

Leisure Worlder

OF THE MONTH

RICHARD T. TURNER

Happiness comes through active and enthusiastic service for others.

That is the firm belief of Richard Thorpe Turner who has been selected by Rossmoor Corporation as Leisure Worlder of the Month for December. Leisure World is the 50th home for Richard and Lee Turner who have been married nearly 50 years. They regard it as one of their best.

As an active and enthusiastic Leisure Worlder, Mr. Turner has done many things for the community and its people since the Turners became residents a dozen years ago.

In 1966 he founded the Latin American Club. Its purpose is to promote better understanding of Latin Americans through lectures and films. With a membership of 650, it is one of the larger clubs in Leisure World.

Mr. Turner also serves Leisure World as a volunteer representative of the International Executive Service Corps of New York. This organization, founded by David Rockefeller, sends retired business executives as volunteer consultants to foreign business firms which have financial or managerial problems. He is proud that he has recruited some 125 Leisure World retirees for such service. More than 35 have had assignments in Latin America, Africa, the Middle East and the Far East.

A former resident of Panama, Mr. Turner is familiar with the problems of the Panama Canal, and is adamant in his conviction that the Canal must remain under American control. Several Leisure World clubs have invited him to present his views on the subject and he accompanies his talk with official films showing the operation of the Canal.

Service to the community has also been rendered through the Kiwanis Club of Laguna Hills, the American Legion and the Masonic fraternity. Mr. Turner is one of the founders of STARS (Senior Talent Active Retired Service), an organization which places Leisure Worlders in jobs in this area.

His interest in foreign lands and cultures began at the close of World War I when he found himself in France after serving in the Signal Corps of the A.E.F. He attended the University of Toulouse and a lifelong romance with foreign tongues and faraway places began.

After graduating from Colgate University, he entered the foreign service of the United States and was assigned for three years as commercial attache to the American Embassy in Lima, Peru. Living with a Peruvian family at that time enhanced his facility with the Spanish language.

During World War II Turner served in Washington on the staff of Nelson Rockefeller, Assistant Secretary of State for Latin American Affairs. While in that service he made several confidential missions to Latin America.

Leaving government service, he became sales manager for Western Electric Company in Central and South America. Later he was named manager for Lehn & Fink Co. in Argentina, Brazil and Chile. His business located him in so many countries that he could hardly believe his wife when she informed him recently that Leisure World was their 50th home.

Following the second World War, Turner joined McGraw-Hill Co., New York as editor-in-chief of two business magazines, one of which was in Spanish. After ten years the Turners retired to Phoenix, Arizona. Shortly he was called to become Professor of International Business at the American Graduate School of International Management. Four years later he was summoned back to New York to be Executive Director of the Council for Latin America, an organization of 200 of the largest corporations in the United States having investment in that area.

All-in-all, Richard Thorpe Turner's life has been interesting, active and filled with many momentous events concerning our Latin American neighbors.

Dick, as his friends call him, met Lee at a wedding in New Jersey and soon they will celebrate their own Golden Anniversary. They have two children and six grandchildren. Dick is a member of the Lawn Bowling Club but admits he finds little time for it. Swimming and biking provide exercise, and helping a local travel agency plan trips for Leisure World residents fills time not devoted to club work.

Together Dick and Lee keep happy, active and enthusiastic in serving the people of Leisure World in many different ways.