

LEISURE WORLD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LEISURE WORLDER OF THE MONTH

March, 1999

HARRY H. CURTIS

The Leisure World Historical Society is pleased to present **HARRY H. CURTIS** as Leisure Worlder of the Month for March, 1999.

Harry was born in Hamburg, Germany and received his primary education in his birth city. After the family moved to the U.S. in 1937 Harry attended and graduated from Jamaica High School, Long Island, New York. Subsequently he matriculated at Rensselaer Polytech and earned a B.S. Degree in electrical engineering. After acquiring his degree, Harry volunteered with the U.S. Navy and earned his American citizenship with his naval service.

Barbara and Harry were married in 1948 and Harry commenced his working career. Most of his working experiences was with the American Broadcasting Company (ABC). His positions included assignments in Broadcast Engineering (1949-1969), Manager of Technical Operations (1969-1982) and Director of Engineering and Program Operations (1982-1986). He retired in 1986 after a career of experiences that included political conventions, worldwide events, space launch coverage from Alan Shepard through the Moon landing and the Space Shuttle. As a member of the White House Press Corps he traveled overseas during the Johnson and Carter administrations.

Despite the depth of involvement in career activities Harry managed to be active in civic affairs. He was involved with the Boy Scouts for 25 years (held Eagle Scout rating) including Scoutmaster for several outstanding troops. His other civic involvement included Board Member of a Property Owners' Association (15 years), country club Board Member (10 years) where he also functioned as Racquet Sports Chair.

Despite extensive work related travel Harry and Barbara managed to cross the U.S. four times and cruised to Mexico, Alaska, Hawaii, Panama Canal, Greece and the Far East.

The nuclear Curtis family included son Bill and daughter Susan until they married to expand the family by a son-in-law and a daughter-in-law, plus grandchildren Daniel, Jenny, Chelsea and Laura.

Harry and Barbara settled in Leisure World in 1989 and Harry "got involved" with membership in various clubs and volunteer work with the Earthquake Preparedness Task Force. He also served on Third Mutual Board as first vice-president and president (1997) and was elected to GRF in 1998. He served on the finance, maintenance, marketing, community activities, TV services, GRF Government/Public Relations Committees and as chair of the Golf Advisory Group (3 years plus).

One of his most satisfying decisions led to a reduction in the 1998 carrying charge for Third Mutual residents.

Harry's modesty is reflected in his own words: "I have no idea what motivated someone to recommend me for this award."