

Great World

By Ross M. Cortese



We have been writing about the growing interest in learning to appreciate the vitality and untapped resources of those persons of advanced years.

In taking a week off to write our customary congratulations column for the Leisure Worlder of the month, we find we can continue to talk about this reservoir of creativity and productivity.

Park B. Dowd, July's honoree as selected by a committee of neighbors and Home Federal Savings and Loan is another example of the retiree who is anything but idle.

Dowd is president of the Saddleback Kiwanis Club, is a member of the Liaison Committee for Saddleback College, participating in the college Emeritus Institute and is a member of SCORE, a team of retired executives who serve as volunteer advisors for Small Business Administration customers.

We are delighted to add our words of praise and congratulations to our good neighbor. He actually is serving on yet another career in a life that has had many different and exciting facets.

It is typical of so many people like Dowd when he was quoted as saying "Many retired people feel they've done their part, and they really haven't. It's not time to say 'Stop the world, I want to get off'".

As a young man of 25, Dowd had already attained a position as the buyer for a major department store. Then came World War II, and Dowd who had by chance studied Japanese at night school, had added value to the U.S. Navy.

After the war, he was given the important assignment of assisting a survey team that examined the damage done by the Atom bombs at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He said he still remembers the terrible scene.

Back to civilian life, he returned to the fashion merchandising business.

He worked 19 years for Bullock's before joining another firm and later became vice president and merchandise manager of Rhodes Department Stores.

When he retired at age 60, he launched another career in real estate and investments with Coldwell Banker and Systech Corp. Then in 1972, he started yet another career as consultant with the International Executive Service Corps. He made frequent trips to Brazil where he assisted in the development of that nation's emerging commerce. In all, he has visited 59 countries on business trips and on family pleasure travels.

He is still an active member of our community, and we once again add our note of thanks and congratulations.

When the people studying the phenomenon of the aging process wish to examine a veteran live wire, Park Dowd will give them some valuable notes.