

The McDougalls

As you can see from the article below, Bob McDougall passed at the amazing age of 101, following the passing of his wife Gert several months ago, and his daughter Fran, who lost her battle with cancer in December 2022 (but won her place with God in eternity!)

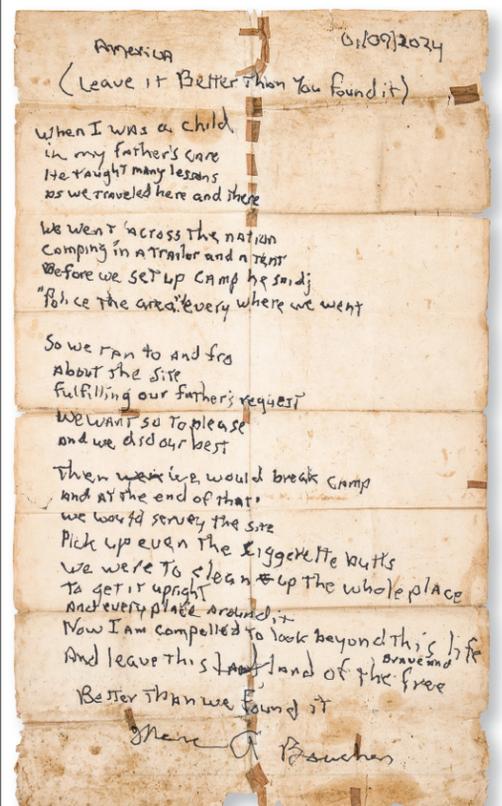
Why do we give the space here to the McDougalls? Because the McDougalls have had so much impact on Lucerne Valley and what it is today, having lived here since 1948 or so. Over the years, McDougall's Well Drilling drilled dozens of wells here in town and in other communities over. Over the years they responded to well and pump emergencies at all hours of the day and night. They participated in the Lions Club, one of the more active outfits that has all kinds of service projects.

When we came here in 1975 and bought the local grocery store, renaming it to

Lucerne Valley Market, we also built a house shortly after that, and of course, McDougalls drilled our well. They also did lots of stuff for the store, especially in 1983, when we built the new store at its present location, drilling that well also. My dad was a character with strong ideas, and Bob McDougall was also a character with his own strong ideas, and guess what? Sometimes these two characters' ideas clashed, but these two worked things out.

The passing of both McDougalls, and also Fran, their daughter, marks the end of an era of Lucerne Valley history. They leave behind a community much better for what they contributed. I hope that we who remain will honor their legacy by contributing our best to our wonderful, beautiful little community!

Linda Gammel



Interestingly, this poem was left in my front office in-box (it's a desk drawer), offered by a man in his senior years. It seems appropriate to the life of the McDougalls, who definitely left Lucerne Valley better than they found it.

I typed up this poem from his original handwriting, so Mr. Boucher, I hope I got it right, especially the spelling of your name. Thank you for your thoughts!

America - Leave It Better Than You Found It

by Marc Boucher

When I was a child
In my Father's care
He taught many lessons
As we travelled here and there.

We went across the nation
Camping in a trailer and a tent
Before we set up camp he said:
"Police the area," everywhere we went.

So we ran to and fro about the site
Fulfilling our father's request
We want so to please
And we did our best.

Then we would break camp
And at the end of that
We would survey the site,
Pick up even the cigarette butts,
We were to clean up the whole place
To get it upright.

And every place around it,
**Now I am compelled to look
beyond this life,
And leave this land of the brave
and free,
Better than we found it.**

Robert Darrough McDougall

June 10, 1922 - January 4, 2024

Robert (Bob) McDougall, was born to Francis (Red) and Beryl McDougall on June 10th, 1922 in Red Cliff, Colorado. He spent his youth in and around mining towns in the area and on his grandmother's ranch in the shadow of the Rocky Mountains. Leading up to and during the Great Depression, times were often tough for the family but Bob, a consummate story teller, often recounted stories of his youth highlighted by memories of



personal freedoms tromping through the woods with his dog, 22 rifle or fishing pole. Bob, always hardworking and resourceful, was a young man determined to be independent of financial support from parents that had little themselves. He worked as a paperboy, delivered groceries for the local store owner, worked a printing press, and finagled a summer job in the copper mine as an underaged 16 year old. After graduation, Bob went to work at the mine full-time but when Pearl Harbor was bombed in December of 1941, Bob walked off his shift and enlisted in the military.

Bob served four years in the Marine Corps during World War II, mostly in Southern California and the Pacific theater. It was during this time that he met his future wife, Gert. Gert and her sister, Bernie, were roommates of Bob's mother, Beryl when they all supported the war effort working at Zephyr Manufacturing in Hawthorne, California. When the war ended, Bob and his dad, Mac, teamed up to look for work opportunities. On their way to Phoenix, Arizona, they happened to travel through Lucerne Valley and recognized the need for water wells in the high desert area and convinced themselves they could build a business drilling wells. They started McDougall's Well Drilling, a respected and successful business of 56 years, with little more than their ingenuity, reclaimed and self-made tools, and a desire to support a growing community. Bob often talked about the many fine employees he had over the years, including his brother-in-law, Bill Hoffman, son-in-law, Dave Jones, (the

pump specialist), Cliff Reed, and Dan Quiones who became lifelong friends.

Bob and Gert married in December of 1948, sharing their lives for 74 years. Within a year a daughter, Sharon, was born, quickly followed by Bobby, Carol, and Frances. While Bob, Mac, and Beryl focused on the well drilling business, Gert managed the kids on the couples 20 acre ranch while also putting in a yearly vegetable garden, tending the orchard and barnyard animals, canning, sewing, cleaning and cookie making. She shared her love and knowledge off these things with her children and later, when the kids were more on the grown side, she also went to work for McDougall's Well Drilling as the office manager. Bob was the last Charter member of the Lucerne Valley Lions Club. While he and Gert particularly enjoyed their participation in the Club, they also supported most other community events.

Bob is predeceased by his parents, Mac and Beryl, his wife, Gert; his son, Bobby, and daughter, Fran; grandsons, Eli and Jacob Lyons; sons-in-law, Mike Howard and John Lyons. He is survived by daughters, Sharon Howard and Carol Lyons, grandsons, Todd (Jen) and Adam (Lisa) Jones and Isaac Lyons as well as great grandchildren, Andrew Jones and Stella Lyons.

The family would like to especially thank friends and private caregivers that made it possible for Bob and Gert to remain in the home they built and loved. Bob often said that he and Gert had had a long and good life.

On The Porches

Lucerne Valley Fireworks'
QUARTERMANIA
TICKET SALE
Jan. 27, & Feb. 3, 2024
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Lucerne Valley Roadrunners'
BAKE SALE
February 3, 2024
8:00 a.m. til Sold Out

LVM Commentary - January 25 - 31, 2024

On The Lighter Side of Serious Stuff . . . from the Web



The Front-Runner