

LEISURE WORLD History (Edited 12/18/2009)

Fall 1981

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 2

LEISURE WORLDERS OF THE MONTH

Since 1976 one resident of Leisure World has been honored each month by being designated "Leisure Worlder of the Month." The program was started by Rossmoor Corporation to salute the high caliber of people living in the community and their accomplishments toward bettering community life.

Now that Rossmoor Corporation is scheduled to dissolve on June 16, 1982, and its New Sales Office building has been sold to Home Federal Savings and Loan of San Diego, the program has been taken over by that financial institution. Each month a committee representing the Leisure World Historical society elects a candidate from nominations made by people of the community. Home Federal honors the recipient by hanging a large color portrait in the Rossmoor New Sales office on the first Monday of the month at a short ceremony, after which light refreshments are served. The public is invited. Biographies of honorees for May, June, August and September 1976 are on the following pages.

Dr. Olive Gilliam

Leisure Worlder—June, 1976

An erudite scholar and teacher who continued to write in her chosen field of history after retirement to Leisure World, Dr. Olive Gilliam broadened her scope vastly in later books. She shunned the very idea of "retirement," continued to study, to observe and to contribute to the human economy through her writing.

Olive Gilliam's interest in things Greek and Roman started with a Greek history class as a high school freshman in her native Pomona, California. Throughout her life and years of teaching, ancient history in all its aspects was her principal interest.

She earned her B.A. and M.A. degrees at University of California, Berkeley, and there she began working with Dr. Richard F. Scholz, former Rhodes Scholar and history professor, who became her mentor and inspiration. She accompanied him as his assistant to the University of Washington, where in 1921 she received her doctorate, the first to be awarded in the history department there and the first to go to a woman.

When Dr. Scholz became president of Reed College in Portland, she joined the faculty as professor of history, but at his urging later went on with her studies at Oxford. On her return from England, she was offered a post as history professor at San Jose State College and there she taught for 34 years.

Simultaneously she devoted much time to research, traveled abroad frequently for academic conferences and never stopped writing, mainly on history of the first Century B.C.

After she moved to Leisure World, she also published books on philosophy, religion and current political and sociological problems. These include "The State of the Union, 1776-1976," a tribute to the Bicentennial, and "Witness the Power of Women."