Citizen of the Year

A former Church Point resident, now a resident of Bayou Vista, La., William “Bill” Harrell, was awarded the coveted W. L. Bernauer Jr. American Legion Post Citizen of the Year Award for 1990. Harrell is a former Post Commander of American Legion Post 225 here in Church Point.

Harrell is married to the former, Verna Mae Huckaby, a Church Point native. They have three children and six grandchildren. He is the son-in-law of Mr. Maurice Huckaby of Bayou Vista, formerly of Church Point.

To receive the Citizen of the Year Award a person needs many qualifications. He is a person who is recognized as a person who helps his community and fellow citizens, he must be willing to give of his time, money, labor and any other things needed, he must enjoy helping others who are in need and will benefit from his efforts.

The recipient has lived in South Louisiana since 1936. Early in life he became recognized as a first class autobody mechanic. After working for the public for several years he joined the Louisiana State Vocational School system. He served as autobody instructor for 18 years and helped open seven other autobody shops in other Voc-Tech Schools throughout Louisiana. While working in this program he attended USL and LSU evening classes and obtained his BS and MS degree.

Harrell has been serving the American Legion since coming home from where he served as a non commissioned officer in the Navy Seabee Construction Battalion in the South Pacific.

In the 7th American Legion District he served as Post Commander five times, Area Commander twice, District Vice Commander twice and Post Chaplain. He was instrumental in helping organize Post 587. He worked with the Boys Scout troop as Institutional Representative and Assistant Scout Master.

Becoming a member of Post 96 in 1967 he continued working for the good of the Legion

(See CITIZENS, Page 9)
CITZEN

serving four terms as Commander, Chaplain, District Chaplain and at present he is the 3rd District Adjutant. He has been very active in the Boys State Program and in presenting the School Award to the three schools in the area.

As Director of Young Memorial Vocational Technical School he worked with many people and all industries in the area. He was responsible for the training of many young people in the Office Occupations, Drafting, Welding, Diesel and Nurse Training programs to help them obtain a gainful occupation.

As Chairman of the American Welding Society he worked with all welding industries in the area helping them with their training programs in Drafting and upgrading their welders for promotions in better paying jobs. As past chairman he served as secretary of the AWS for 13 years helping them in their welding needs.

He was recognized as “Lion of the Year” in 1969-70.

In 1973 he helped organize the Navy Seabee Veterans of America in the area which has their “Island X7” located in New Iberia. He has been active with this group serving as Island Chaplain, State Chaplain, National Chaplain and now serving as Island X7 Chaplain and State Commander. He works the year round collecting books and clothes for the War Memorial Home in Jackson, La. and taking a very active part in the Christmas parties at the VA Hospital in Alexandria and Jackson, La. At these parties they bring food and all types of soft drinks.

He served as treasurer of the Lakewood Foundation and helped with the plans for building the new hospital. It was here that he recognized the great need for LPN’s on the floor to help give the patients the good care they deserved while being in the hospital. He was also an Auxiliary member of Fairview Hospital for 10 years.

He is the past Chef de Gare of the St. Mary Parish 40 and 8 and at present is serving his 4th term as Correspondent. The 40 and 8 is very active in the Nursing Program and has helped obtain 3 scholarships and is working on the 4th one to help the needed ones finish their training.

Harrell is an active member of the St. Bernadette Parish Catholic Church. He belongs to the K. of C. Council 6211 in Bayou Vista. He has served as Lecturer for three years, was appointed to their Boy Scout Committee to work with the KC Troop. He was recognized as Knight of the month and Family of the Month. In 1990 he was honored as Knight of the Year. He works with all the children from Kindergarten thru 5th grade teaching them about Americanism, Patriotism and the roll our American Flag plays for our nation.

He helped in the organization of the East St. Mary Veterans Funeral Squad and has served as Chaplain since it was formed. He oversees the funeral arrangements and sees that the family of the deceased Veteran has a military funeral if they so desire.

Despite an auto accident and helping his wife recover from hip surgery Harrell has not missed or failed to fulfill any of his duties to the Legion organization that depends on him.