

## Donaldson just can't say 'no'

By Cheryl Walker  
The News

**A**lthough Towers resident Bob Donaldson's contributions to Leisure World are legion, he says the news that he was selected as the January 1993 "Leisure Worlder of the Month" hit him "like a bolt out of the blue."

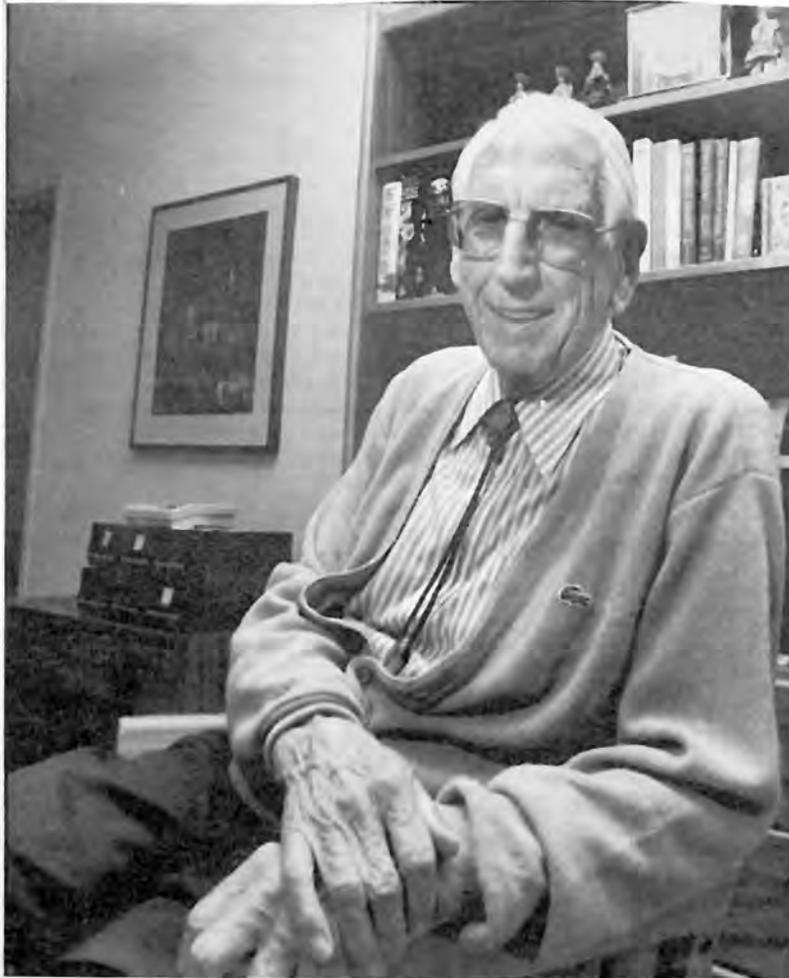
"When Irving Goldberg (Historical Society president) called and said 'You've been selected' I went into shock," says the 90-year-old Golden Rain board member whose distinguished service record for Leisure World includes both mutual and Golden Rain positions.

The record includes terms as treasurer, president and building maintenance chairman for Mutual 50; Towers representative on the Golden Rain finance committee; member of the facilities/land planning, ad hoc management and ad hoc litigation committees of Golden Rain; chairman of the legal and ad hoc attorney selection committees of Golden Rain; and vice chairman of the management information systems and insurance subcommittees and the health and social services committee of Golden Rain.

The list represents a full plate for anyone, but Donaldson says that's the way he likes it. "I've been involved all my life. You meet a lot of people, work with a lot of people, it's tremendously stimulating."

The people who work with Donaldson say the feeling is mutual.

"I think he's a terrific person," says Virginia Halley, former Third Mutual president. "The great thing about Bob is he's wonderful to work with—he never says no to anything.



David Caballero/The News

**Robert Donaldson, a director of the Golden Rain Foundation, and a member of numerous committees, has been named 1993's first Leisure Worlder of the Month.**

### Leisure Worlder of the Month

**Honoree for January:** Bob Donaldson.

**Ceremony date:** Wednesday, Jan. 6

**When:** 10 a.m.

**Where:** Clubhouse 6

**Sponsor:** Leisure World Historical Society

All are invited to attend.

He's one of the most unselfish contributors to Leisure World."

Skip Stone, Towers director agrees. "The best thing I can say about Bob Donaldson is that he's always available at a minute's notice to serve Rossmoor Towers and this community. There's no finer person: to work with ... or as a friend."

Shirley O'Connor, Golden Rain Health and Social Services chairwoman, agrees that Donaldson is unique man, for his industry and compassion in the

service of others.

"He deserves to be Leisure Worlder of the Month. He's really dedicated to the betterment of Leisure World, especially his recognition of the need for social services programs."

Donaldson's impetus to community activism came from his family and the region of his birth: New England.

"My family was always involved in local affairs at church or in town," says the native of Lincoln, Mass. who attended Andover Academy and graduated cum laude from Harvard in 1925 with a degree in mechanical engineering and business administration.

When living in Lincoln, he became interested in local politics and was elected moderator of the town meeting, which Donaldson calls "democracy in its purest form."

Although later elected to the town's board of selectmen, Donaldson said his experience as a moderator was "invaluable."

"In a small town where the voters all know each other and usually have strong opinions about town affairs, debates can be quite lively and it is up to the moderator to maintain order."

After stints testing cars and selling, Donaldson found his niche in a career in data processing, where the excitement of working in a dynamic new technology kept him always on his toes eagerly striving to keep on top of the latest breakthroughs as he worked for Remington Rand, Montgomery Ward, Raytheon Co. and the Bank of Boston.

Because of his acquired expertise, retirement was postponed so he could work as a consultant for two English firms, International Factors Co. and Credit Factoring Co.

Chances are good his second career as a consultant could have pushed off retirement even longer if his wife Dorothy's health hadn't forced him to take retirement more

seriously.

He decided to buy land, build a house and settle down for good in Spain.

But even there, his penchant for involvement surfaced and he became treasurer for one year and president for three of the American Club of Costa del Sol.

Three things influenced his eventual move to Leisure World in 1987: his wife's death, his own health problems and a visit to the community at the suggestion of his daughter and son-in-law.

"I decided right then that this was where I wanted to live, so I went back to Spain, sold my house and returned and bought a condominium in the Towers."

There, Donaldson lives surrounded by books enjoying the challenges of personal computing, keeping abreast of what's new and doing his committee homework.

Although the latter often involves long hours and study, Donaldson doesn't count the effort to do his job well—even when critics pick and snipe.

"There are always people who oppose the current management—in England they're called the Loyal Opposition—and I think it's a good thing. It forces you to think things through."