

LEISURE WORLDER OF THE MONTH FEBRUARY, 1997

ED WATSON

The Leisure World Historical Society is pleased to announce the selection of **ED WATSON** as Leisure Worlder of the Month for February, 1997. This event is sponsored by the Society and supported by the Ross Cortese Commemorative Fund.

Edward P. "Ed" Watson was born in the land of the Hoosiers - Mishawaka, Indiana - and received his elementary and high school education in his home town. During a brief Army career he spent academic time at West Virginia University, University of Illinois and the Michigan School of Mining and Technology before going on to Purdue University and completing a BSME Degree.

The Ethyl Corporation was beneficiary of Ed's talents. He served as Sales and Field Service Engineer, Sales and Systems Development Engineer, District Manager, Sales Manager and Manager of Refining Systems during the course of a 35 year career. He received two U.S. patents and was responsible for altering/updating an industry technical standard. After leaving Ethyl, Ed formed a technical consulting service and was active in it for seven years.

Career relocation and business travel were a hindrance but did not preclude Ed's participation in community and civic activities. He was a board member and firefighter of a Volunteer Fire Department (Houston), functioned as an elected director of a local Metropolitan Water District and served as a member of a local elections board. He has been a Mason and is an active Shriner of the Al Malaikah Shrines.

Ed and Janice bought their Leisure World home in 1988, but their association with the community commenced in 1965 when Ed's mother purchased her place. As Ed puts it "You could say I've been a Leisure Worlder eight years going on 32 years". As a corollary to his pre-Leisure World civic activities, Ed became a member of the Petroleum Club, Republican Club, Saddleback Kiwanis, Geneva Presbyterian Church, Mariners Club, Saddleback Memorial Foundation Associates and the Orange County United Way, South County Council. He has been recognized by a number of awards including the Lt. Governor's Award for Outstanding Contributions 1993-1994 and the United Way "Super Star" Award for outstanding participation in the 1995 South Region Council.

The "lower 48 states". South America, Europe, Middle East, Africa, Far East and Australia are dotted with Ed's footprints.

At age 16 Ed had the special experience of learning to fly and earned a Private Pilot's License at 17 which permitted him to carry passengers. All the foregoing before Army service!

The deep involvement in the Aktion Club at Saddleback Community Enterprises for Developmentally Disabled Adults gave Ed a great source of self-satisfaction. He experienced the joy of teaching and helping others less fortunate than himself in providing them with direction to enjoy doing things like other (normal) people. "This has provided a continuing source of personal satisfaction for me when I see the members accomplish a community project. My memory will be of the moment they were able to be 'the givers' rather than 'receivers' of a charitable activity".