

More About Del

Del grew up in Chico, CA, the son of Salvation Army officers. As a teen, he tended almond orchards in the community. In high school Del's aptitude to organize people began in the California Cadet Corps, a forerunner to the Army ROTC. By graduation in 1943 he had earned the rank of Captain.

The army noticed his leadership skills upon joining and he was assigned to Fort Sill, Oklahoma as a training officer. This assignment may have saved his life as his boot camp class was sent to Okinawa, suffering large casualties.



Del's Scouting career consisted primarily of managing summer camps. He inspected facilities, recruited staff, coached leaders, even acted as a lifeguard. Fifty years later Del still has regular contact with former campers and staff from Camp Oljeda near Huntington Lake. Del's Scouting career spanned 31 years, thousands of miles and with several National Jamboree celebrations. As recent as 2016, at the age of 90, he attended the National Jamboree in West Virginia, impressing all by insisting that he be given a meaningful job rather than a comfortable chair.

Del's Rotary career began when Scouting posted him to Fontana, CA. While women weren't allowed in Rotary then, Del's first wife Mary was a regular at meetings, playing piano and leading the club in songs. Career moves within Scouting led him to serve in four other clubs around California. Six years after his retirement from Scouting, Del joined Santa Rosa Sunrise Rotary in 1987, one month after the club was founded. Three years later he commenced the march to District Governor of District 5130 and took that mantle in 1992. Del still communicates with his international class of District Governors around the world.



Now a Sunrise Rotary veteran of 36 years, Del continues to serve by joining in on most service projects and by continually being one of the first to arrive at meetings to set up banners.

Outside of Scouts and Rotary, Del has enjoyed a variety of interests and hobbies. Wanderlust took Del and his second wife Harriet on international travels, affording several adventures working archaeological digs with the University of California. In New Zealand the couple tried weaving and returned to the States with a new passion for fabric making. Del is also a long-time collector of antique ink wells!



A life truly well lived.