

LEISURE WORLDER OF THE MONTH

Robert D. Donaldson

JANUARY 1993

The Leisure World Historical Society is pleased to announce the selection of Robert D. Donaldson, Leisure Wordler of the Month for January 1993. The event is sponsored by the Leisure World Historical Society, supported by the Ross Cortese Commemorative Fund.

Bob grew up in Lincoln Mass., attended the local schools and, after a year at Andover Academy, entered Harvard University, graduating in 1925 with a cum Laude degree in Mechanical Engineering and Business Administration. He was also inducted into the National Engineering Honor Society, Tau Beta Pi.

Bob's first job was with General Motors in Pontiac Michigan where he met his future wife, Dorothy Lloyd. They were married in June 1929. Three months later the Great Depression started and the Donaldsons returned to Massachusetts where, after several jobs, Bob joined the Remington Rand (later UNIVAC) company and started a highly successful career in data processing.

From Boston Bob was moved to managerial positions in New Haven, then Philadelphia and finally to Chicago in 1941. Bob and Dorothy now had two daughters, Sally and Betsy, who were approaching high school age so the family settled in Glencoe Ill. while the children attended New Trier High School. Bob joined Montgomery & Co. where he supervised the selection and installation of one of the first commercial computers built by IBM.

In 1954, after celebrating their silver wedding anniversary, Bob accepted an offer to become manager of data processing for the Raytheon Co. and the Donaldsons returned to Massachusetts. In 1962 Bob moved to the Bank of Boston who were having some problems computerizing their operations. Once these problems were resolved the Bank asked Bob to automate their foreign exchange operations in the London branch, and to investigate computerizing accounting operations in a factoring company partially owned by the Bank. In 1967 the Donaldsons moved to England..

During their stay in England the Donaldsons explored the English countryside and also visited Paris, Vienna, Frankfurt Rome, Florence and Venice. In 1972 Bob retired a second time and they moved to the south of Spain where they started to build a house. Tragically, Dorothy died quite suddenly in 1976 before the house was finished.. Supported by a network of friends Bob completed the house and started life anew.

Both daughters had married ; Betsy and her husband, Steven Spooner lived on Oak Ridge TN with their two children, and Sally and Alan Sloan lived in Hidden Hills, CA with their three children. It was on a visit to Sally and Alan that Bob mentioned that he was thinking of returning to the States and Sally told him about Leisure World. After one visit Bob knew that he belonged here. In the five years he has lived in Leisure World, Bob Donaldson has given of himself, selflessly, and with great skill, intensity and effectiveness. At the Towers he has served as Chairman of the Building Maintenance Committee, as Treasurer and as President. As Mutual 50's representative to the GRF Board of Directors he has served on the Ad Hoc Management Committee and the Ad Hoc Litigation Committee. In 1991 he was elected to the GRF Board where he is chairman of the Legal Committee and the Ad Hoc Committee to select an Attorney for Leisure World. He is vice-chairman of the Management Information sub-committee, the Insurance sub-committee and the Health and Social Services Committee. He is also on the Facilities and Land Planning Committee.

Ask him to help and he does so unstintingly. Bob Donaldson is a man for all seasons- truly worthy to be the Leisure Wordler of the Month for January 1993