

Leisure Worlder for February

Frances Neeland's life is tied up in libraries

By a gossamer thread of circumstances lifestyles are sometimes changed. It certainly was true in the case of Frances Neeland who has been chosen Rossmoor Corporation's Leisure Worlder for February.

Mrs. Neeland's educational thrust at UCLA had been in mathematics, chemistry and physics in quest of a teaching career. After graduation she moved to the nation's Capitol where her plans to become a pedagogue went sailing out of the Library of Congress windows.

"Everything about the library, especially its beauty, tremendous collections of books and other copyright material was exhilarating," says Frances. "I knew the Library of Congress was where I wanted to begin my career."

She enrolled at The George Washington University's School of Library Science which was the only place offering courses based on the Library of Congress systems of classification, cataloguing and research.

A resident of Leisure World for the second time, Frances finds time for community betterment in addition to her duties as a research consultant to Dr. C. Anthony Stellar. She is assisting him and a special staff preparing a continuing program of exercise, diet and stress reduction on an out-patient basis.

Mrs. Neeland's many friends are invited to the Rossmoor New Sales salon at 10 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 1 when a color portrait of her will be hung in a place of honor during an informal ceremony. There it will remain until Monday, March 3 when it will be presented to her at a similar ceremony announcing her successor.

When she first moved here in 1967 and again in 1971 after her return, Frances applied her expertise, especially in the library field, to the good of the community.

On her first arrival, prior to the opening of Saddleback Community Hospital, she established a medical library with the encouragement of Dr. Floyd Wergeland and the medical staff. She also served as librarian for the Nurses' Educational Committee. While Dr. Jim Jett and Nurse Betty Woods were forming HOSPICE and preparing for a State charter, Frances headed the steering committee for its library. Then there was literature search-

ing for Pain Clinic and volunteer work for the visually handicapped in addition to more prosaic duties as treasurer for the local chapter of People-to-People, the Audubon Society and the California Club.

Mrs. Neeland spent her girlhood in Southern California. She was graduated from Hollywood High School and UCLA. She left the Library of Congress during World War II to go into defense work with the U.S. Air Technical Service Command in Miami. She returned to the Library of Congress at war's end.



Frances Neeland

Mrs. Neeland's next move was back to George Washington University as librarian and technical editor of the Naval Logistics Research Project. This paved the way for a position as systems analyst with Remington Rand UNIVAC, in Philadelphia.

A tour of duty with the National Bureau of Standards led to Hughes Aircraft Company beckoning her back to California as assistant supervisor of an information retrieval program.

RCA's Data Systems Division in Van Nuys, as a senior staff engineering member, attracted her next and from that assignment she joined the System Development Corporation in Santa Monica. There she organized an information center and special library where she assisted in the compilation and editing of the first issues of the "Annual Review of Information Science and Techology," performing the duties of an operations research analyst.

"My first move to Leisure World," says Mrs. Neeland, "was a studied choice. I could hardly wait to get back." Only the delay in obtaining a Garden Villa apartment to her liking prevented an earlier return.

A large painting of a smiling child on a far wall of her living room catches your eye upon entry. A closer look reveals the inscription: "For Frances ...Sascha." That, of course, is Sascha Braschoff, the renowned sculptor.

Other wall decorations include two gold rubbings, one an English knight and the other an English lady.

"I guess I'm becoming an Anglophile because I visit my daughter in London every year," Frances admits. She also has two sons.

The Neeland living room is both picturesque and functional. She calls it her work shop, gymnasium and music room. It contains an electric typewriter, a record player with dual speakers and an exercycle. The latter can be used either in front of a picture window or out on the balcony overlooking the golf course to the northwest with Mount Baldy in the background and confirms Frances' appraisal of this main room of her abode, "I can sit here, get my exercise and still enjoy the beautiful landscape." In high priority, naturally, are shelves laden with books. Mostly they are tomes on sciences as well as encyclopedias, dictionaries and a wide variety of research sources.

It would not seem proper to ask Frances Neeland if she has them all catalogued and cross-indexed.