

**LEISURE WORLD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PRESENTS**

**ALEXANDER M. "MEL" DOLLAR
LEISURE WORLDER OF THE MONTH**

NOVEMBER 2003

ALEXANDER M. "MEL" DOLLAR was born in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. He attended elementary school there prior to family relocation to La Jolla and Long Beach. Woodrow Wilson High, Long Beach, was his alma mater where he was a member of a winning Chemistry Team that won in a California competition. In subsequent years he obtained a BS and MS in Chemistry from UC Berkeley.

After a stint as an officer in the U.S. Navy during WW II Mel began his career as a microchemist, prior to completing a Ph.D., at the University of Reading, England. He also did research at UC Berkeley.

Mel's career assignments included Assistant and Associate Professorships (University of Washington, Seattle), Professor (University of Hawaii) in the areas of Public Health and Environmental Health. He concluded his career as Emeritus Professor in Environmental Health and retired in 1993. Subsequent to the foregoing Mel functioned as a Consultant, UN FAO/IAEA (1993 - 1995) in Southeast Asian Countries, China and Austria.

Career requirements did not deter Mel from interest and participation in community affairs. He was a member of the Puget Sound Marine Planning Commission (1950 - 1955) and President of condominium associations in Hawaii (1979 -1984 and La Jolla (1984-1985). The foregoing activities were in addition to writing professional technical papers and guiding students to their respective graduate levels.

Jean and Mel were married in 1944 and have one daughter. They enjoyed the world while traveling and leaving footprints in Germany, England and Scotland, France, Spain, Greece, the Czech Republic, the Balkans and Hungary.

The Dollars established residence in Leisure World in 1986. Mel became "involved" in diverse community activities that included membership in the PC Computer Club, Camera Club, Library book repair and Lawn Bowling besides taking classes in crochet, sewing and pattern making. He also taught English and GED skills to local residents and PCM landscape employees (1987 - 1993). For variety Mel served as a Security Officer (7 years) and Security Training Officer (5 years).

What are Mel's personally satisfying activities?? According to him; "teaching and helping people develop - - - skills. I enjoy extensive personal contact and assistance - - -." His long term and current activity is relegated to teaching and helping residents with "computerese"!