

Hospital board members

LWer for December is paying her dues

As a World War II farm labor coordinator she often dealt with inexperienced workers and volunteers who pulled out the vegetables and left the weeds, German prisoners, and an occasional dowager who showed up to hull walnuts in a mink coat and flashing diamonds.

Dorothy Colver had completed 32 years of government labor service when she and husband Earl moved to Leisure World in 1974.

Without losing stride she launched herself in the Saddleback Hospital volunteer program and became one of the organizers of the thrift shop as well as its first president.

She has been a member of the hospital board for the last five years and currently is serving as secretary. She also is chairman of the support group council, personnel committee and scholarship committee of the board.

"I'm only paying my dues to the human race," Dorothy explains, her hazel eyes smiling.

It is the desire to "pay her dues" that has won for Mrs. Colver the honor of Rossmoor Corporation's Leisure Worlorder for the Month of December.

Dorothy's host of friends are invited to be present at the Rossmoor New Sales Pavillion at 10 a.m., Monday, Dec. 1, for the informal ceremony when she will be honored and her color portrait, handsomely framed, is hung in a place of prominence. There it will remain until Friday, Jan. 2, when it will be presented to her during a similar observance.

She grew up and was educated in Los Angeles. In 1929 she attended a Covina Lions Club affair, met Earl, the club president, and in 1930 they were married.

In 1935 Mrs. Colver began a six-year association with the Covina Argus as society editor and feature writer.

Soon after the bombing of Pearl Harbor she took a civil service examination on a dare. To her surprise she was hired by the United States Employment Service (now known in California as the Employment Development Department).

Original plans to go to law school were lost in the shuffle. Because of the serious wartime shortage of manpower in agriculture, Mrs. Colver was transferred to the Farm Labor office's Agricultural Extension Service in Covina and became office manager. There she coordinated recruitment of field and packing house workers.

"Citrus and walnut growers as well as truck farmers were desperate for workers," she remembers. "One inexperienced crew ruined an entire crop. They worked hard, but through ignorance they pulled out the onions and left the weeds.

"Then there was the lady who showed up in a mink coat and flashing diamonds to help other volunteers harvest walnuts. I persuaded her to lock the coat and jewels in her car. When she found the walnut hulls stained her hands, she lost her patriotic enthusiasm."

Later on, a German prisoner of war camp was established at the Pomona Fairgrounds, and that helped furnish manpower to relieve the employment vacuum, Dorothy recalls.



Dorothy Colver

During the war years she also assumed the task of coordinating all USO and Red Cross Special Services in five east San Gabriel Valley communities. Her duties included furnishing dayrooms, arranging entertainment at military bases and providing family visits for lonesome G.I.s.

Advancement was continuous for Mrs. Colver following the war. In 1969 she was promoted to Employment Security Administration officer of the Los Angeles district, and placed on loan to the U.S. Department of Labor where she served as state representative to the Regional Manpower administrator.

In 1973 the Department of Labor Superior Performance Award was bestowed on her.

You will not find the certificate hanging on any of the well-appointed walls at the Colver residence. That's not Dorothy's style. Their home is given over to a tasteful display of Oriental artifacts such as an antique Japanese screen, a colorful obi hanging and in the entrance hall a very old and rare teakwood Kwan Yin.

During her successful business career Dorothy held such offices as president of the San Gabriel Valley Newspaper Women's Association, board member of the women's division of Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, and the Committee of Professional Women for the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

She also was a board member of Soroptimist both in El Monte, where she was president, and later in Los Angeles. Along with the Laguna Hills Soroptimist chapter she also belongs to Ebell, Opera 100, Aliso, Travel Club I and the Republican Club in Leisure World.

An insatiable pursuit for further knowledge occupies what time Dorothy has left over when she's not busy, as she says, "paying her dues to society."