

# LEISURE WORLDER OF THE MONTH

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## Rex Perkins

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### March, 1993

The Leisure World Historical Society is pleased to announce the selection of Rex Perkins, Leisure Worlder of the Month for March, 1993.

The event is sponsored by the Leisure World Historical Society, supported by the Ross Cortese Commemorative Fund.

Having been born on a farm, Rex Perkins knew never to permit grass to grow under his feet. The energy charged dynamism which characterizes him, has been evident from early on in his life. At school in Fort Dodge, Iowa, Rex, with his brothers Glen and Dale, gained a reputation as an athletic combo culminating with Rex making "All State" on the Jr. College basketball team and winning an athletic scholarship to the University of Nebraska in Omaha. He graduated from the university with a B.S. in Business Administration, awarded with honors and a listing in "Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities."

The Perkins family relocated to San Bernadino in 1939. With the outbreak of World War II, Rex enlisted in the Navy. He saw duty both stateside and in Australia, serving as Liaison Officer with the British Navy. With his wartime service completed, Rex entered on his professional career - the Savings and Loan industry.

Specializing in real estate lending, making single family loans, subdivisions and commercial developments (he handled the Marina Del Rey Hotel and Marina), Rex advanced up the career ladder. He went from the Santa Fe Fed in San Bernadino to the Beverly Hills Fed and several intermediate offices in Los Angeles and Westwood to finally become Vice President and Bank manager of Wilshire, now the Glendale Fed.

Rex's first marriage in 1950 was to Betty Seidenstricker, a school chum from his Iowa days. Pamela, his daughter, an R.N., lives in Phoenix, Arizona with her three daughters.

In 1976, Rex, now married to Carol Wrigley, was asked to set up the Laguna Hills Branch of Glendale Fed. So began a highly successful banking operation here, with Rex cited as the manager of the fastest growing branch office in the state.

It soon became clear that a "love affair with Leisure World" was developing. The Rex Perkins identity was established by a full page display in the Leisure World News entitled "It All Began With A Golf Cart." Putt-putting about, he combined banking service with personal service to residents. He would pick up deposits, make trips to the post office, and say hello to community residents.

Rex's service to the community took on many forms. Carol and Rex, as Travel Hosts, took Leisure Worlders on a 14-day cruise through the Panama Canal, to Caribbean ports of call, and also on a 10-day trip to Vancouver and Alaska. He served on the Board of Directors of the Saddleback Hospital Associates for four years and as its President. While President of the Rotary Club, he brought it top honors, winning the "International Avenue of Service" award.

The key role that Rex played in securing financial sponsorship for the publication of "Fulfilling Retirement Dreams," was acknowledged in the introductory chapter of that book. Rex has also been active with the Leisure World Historical Society, serving in many capacities as First Vice President and Program Chairman.

Other activities include Andrus Associates of USC's Gerontology Center, as Board Member and Treasurer; B'Nai Brith Men's Lodge #2933, as Coordinator of their annual Showtime Spectacular; and for several years with Glendale Fed, assisting with the City of Hope's Hole-in-One Golf Tournament.

Now in full retirement, Rex (never able to be fully retired) still greets his friends as he serves as Host at Clifton's Cafeteria. What all began with a "candy-striped golf cart" has become a Leisure World icon. Rex Perkins, for his many activities and services enriching the Leisure World Community, deservedly becomes Leisure Worlder of the Month for March, 1993.