

LEISURE WORLD HISTORY

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ROSSMOOR LEISURE WORLDERS OF THE MONTH

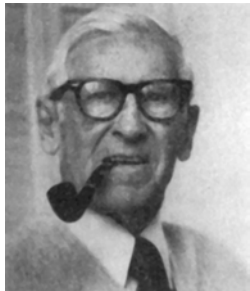
Since the beginning of Leisure World, executives of Rossmoor Corporation were impressed with the high caliber of people moving into the community. As a salute to them a program called "Rossmoor Leisure Worlders of the Month" was started in 1976.

Each month a committee selects a resident to be honored and on the first Monday a simple ceremony is held in the rotunda of the main sales office, during which a short biography is read and a large framed portrait is hung. At the end of the month, the portrait is presented to the honoree.

Neighbors, friends and family (many from great distances) attend the ceremonies, which are open to all residents of Leisure World.

Several biographies of Leisure Worlders of the Month will be published in each issue of this Journal starting on page 49.

LEISURE WORLDER of the MONTH – EUGENE GILBERT



A nationally known architect whose work included the over-all design of Duke University in North Carolina and the University of Colorado at Boulder, Eugene Gilbert also had the distinction of being chosen the first Leisure World of the Month.

A native San Franciscan, Gilbert grew up across the Bay in Oakland where he attended the Polytechnic School of Engineering, then graduated in 1915 from the University of Pennsylvania, School of Architecture. World War I interrupted his career. He served overseas for the duration with the 103rd Engineers, 28th Division. During that time his hobby of pencil sketching prompted his doing a book, "The 28th Division in France," which was published in that country, but an original copy is in the Library of Congress.

Post-war, he returned to Philadelphia where his commissions included the Public Ledger Building, the Ben Franklin and Adelphia hotels, Jefferson and Episcopal hospitals. He also designed the New York Evening Post building in Manhattan and the Tower of Learning at the University of Pittsburgh.

Despite his prestige in the East, Gilbert decided to return to his native state. Recognizing the potentials in the Westwood–Bel Air area, he and his wife Margaret Davis Gilbert settled there in the '30s. He was designer, builder and owner of many income properties there and also did a book of sketches of the Westwood area.

Since retiring to Leisure World Gilbert turned seriously to his sketching and has had several books published including "Orange County's Past in Pencil," and "The California to Remember," containing 312 sketches of the state's historical background.