

HISTORICAL SOCIETY
LEISURE WORLDER OF THE MONTH
AUGUST 1997

ROBERT MORTON

Bob Morton, the Historical Society's honoree for August, is known among his peers in Leisure World as one who seeks responsibility, with a sprinkling of variety, and creativity. These three words mirror his entire life.

Bob, a native Californian, in 1944 met and married Alice, an Iowa farm girl who had come to California seeking a career in teaching, rather than becoming a farmer's wife. Her outlook on life was parallel to his. Tragically, he lost Alice in February of this year after 52 years of marriage.

Their three youngsters, all individualistic, are each in different professions.

When Bob was in his mid teens, construction sites attracted him. Spending hours observing as workers performed different functions, he was fascinated by those using the Transit, an instrument he did not fully comprehend at the time. It was that that triggered his motivation to become a Civil Engineer. To him it represented responsibility and creativity.

Bob earned his degree at the University of California, Berkeley. That was the beginning of a career that spanned nearly the entire world, some locations fraught with danger, other assignments in more peaceful settings.

His work over the years took him to exotic and unusual places. Pitcairn Island of Mutiny on The Bounty Fame was one, then to another island in the Pacific that had not been explored, or surveyed, and to Thailand where he worked in concert with the Air Force.

Bob found himself deep beneath the ocean's surface on assignment with the United States Navy as a Naval Architect working on Submarine projects!

Although in his words, " I am not a leader -- I just seek responsibility", those close to him in Leisure World are inclined to debate that point. When Bob charges ahead on a project, others are motivated to follow.

It wasn't long after Bob's arrival in Leisure World in 1983 that his leadership quality became evident. In quick succession he became a member, and an officer in many of the following clubs and organizations: Men's Golf Club, Los Amigos Bowling League, Rod and Gun, World on Film, Jewelry Club (he developed an expertise in Lapidary), Toastmasters, Historical Society, and is an Associate Member, Saddleback Hospital.

He was elected to serve on the Third Mutual Board of Directors, and currently is a member of the Golden Rain Foundation.

Bob is a leader, with responsibility, sprinkled with variety!

The Leisure World Historical Society is proud to have selected Robert Morton as Leisure Worlder of the Month for August 1997.