
Leisure Worlder of the Month

Tom Fitzpatrick

Tom Fitzpatrick considers himself a lucky man. He graduated from Villanova with a degree in chemical engineering in 1935 and began working as a chemist the day after graduation for \$92 a month.

“Most of us,” said Fitzpatrick, “remember it was not too easy getting a job in those days . . . let alone in one’s chosen field.”

To honor each of Fitzpatrick’s accomplishments, he has been chosen “Leisure Worlder of the Month,” for January. His special ceremony will be held Wednesday, January 7, at 10:00 a.m., in Clubhouse Six. The public is invited to attend the program, which is sponsored jointly by Home Federal Savings and the Leisure World Historical Society.

Fitzpatrick’s career lasted 41 years before he and his wife, Ann, who were married in 1938, moved to Leisure World.

Along the way, they shared plenty together.

Tom’s expertise was in chemical compounding. Chemical compounding works with either liquids or solids, with products that can be applied by brush, by sprayer, or electromagnetically. They are designed to protect, to beautify, to reflect heat, to absorb heat, to waterproof or to camouflage.

When World War II broke out, Tom served as an essential civilian working with a team of scientific and technical personnel. The team developed a coating to camouflage tanks, artillery and other equipment from aerial photography. The coating made the equipment undetectable in daylight and invisible to infrared photographic film.

Upon the completion of the camouflage project, Tom was made a “gallows bird,” which he translates to mean the person who reports the details of the project’s development so that all interested manufacturers can produce the product.

After the war, Tom rejoined private industry. He enjoyed the challenge of providing products at a profit to shareholders and service to customers. Tom’s chemical and chemical compounding products were used by the automotive and construction industries and also by the government.

Tom himself worked in directing product research, plant management and territory sales management. When he retired from Entex in 1976, he was a group vice president.

Like many others in the Leisure World community, retirement gave Tom Fitzpatrick more time for volunteer work. Currently a Director of Golden Rain, Tom has been President of Moulton Kiwanis, of United Mutual and of the Petroleum Club.

In addition, he’s given more than 900 hours in escort and messenger service in Saddleback Hospital’s “Blue Boy” program, a duty he plans to devote more time to when his term on the Golden Rain Board expires in 1988. “If my feet hold out,” he qualified.

Tom also belongs to a number of Leisure World’s professional, philanthropic and social clubs. He’s an avid golfer and bridge player, and along with Ann, he belongs to three dance clubs.

The Fitzpatricks have traveled extensively, too. They have seen most of Free Europe, parts of the Middle East and some of Africa. Plus, he adds, they spend a good deal of time visiting their five daughters and eight grandchildren who live in Boise, Detroit and Indianapolis.