

LEISURE WORLDERS OF THE MONTH
November 1999
JACK AND IRENE TAYLOR

The Leisure World Historical Society is pleased to announce the selection of Jack and Irene Taylor as Leisure Worlders of the Month for November 1999. This event is sponsored by the Society.

Irene was born in Chicago, attended Indiana University, and obtained a Masters degree in Merchandise and Advertising from New York University. She and her husband started business in New York City as representatives for radio stations; became co-owners of several stations. Always active in civic affairs, Irene won awards as Chair for the Beautification Com., for Outstanding Community Service, and as Woman of the Year in Petaluma, CA.

Jack, a Philadelphian, had art scholarships in Philadelphia and at the Univ. of Michigan. In New York, he worked at Saks Fifth Avenue; for a private decorator. He lectured on art at the 1939 World's Fair. When he first came to California, he worked at Saks Fifth Avenue, then moved to Laguna Beach where he set up a demonstration factory and pottery shop, worked as a designer for a ceramics factory which he later bought; did theater, music and art reviews for the South Coast News; created an art program for a day school. He started the Laguna Craft Guild, served as founder and first Guild master. This Craft Guild became the Saw Dust Festival. He began traveling after the death of his wife, and continued after he moved to Leisure World in 1979.

Irene became very active soon after her 1974 arrival in Leisure World, but she still managed to visit 49 states and 125 countries. She worked at Channel 6; was an early worker at the CH 1 "Do Drop In" room. Worked with Meals on Wheels for over 5 years.

The Taylors met on a trip to the L.A. County Art Museum. She asked him if he would give her art lessons--and the romance began. Married in 1983, they moved to the Towers in 1992. She was elected to the Towers Board of Directors in 1994 and served as second First V.P. for two years. She is now chairman of the 1999 Towers Committee for their 25th Anniversary Celebration.

Jack has brought "Art" to the Towers. Some of his many activities include teaching a water color class and a "doodle" class; Establishing the "Artist of the Month" display of Tower artists work; Supplying video for Monday "Art Video" featuring an artist or a museum. "Artist of the Year" was created to honor him. He did the art work for the 25th Anniversary Celebration. His work has been displayed in several galleries. He completed 175 computer paintings and over 125 works in water color and acrylic while at the Towers.

Jack and Irene Taylor have enriched the lives of many of the residents of the Towers, and continue to share with others the many talents they possess.