



LEISURE WORLD NEWS

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Destined for the docks

Leisure World honoree Ken Dooley finds his niche in industry

By Cheryl Walker
The News

Tall, elegantly slim, bespectacled and soft spoken, Ken Dooley never raises his voice to get a point across at a meeting.

But, when the Former Third Mutual and Golden Rain Foundation Director talked people listened.

Although he never blew his own horn about his credentials in the construction industry, his colleagues knew he had an insider's edge which his professorial demeanor denied.

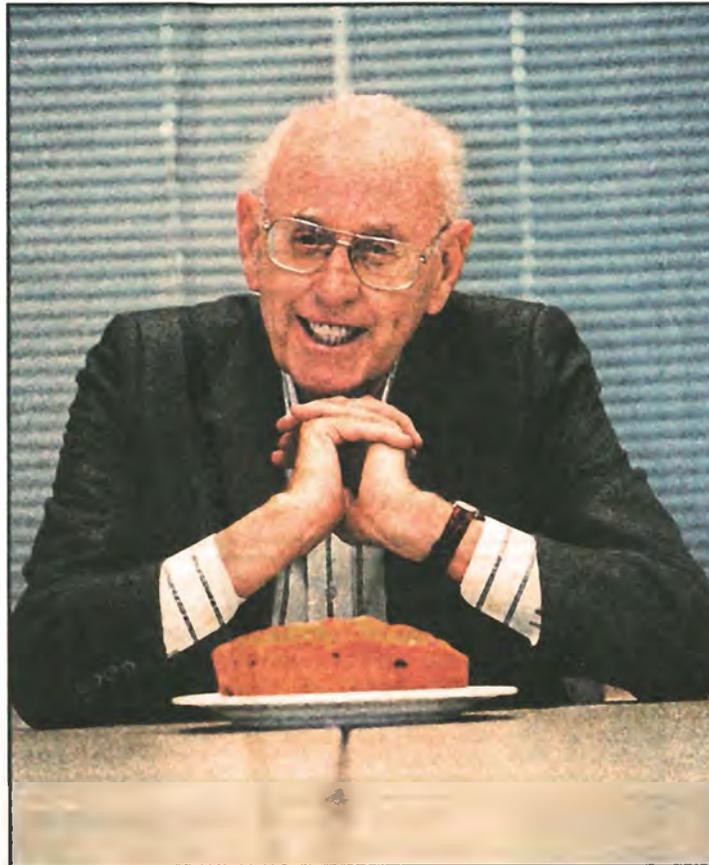
Dooley was born on the economically-challenged West Side of New York and followed his dad and brother onto the docks where the strapping 6 foot 3 inch youth worked for seven long years.

He subsequently spent the next decades in the white-collar end of the construction industry where cutting edge products were developed for projects world wide.

When directors heeded his advice, Leisure World's corporations reaped benefits.

"His inquiring mind led him to question and suggest solutions to Third Mutual's problems and he researched better ways to do things," says Third Board Director Isabel Muenichow.

She points out that the mutual's new paint program will save the mutual money and result in a better product on manors.



Ken Dooley came up with an offbeat fundraising gimmick for the Leisure World Foundation. Each donor of \$100 received a loaf of his homemade bread, from an old family recipe, guaranteed to increase ones libido.

News photo by Chris Wagner

She says he also found ways to cover and enclose trash bins in multi-story buildings which were must less costly than those originally proposed.

Dooley is a good listener too. Former Third Mutual President Charles Hellmann said he interviewed Dooley for the board on the recommendation of another Leisure Worlder, Judge Bud Bernhardt. Dooley successfully ran for the board and accomplished much for the mutual and became major a influence in representing residents.

Dooley has also been active member of numerous corporate committees and study

groups, the Leisure World Foundation, the Historical Society, the Theatre Guild and Men's Golf Club.

And it's for these reasons

Please see **DOOLEY Page 14**

Ceremony facts

Who: Ken Dooley

What: Leisure Worlder of the Month for October

Where: Clubhouse 5

When: 10 a.m., Wednesday, Oct. 1

Sponsor: Leisure World Historical Society

DOOLEY

FROM 1

and more that he's been named the Historical Society's Leisure Worlder of the Month for October.

Background: Although Dooley had his own West Side story (whose autobiographical details are currently being turned into a series of short stories), he wanted more than the grueling back-breaking family work to be his future. So he took classes at New York and Fairleigh Dickerson University and carved out a new direction.

His breakout job was a sales and marketing position with Johns Manville, one of the world's leading manufacturers of insulation products like asbestos and fiber glass, for whom he worked for nearly three decades, and Ameron Corporation, which produces products and materials for global chemical, industrial, energy, transportation and infrastructure markets.

Dooley did so well that, even after he retired, his employers kept him on as a consultant for another two years.

He moved to Leisure World

in 1988 and in the early 1990s got involved in governance at the instigation of Former Third Mutual President Charles Hellmann.

Another Former Third President, Laguna Woods City Councilman Bob Ring, says Dooley is "epitome of a worker bee," "whether he volunteered or assigned a task he'll get it done no matter what obstacle were put in his path."

Ring noted Dooley's contributions to the marketing committee, outsourcing projects and the paint program (where his expertise was responsible for his mutual's policy with regard to type of paint, guarantees, workmanship, preparation and process).

But Dooley also has another side, evidenced in his long history of working with underprivileged children in New York and New Jersey.

Muennichow explains: "He feels the concerns and pain of others deeply, was able to listen to the pleas that residents made ... and he always acted with their desires in mind" - which made him an ideal Leisure World Foundation Board member.

Dooley became a charter member of the Foundation,

which provides temporary financial assistance to residents, and Foundation President Charles Little says he was "instrumental in helping make it function successfully."

And he certainly gave the group a unique one-man fundraising drive.

Dooley is an accomplished cook and he utilized that talent in the Foundation's behalf making bread from an old family recipe that he guarantees increases the eater's libido.

For a \$100 donation Dooley gave Foundation donors a loaf of bread and the recipe. Though funky, the offer made hundreds of dollars for the Foundation.

Dooley, who's currently recovering from bypass surgery, says he has no plans, for now, of getting back into Leisure World politics. But, he's always ready to give advice based on experience and the perspective of 15 years in the community.

Explains Dooley, "I have a reputation for conservatism regarding the outlaying of money, but I also understand we are a community that will require expenditures to maintain the quality of our structures ... I would like to pursue this course."