

LEISURE WORLDERS OF THE MONTH

AUGUST 1995

ELEANOR AND TOM BECKWITH

The Leisure World Historical Society is pleased to announce the selection of Eleanor and Tom Beckwith as Leisure Worlders of the Month for August, 1995. This event is sponsored by the Society and supported by the Ross Cortese Commemorative Fund.

Eleanor and Tom are native midwesterners having grown up, respectively, in Nebraska and Iowa. The couple met at Nebraska State Teachers College in 1939 where Eleanor majored in Education and were married one year later. Tom subsequently received his BS in Agricultural Education from Iowa State University and his M.Ed. from U.C. Davis. When U.C. Riverside opened, Eleanor was a charter student and eventually achieved her educational objective of a baccalaureate degree, graduating from the Social Science Department in 1965. That year was datelined as a "triple header" since the Beckwith's eldest son, Tom Jr., graduated from college, younger son James completed high school, and daughter Louise presented Tom and Eleanor with a grandchild. The Beckwiths have been blessed with six grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Eleanor was a rural school teacher, an elementary teacher and spent a quarter century working as a statistician at U.C. Riverside's Agriculture Experimental Station and Agriculture Extension. She subsequently joined forces with Tom as treasurer for Beckwith Commercial Properties and Beckwith's Antiques 'N' Art.

Tom, after graduation, spent a number of years in his chosen field of agriculture and then put his expertise to use as a Vocational Agriculture Teacher and Vocational Counselor. He diversified into commercial real estate developments and antiques later in his career.

Both our honorees were very active in community affairs: Tom in Kiwanis, the Boy Scouts, Neighborhood Watch, the local Regional Occupational Coordinating Council and the Colton Teachers Ass'n. - Eleanor presided over the Colton Woman's Club, was active in promoting the Colton City Library and served on its board and was a Zonta International District Treasurer.

The Beckwiths came to Leisure World in 1988 and plunged into a variety of activities that included, but were not limited to, Saddleback Kiwanis, Ebell, One-Ten and Saddle Clubs, D.A.R. Registrar, the Philharmonic, committee work for United Mutual, and both served the Geneva Presbyterian Church in different capacities.

Tom got bitten by the travel bug during WW II when he was stationed in Europe. This travel list subsequently encompassed Eleanor also, as they re-toured Europe, enjoyed the Hawaiian Islands, toured the United States by car, and spread their wings to the South Pacific, Middle East, the Orient, and cruised the oceans of the globe.

The Leisure World Historical Society enthusiastically welcomes Tom and Eleanor Beckwith into the fold of the Leisure Worlders of the Month.