

Leisure Worlder

OF THE MONTH

ROBERT P. BRYSON

Prominently displayed on the wall above a busy scientist's cluttered desk are a picture and a scroll telling of his significant contributions to man's greatest triumph in outer space.

On the color photograph of the historic first landing on the moon are inscribed these words:

"To Bob Bryson with thanks from the Apollo team for helping to make the lunar landing in this decade—Apollo 11—July 20, 1969."

Beneath it is an embossed certificate from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration signed by James C. Fletcher, Administrator, awarding Bryson the gold medal for "Exceptional Scientific Achievement."

As Program Scientist for supporting lunar research and technology for NASA it was Bryson's selected scientists and engineers who played a significant role in the successful development of experiments for the lunar surface as well as safe landings there because of countless studies of moon terrain and other geological factors.

Robert P. Bryson's dozen years with NASA, a prior quarter of a century with the U.S. Geological Survey, and now his current active support of the ongoing Saddleback College Emeritus Institute program have earned for him the Rossmoor Corporation honor of Leisure Worlder of the month for November.

While his participation in the lunar landing program is a highlight of an illustrious career as a government scientist, Bryson is proud of other outstanding accomplishments.

Early in World War II when the supply of aluminum for the expanding airplane building program was gravely threatened by U-boat action against incoming shipping, Bryson headed a large survey team that explored for and discovered extensive bauxite deposits in Arkansas. These provided new reserves to meet nearly 90 per cent of the nation's need at that time.

It was while on this assignment that Bob met his lovely wife Frances. Fresh out of the University of Texas and graduate studies in library science at Louisiana State University, this comely coed's chosen wartime stint was running a mobile library serving schools and tiny communities in rural areas of central Arkansas.

A native of Southern California, Bob attended Fairfax High in Los Angeles. He took geology at UCLA, furthered his studies at Caltech and was awarded advance degrees by both schools.

He joined the U.S. Geological Survey in 1937. His early years were spent in geological investigations in New Mexico, Wyoming, Montana and in the Santa Maria oil field in Southern California.

Of his many honors Bob rates high on the list his fellowships in the Geological Society of America and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

His list of Leisure World memberships also is extensive, including the Foreign Policy Association, Camera Club, Petroleum Club, Aero Space Club and the Caltech Alumni Association.

The Brysons were drawn to Leisure World after his mother Harriette Bryson, now a next door neighbor, and an aunt, Betty Olson, retired here in 1969.

Bob and Frances are active in the Geneva Presbyterian Church where she is an Elder. Bob is one of a number of photographers whose work assists in the support of the church program.

If there were a Cactus Society in Leisure World the odds are Bob would join that too. The Bryson patios are replete with potted exotic cacti.

With a sweet smile Frances says she hasn't been able to determine whether Bob grows cacti for their vivid blossoms and unique spines or because he finds them excellent subjects for his numerous prize winning color photographs.