



JOHN A. SICKENBERGER

May 1981

John A. Sickenberger had a ready explanation for his long involvement in the community affairs of Leisure World.

"Mr. Cortese came up with a brilliant idea and gambled his money to build this place and we dare not let this heritage slip through our grasp due to careless management," he said. "Someone has to be involved...so why not me?"

He was elected to Mutual Eleven in 1966 when he and his wife Henrietta Marie moved to Leisure World and he continued when it consolidated into Second Mutual, finally becoming an incorporating director of United Mutual.

Sickenberger's association with Saddleback Community Hospital started with his appointment to the board in 1974 and included two terms as president.

He also served as Grand Treasurer of the California Masonic Lodge and as treasurer on the board of the California Masonic Homes.

Forced to quit high school after two years to make a living, the Pittsburgh native progressed from office boy to certified public accountant.

He went to work in the auditing department of Firestone in 1926. Next he took a position with a small company named U.S. Electrical Motors, organizing its accounting department and financial program. When it grew and expanded into the international market, Sickenberger went into marketing and found himself traveling around the globe.

All the while he became increasingly involved in Masonry. In close association with Superior Court Judge Ellsworth Meyer he helped bring into existence the Scottish Rite Masonic Temple on Wilshire Boulevard. He became a 33rd Degree Mason in 1961 and was Venerable Master of the Los Angeles bodies in 1969.

His service with the Midnight Mission in Los Angeles included 27 years as a director and 10 as treasurer.