

LWer of the Month

Former LA Times sports editor honored

Paul Zimmerman sits in the "office" of his Leisure World manor beside a business-like desk topped with numerous papers, mementos, a phone and a small American flag. Nearby are a well-worn typewriter, and the full, unabridged version of Webster's dictionary, tools of the journalist's trade which he practiced for a half century, 30 of those years as sports editor of the Los Angeles Times. On the walls hang framed citations and plaques commemorating services to the City of Los Angeles, to journalism and to the world of sports.

"Retire but don't quit," he replies when asked his philosophy about spending the years of retirement. "After you stop doing the things you did to earn a living, don't just stop doing everything. Keep active, keep interested, keep the muscles of your body and

mind juiced up.

"Personally, I don't like the idea of enforced retirement," he says. "I loved my job on The Times and I would be there yet if they let me. Some people get old quite early. Others don't."

Paul is obviously one of the latter type. One of Leisure World's most popular citizens, he bounces around the community making numerous speeches before most of the clubs, plays golf less often than he would like, is active in the Laguna Hills and Saddleback Valley Hi-12 Clubs and is especially interested in his work as vice president of the Leisure World Historical Society. He has served as chairman of publicity committee for the Saddleback Valley Hospital and for three years wrote "Hook and Slides" for the Leisure World News.



Paul Zimmerman

"If people find out you can make a talk without putting everyone to sleep, you get lots of bids for speaking engagements," he says. Sports is

his theme. "Folks want to know what about the Rams quarterback. Or will the Dodgers win the pennant again. Or what's happening to the

Angels." Right now Topic number 1 is the 1984 Olympics. Paul speaks with authority, having covered seven Olympics and served on the committee to attract the 1976 games to L.A.

Through the continuing controversy over whether Los Angeles should stage the 1984 summer games, Paul held the view they would be very beneficial to the community and, with good planning and proper management, could be put on without costing the taxpayer a cent.

Paul Zimmerman has been selected by Rossmoor Corporation as Leisure Worlder of the Month for August and his portrait will be hung in the rotunda of the sales office at 10 a.m. on Aug. 1. It will remain there during the month and be presented to him and Mrs. Zimmerman on September 1. Friends and

neighbors are invited to attend both informal ceremonies.

Born on an Iowa farm, Paul studied journalism at the University of Nebraska and while attending that college got his start as a news reporter on the Nebraska State Journal.

After serving as an infantry officer in China, Burma and India for two years during World War II, he was transferred to the European theatre where he was put in charge of all army soldier publications including five editions of Stars and Stripes and three editions of Yankee magazine.

At the peak their combined circulation was almost three million and in 1945 an Army News Service story described Lt. Col. Zimmerman as "director of the world's largest publishing business."

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Leisure Worlder for August is sports buff

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"I love to write," says Paul, "but I miss the discipline of having to meet deadlines."

Paul met deadlines covering such stories as a West Plains, Missouri dance hall explosion that killed 51; the 1932 Olympics; the 1933 Long Beach earthquake; Olympic games at London, Helsinki, Melbourne, Rome, Tokyo, Mexico City; many World Series, Super Bowl football games, Rose Bowl games, championship boxing matches, and major golf tournaments.

For the last 30 years of that long and colorful career, Paul served as Sports Editor for the Los Angeles Times, and along the way he received many honors. He was Director of Times Charities, Inc. and originated the annual Charities football game which in 32 years raised \$2.5 million for youth betterment. He played a leading role in establishing the Pro Bowl charity all-star football game which has been played annually for 32 years. He helped inaugurate the Times Charities Grand Prix sports car events which have raised funds for charity for 28 years.

He was Director of the Helms Athletic Foundation, a member of the Honors Court, National Football Foundation

and Hall of Fame, President of the Football Writers Association of America.

Some honors received included a unanimous L. A. City Council resolution for the role he played in bringing the Dodgers baseball team to Los Angeles; the Jake Wade Memorial Award from the Collegiate Sports Information Directors of America; the William May Garland Award from the Southern California Committee for Olympic games for his contribution to the Olympics including two years as Executive Secretary for the Los Angeles 1976 Olympic Committee in its quest to hold the 1976 Summer games.

"When I came to Leisure World, I wasn't sure I would like it," Paul admits. "Thought there would be just a lot of old people, but I was happy to find many were really young and vibrant in spirit and with a keen interest in sports. The people are delightfully receptive and they take advantage of the wealth of sports activities that are available. I've traveled around the world and all over the United States and I've photographed many beautiful scenes, but every time I enter the gates of Leisure World after being away I remind myself

that nothing quite matches our sanctuary here in the shadow of Saddleback mountain."

Paul feels his work with the Leisure World Historical Society will be his greatest contribution to the community.

"To live here is a privilege," he declares. "One must admit the remarkable thing Mr. Cortese and his people did when they planned Leisure World and set the stage for its unique success.

"The book we in the Historical Society plan to have published will embrace all the brilliant facets of Leisure World — from its beginnings through its growing pleasures and pains — a story of vibrant people far younger than their years. Although that's not its purpose, I am sure it will become a textbook for students of gerontology for years to come."

Perhaps a good title for the book will be Paul Zimmerman's simple philosophy: "Retire but don't wait."