In the early 1950's it did \$155 million out of one store before the era of branch store.

Art was promoted to Office Manager with the responsibility for Sales Audit, Payroll, Accounts Payable, Data Processing, Statistical, Cashier, Will Call and the secretaries and clerical staff in the Merchandising and Buying Offices. According to Art, there were 1,000 to 1,200 employees in these areas, depending on the season of the year.

Finally, for the last two years before retirement, he served as Director of Credit. Art bought a condo in Leisure World in August, 1974, retired December 31st and moved here in January, 1975. Since coming to the community, he has been a volunteer with Meals-on-wheels, and the In-Service volunteers in the Escort and Messenger department, where he served as President for two years. During that time, the group set up the Stroke Club--a support group for people who have had strokes. This club has just celebrated its eighth anniversary.

He joined the Saddleback Hospital Foundation Board as Treasurer and when Al Hally retired he became Chairman. The Foundation is the fund raising arm of the hospital. He is on the Board of Directors of Saddleback Memorial Medical Center and serves on the Strategic Planning and the Finance Committees. He is also on the Board of Trustees of Memorial Medical Center, Long Beach. Art is also a member of the Saddleback Kiwanis Club, Leisure World Men's Golf Club, Saddle Club, California Club, Community Concert Club, Keyboard Concert Club, and he's the former president of the Michigan Club--now known as the Great Lakes Club and Treasurer of Travel Club

#1

###

The Leisure Worlder of the Month program is jointly sponsored by Home Federal Savings and the Leisure World Historical Society.