

## LEISURE WORLD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

presents

### LEISURE WORLDER OF THE MONTH

JULY, 1998

### MERLIN W. SANT

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The Leisure World Historical Society is pleased to present **MERLIN W. SANT** as the **LEISURE WORLDER OF THE MONTH** for **JULY, 1998**.

Merlin Sant was born in Franklin, Idaho, ninety-four years ago. He received his elementary education and part of his high school training in his home town. The family subsequently moved to Long Beach in 1920 and Merlin graduated from Long Beach Polytechnic High School. He was accepted at Cal Tech but, instead of continuing his education, he took a mission assignment from his church to a post in Holland.

After his church assignment, Merlin's career included positions as Senior Vice President for a home construction company and as Vice President of Sant Construction Company. He retired in 1972.

Merlin's career has included extensive community and civic service. He has been active in Kiwanis, especially in the Saddleback division, contributed his energy to Meal on Wheels, participated on the fund-raising committee for Saddleback Memorial Foundation and lent his expertise to South County Senior Services.

There were many merit awards for Merlin's varied volunteer activities. He was recognized as a Hixon Fellow, a Kiwanis Fellow in Kiwanis International, and he has received a Presidential Citation from Brigham Young University and an Honorary Pathfinder Award from AES Corporation.

Religion has played a substantial directing role in Merlin's life. His "most rewarding service has been a a volunteer worker for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints". For the past 80 years, Merlin has functioned as Bishop, Stake President, Mission President, Patriarch, and 22 years as an Ordinance Worker in the Los Angeles and San Diego temples.

Edna and Merlin were married in 1926 and were blessed with son, Roger, to establish their nuclear family. The current extended family group includes daughter-in-law Vicki and grandchildren, Shari, Michael and twins Alexis and Alison.

The Sants moved to Leisure World in 1976. Merlin has been a member of Saddleback Kiwanis for 20 years and participated in water skiing and body surface activities until age 80. The Sants also have been major benefactors of the Senior Center and Saddleback Memorial Foundation.

Curiosity and interest have led Merlin and Edna to such world areas as South America, Africa, Japan, India, China, Europe, the Caribbean and most of the U.S.