

# No 'retirement' for Park Dowd

Isn't retirement the perfect time to sit back and disengage from life?

Not according to Park B. Dowd, who opposes what he terms the spectator role. "Many retired people feel they've done their part, and they really haven't," he says. "It's not a time to say 'stop the world, I want to get off.' We owe it to those who follow us to try to make their path easier."

The former department store executive is active in Kiwanis civic and youth projects, serves as a volunteer management consultant and participates in community self-government on the Third Mutual board of directors.

Not the least of his many involvements is a continuing effort to share his experiences as one of the first Navy officers to view the atomic wasteland of Ground Zero at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Next month Dowd joins the list of active citizens selected as Leisure Worlders of the Month by Home Federal Savings and Loan and the Leisure World Historical Society.

Community residents are invited to an informal ceremony Monday, Aug. 2, when his color portrait will be unveiled. The 10 a.m. event is scheduled at the Rossmoor Pavilion at Valencia and Carlota.

The picture will be on public view for a month at Home Federal's Laguna Hills office before being presented to the honoree in September.

Dowd's lively interest in the world around him is a natural outgrowth of a globe-trotting career that has included being a fashion buyer, Navy lieutenant commander and an International Executive Service Corps consultant in Brazil.

The first-born son of a small-town druggist in Guthrie Center, Iowa, his family soon moved to a farm in Canada for five years and then to California, where Dowd played varsity ice hockey during his years at UCLA.

Wed in 1935 to fellow student Bettie Thorne, he went to work for Bullock's and soon was tapped for executive training and promoted to women's shoe buyer at age 25.

His decision to study Japanese at night school is recalled as "a crazy quirk that changed my life." Drafted by the Army after Pearl Harbor, he was sent to the University of Michigan for further language study before transferring to the Navy and attending Officers Training School at Harvard.

He served under Paul Nitze and Douglas MacArthur as planning officer for the U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey sent to evaluate the damage at Hiroshima and Nagasaki just 73 days after the atomic bombings. The team measured the angles of radiation shadows to determine the explosion's exact center, which it named "Ground Zero."

"That was over 36 years ago, yet the memory of that terrible devastation remains," says Dowd, who gives talks to local groups outlining the dangers of nuclear war.

He returned to the fashion merchandising field at Bullock's in 1946 and remained with the store for 19 years before joining Meier and Frank and later becoming vice president and general merchandise manager of Rhodes Department Stores.

The Dowds moved frequently during these periods and took pleasure in designing, building and decorating nine of the homes they occupied. One of these was an Oriental-style residence which provided a showplace setting for the Portland wedding of their only child, Denise.

Retiring at age 60, Dowd launched a second career in the real estate and investment field with Coldwell Banker and Sistrunk Company.

growth proved successful, and he was hired for several return visits to Brazil.

Business trips and family travels have taken the Dowds to 59 foreign countries. Museum visits are a must in each new city for Dowd, who revels in researching lifestyle and historical trends.

A past president of the Foreign Policy Association in Leisure World and current president of the Saddleback Kiwanis, he belongs to the Liaison Committee for Saddleback College and participates in the college's Emeritus Institute. He also is a member of the SCORE team of retired executives who act as volunteer advisors for Small Business Administration customers.

The athletic vitality that was evident during Dowd's former ice hockey and skiing days is maintained with frequent rounds on the Leisure World Golf Course.

"I love to play golf," he says. "I have played in many countries on picturesque and unusual courses, such as the one along the beach at Rio de Janeiro. But my most unusual golf game was in Eastern Africa at the late actor Bill Holden's Mt. Kenya Safari Club, where a ball hit out of bounds ends up in Wild Animal Country."



Park Dowd

## Laguna Hills church to ad

Expansion of a Laguna Hills church won unanimous approval last week from the county Planning Commission.

Planners agreed to allow the addition of two 24-by-60-foot modular buildings for use as Sunday school classrooms at the United Methodist Church on

William MacDougall. "This project is so obviously wholesome."

The only worries voiced by planners concerned sound proofing because the church is adjacent to the landing pattern of El Toro Marine air station.

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## 3rd names committee members

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Foundation Nominating Committee.

The mutual committee will consist of For-

### Dowd to get honor of Month

The Leisure Worlder of the Month ceremony honoring Park B. Dowd will be held Monday, Aug. 2 in the Rossmoor Pavilion at Valencia and Carlota, across from Bob's Big Boy restaurant.

The 10 a.m. portrait hanging is open to the public and will be conducted by Home Federal Savings and Loan and the Leisure World Historical Society, sponsors of the program honoring the community's outstanding citizens.

Dowd is a Third Mutual director and a former department store executive who is active in Saddleback Kiwanis and the Foreign Policy Association.

He succeeds Robert L. Price, who retired as Leisure World administrator in 1978.

mer Directors Herb Troy, John Harding, and Horace Trueblood and residents Byron Ellerbrock and George Sopp.

Recommended for the GRF committee were Mary Drane, Park Dowd, Birk Lefler and Lewis Wood. The final selection of committee members will be made by GRF.

Disbro reported to the board on the consolidation plans for the 84 manor Mutual 78. He said he hopes that the

mutual will have the consolidateing information by early fall. Consolidation will be official on Jan. 1, 1983.

Asked about the two other mutual in the Leisure World Estates, Disbro said no consolidation overtures have been made to the residents in that area because about 50 of the 110 manors remain vacant. He said Rossmoor Corp. is paying the monthly carrying charge for the unsold units.

### Circulation number given

Subscribers of the Leisure World News who have not received their newspaper by 1 p.m. each Thursday, are asked to call the Circulation Department at 768-0112.

### Feerer to appear on TV6

Ida Feerer, Leisure World artist and art teacher, will appear Tuesday, Aug. 3 at 11:30 a.m. on "Adventures in Art" on Channel 6 TV.

The program is sponsored by the Laguna Hills Art Association and the Laguna Hills Art Guild.

Ms. Feerer will demonstrate one of her methods of starting an oil painting and covering the canvas with color.

The program will be repeated Thursday, Aug. 5 at 10:30 a.m. and Friday, Aug. 6 at noon.

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