

GRF President honored

Waterman named Leisure Worlder for October

"Leisure World is not a place to come and sit in a rocker. If you do, you're missing out on a lot of good things you are paying for anyway. So if you have any gumption left at all, get involved in something".

That's Merwin "Jim" Waterman talking, president of Leisure World's governing body, the Golden Rain Foundation. He has been selected by Rossmoor Corporation as Leisure Worlder of the Month for October and his portrait will be hung in the rotunda of the main sales office during the month. His many friends are invited to the ceremony at 10 a.m., Oct. 2.

Besides giving hours every day to help set policies for the government of Leisure World, and seeing that they are carried out, Jim has been active as vice president of the Michigan Club, president of the University of Michigan Club and is a member of Saddleback Kiwanis Club. Also, he swims a half mile every day he can. "I'm a persistent swimmer," he says.

His interest in Michigan stems from the fact he was born in Jackson, Michigan, July 27, 1903, received his A.B. and M.B.A. and PHD degrees from the University of Michigan and spent more than 50 years at the university until his retirement in 1972. He joined the faculty in Business Administration in 1926 and rose through the intervening ranks to a professorship in 1941.

Dr. Waterman now holds the University of Michigan title "Professor Emeritus of Finance".

Along the way, Jim also found time to author four books and numerous papers and magazine articles concerning finance. He was also a director and financial consultant for several corporations and public utilities.

The Watermans chose Leisure World as their retirement home after careful study. During his last four years at the university, Jim started taking things a bit easy, spending months of each of those years in search of a California retreat. They rented places in Palo Alto, San Diego and finally in Leisure World. Finding the Leisure World life to their liking, they bought a manor and moved in during 1972.



Jim Waterman

In the Spring of 1973, Jim became a member of the board of directors of Third Laguna Hills Mutual and served on the Finance and Community Relations Committees. He was elected to the board of directors of Golden Rain Foundation in 1975 and has served on the Finance and Community Relations Committees. He became president in 1977, was re-elected in 1978 and his term of office expires next May.

"Leisure World has been good to us," Jim says. "We've made good friends. You find congenial people here. No matter what your interests are, you can find a congenial soul. You don't have to like everyone, but you can find people you do like."

Getting along well with people is one of Jim's many talents and it comes in handy in his work with Golden Rain. "We do get some unjustified guff," he admits, "but most of it results from misunderstanding. Of course there are always a few who would rather criticize than understand."

Criticism doesn't bother Jim. He got used to that many years ago. "I do what I think is right and then I can go home and sleep peacefully, I don't lie awake nights worrying that someone doesn't like what I've done. If I do the best I can, I'm satisfied."

In general the vast majority of Leisure World people are supportive and respond well, he says. "All that some people want to do for the community is pay their monthly maintenance bill, and that's all right because it keeps us financially solvent. But to keep the community a good place to live, we need more than that, we need active participation."

"Fortunately, we have a constant flow of new residents who want to participate, and that ensures that the fine quality of Leisure World life will continue."

Jim sees a bright future for Leisure World. Speaking as one who has been very close to the community's government and as an internationally renowned expert on finance, Jim declares Leisure World will continue to be an excellent place to live and it will be financially sound. He admits it will not be immune from the effects of inflation but "it is probably less of a threat here than for people outside our walls."

Jim's main concern is maintaining and improving the good life. That will happen, he feels, as Leisure Worlders take advantage of the many facilities for pleasure and enrichment and in addition, have the gumption to be involved in something for community betterment.