

# News From



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## LEISURE WORLDER OF THE MONTH FOR MAY JOHN A. SICKENBERGER

For most golfers who move to Leisure World their handicaps drop perceptibly once they retire from business.

With John A. Sickenberger it was just the opposite after he and his pert wife Henrietta turned their back on his highly successful business career and moved here fifteen years ago.

"I had a pretty low handicap at the Riviera Country Club," says John, and his boast is pardonable. "That was because I had plenty of time to play, more than I have been able to find here so my handicap has suffered."

Where has all that spare time gone in retirement? Anyone who knows him will tell you Sickenberger's 15-year dedication to community affairs through offices and directorships in the several mutuals he has served, not to mention a long stewardship on the board of Saddleback Community Hospital, has made inroads on his golf.

Add this to an almost unbelievable list of responsibilities he has assumed outside Leisure World and you get the picture. However much he is attracted to the game, John doesn't consider his sacrifice is wasted.

Sickenberger - two

"Mr. Cortese came up with a brilliant idea and gambled his money to build Leisure World and we dare not let this heritage he gave to us slip through our grasp due to careless management," he says. "Someone has to be involved. I have good health and time, so why not me?"

"Plus a remarkable business mind to cope with the community's problems," says one of his long-time associates in Leisure World activities.

Until his resignation from United in January, Sickenberger had been a mutual director for 15 years. He was elected to Mutual Eleven in 1966 when he moved to Leisure World and served as secretary-treasurer. When it consolidated into what was then called Second Mutual he first served as president and later vice president.

As an incorporator, he became director of United Mutual in 1978 and twice served as vice president.

Elected to the Saddleback Community Hospital board in 1974, he is now serving his second term as president.

In addition, on four occasions he served as a member of the nominating committee for Golden Rain Foundation directors.

That is not all.

For the second straight year Sickenberger is serving as Grand Treasurer of the California Grand Masonic Lodge.

This marks the tenth straight year he is serving as treasurer of the Midnight Mission in Los Angeles that provides lodging and meals for down-and-out boys and men.

Sickenberger - three

For the last five years he has been recorder of the Sovereign San Gabriel conclave of Red Cross of the Constantine, an order of great prestige in Masonry. Sickenberger also in 1961 was coronated a 33rd Degree Mason, the lodge's highest plateau.

As a man with such unquestionably high credentials, the committee found it easy to select John A. Sickenberger for the honor of Leisure Worlder of the Month for May.

John's host of friends are invited to take part in the brief, informal ceremony at the Rossmoor New Sales pavillion at 10 a.m. Monday, May 4, when his color portrait is hung in a place of honor there. The handsomely framed picture will be presented to him in a similar ceremony on the morning of Monday, June 1.

Born within a line drive of old Forbes Field in Pittsburgh, he acquired such Pirate heroes as Honus Wagner, Pie Traynor and Kiki Cuyler.

Forced to quit high school after two years to make a living, he rapidly progressed from office boy to ledger clerk and in a few short years became a senior public accountant.

Sickenberger went to work in the auditing department of Firestone in 1926. Three years later he was appointed treasurer at the new plant the tire company was opening in South Gate, Calif.

Young and adventuresome, he next took a position with a small and little known company named U.S. Electrical Motors. John organized its accounting department and financial program. As it grew and expanded into the national and international market,

Sickenberger - four

Sickenberger went into sales and soon found himself traveling to such faraway places as Pakistan, New Zealand and Australia as well as Europe.

All the while he became increasingly involved in Masonry. In close association with Superior Court Judge Ellsworth Meyer he helped bring into existence the handsome Scottish Rite Masonic Temple on Wilshire Boulevard.

His service with the Midnight Mission on Sixth and Los Angeles includes 27 years as a director.

Sickenberger's interest in Saddleback Hospital which started with his appointment to the board in 1974 has intensified as his second term as president indicates.

"The support of Leisure World residents, both in contributions and volunteer work, has been marvelous," he says. "Do you realize we have over a thousand volunteer workers -- Pink Ladies, Blue Coats (men), Meals on Wheels, Thrift Shop, Gift Shop, etc.?"

"I can't thank our people enough for their continuing support, both in services and money. As a not-for-profit institution we could not exist without this remarkable support of the entire community.

"Presently we are bursting at the seams, even with 155 beds. The population growth in southern Orange County is putting an ever increasing financial burden on us with a demand for increased facilities."