

# On the Trail of Leisure Worlder honor

An energetic teacher, traveler, leader and coach, Merle Trail still makes his way through life with a twinkle in his eye and a song on his lips.

As a way to say "thanks" for the outstanding example he has set, Trail will be named "Leisure Worlder of the Month for October." A ceremony will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 1 at 10 a.m. in Clubhouse 6. The public is invited to attend the program, which is jointly sponsored by the Leisure World Historical Society and Home Federal Savings.

When Merle Trail was growing up on a farm in Nebraska, he did what many only hear stories about, rode a horse four miles each way to attend school.

The experience must have toughened him up. While attending Nebraska State University, he played tackle on the football team and was named "All Conference" three years running. He was also the team's co-captain and was a Collegiate All-American in 1931. He also was one of five original members inducted into the Nebraska State Athletic Hall of Fame.

Although Trail says that playing professional football was "not too exciting in those days," he was invited to try out for the Green Bay Packers. But he was enjoying his coaching job at the local high school and decided not to go.

Trail coached in Nebraska until 1941 when the family moved to Eagle Rock. The Los Angeles suburb would be their home until moving to Leisure World in 1973.

During those years, Trail followed his son through the Boy Scout program. He taught electronics and civil engineering drafting for 30 years in the Glendale Unified School District.

He also served in many civic capacities.

But with all those activities he says that since retiring he's "never enjoyed life more."

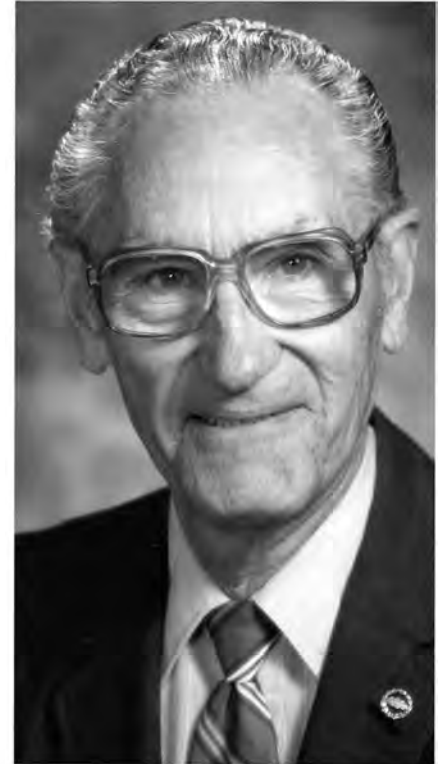
Since coming to Leisure World he's been a member of Mutual 46, Third Laguna and of the nominating committee of Third Laguna. He is a former president of the Club 40 Dance Club, Nebraska Club, Laguna Hills Kiwanis, Travel Club 2, Melody Men and Methodist Men's Club.

He is currently involved with the Saddleback Senior Center where he delivers meals each Monday to 15 housebound seniors in Leisure World, and he just completed three years as lay leader at the United Methodist Church. He is also chairman of youth services and sponsored youth for division 41 of Kiwanis International.

If those activities aren't enough, he is also on the board of the Historical Society, sings with two barbershop quartets, belongs to the American Ballroom Dance Club, Tennis Club, Evening Forum, Republican Club, California Retired Teachers Association, and Nebraska Alumnae Association.

He and his wife of 51 years Vaughn, are avid travelers and says Trail he has taken pictures in "every state except North Dakota." In the mid 60s, the family took a six month trip through Europe, passing through England, Scotland, Norway, Sweden, and as winter came, all the countries of western Europe.

The Trails have two children and seven grandchildren.



**Merle Trail**