

LEISURE WORLD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Presents
BERTRAM J. BLACK
LEISURE WORLDER OF THE MONTH
SEPTEMBER 2001

The Leisure World Historical Society is pleased to present **BERTRAM J. BLACK** as the **LEISURE WORLDER OF THE MONTH** for September 2001.

Bert was born in jolly old England at a place known as Newcastle-on-Tyne. He came to America via one of the first troopships returning to the U.S.A. after World War I. He was brought up in Chicago and St. Louis and received his primary education in those cities. After graduation from Soldon High School (St. Louis) he matriculated at Washington University (St. Louis), where he earned a B.S. in Social Work. Subsequently Bert attended George Warren Brown School of Social Work (Washington Univ.) and received his M.S.W. (Masters in Social Work). He took additional graduate studies in sociology and also spent two years pursuing undergraduate courses in engineering.

Our honoree received many honors from various sources: Alpha Kappa Delta (sociology honors); Pi Mu Epsilon (math honors); Presidential Commendation for Employment for Handicapped Committee; the American Public Health Association's Mental Health Award, and a World Rehabilitation Fund Fellowship to Australia. He was also recognized as a Registered Social Worker (New York State) and as a Certified Rehabilitation Coordinator by the American Association of Rehabilitation.

With the aforementioned education background as a foundation, Bert had a diversified career in his chosen field and academia associated with it. He held professorships in psychiatry, epidemiology/social medicine and held positions as Lecturer, Fellow and Director in the fields of Social Work, Psychiatry and Psychotherapy at institutions such as Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Columbia University, NYU, Cornell and Duke. New York State's Office of Mental Health, the Altro Health and Rehabilitation Services, Jewish Board of Guardians, New York City and Pittsburgh, PA also utilized his expertise. During his career Bert published more than 70 scientific papers and articles. He was honored by appointment as Professor Emeritus.

Bert and Rose were married in 1939 and in the resultant nuclear family are sons Paul and Bruce and daughter Anne. The subsequently expanded Black family includes grandchildren Michael, Laura, Sarah, Joseph, Barry and Sam.

Leisure World became the beneficiary of Bert Black's talents when he and Rose retired here in 1992. He has been active in the Audubon society, the Macintosh Computer Club, Leisure World Historical Society, Community Civic Association, Concerned Citizens, People for a National Health Program and the Academians. He is a founding member of the Leisure World Foundation and is a guiding member of the Historical Society's committee associated with the UCI Brain Institute surveys.

Bert served four and a half years as a Director on the Third Mutual Board, holding the offices of Secretary and Treasurer. He presently serves on the GRF Board and is active on its Community Activities Committee and the Government and Public Relations Committee. He has also served several years on the Bus Utilization Advisory Committee. He enjoys the pool and "walking the pleasant paths of Leisure World".

"The work in developing programs and resources for rehabilitation of the mentally ill" summarizes Bert's personal satisfaction of an important part of his life's accomplishments. As for Leisure World, he says: "I am particularly concerned with preserving the valuable resources - physical, recreational and educational - and of ensuring the capabilities of its residents to enjoy them".