Virgil Harrigan

Dedicated October 2011

Virgil Harrigan was born in Truckee on August 21, 1918 and moved to Roseville when his father's railroad career brought the family to south Placer County. He graduated from Roseville High School in 1937; he served in the U.S. Navy during World War II on the USS Saratoga. Upon his return he attended college in San Francisco and was recruited by US Steel to run a plant in South America. When he returned to the States he opened his real-estate business in the mid-1960s.

Virgil lived a quiet, yet full life. To meet him, no one knew he was a wealthy man. He loved playing golf, doing volunteer work and in his later years, made weekly visits to an assisted-living center, where he starred in their sing-alongs.

Virgil was generous when it came to others. In 1995, a Roseville Police Officer approached Mr. Harrigan about selling an empty Roseville Heights lot so that it could become a home to a youth recreation center. He did not sell it, instead he donated the lot. This is now the North Roseville Recreation Center.

Upon his passing in January 2009, he bequeathed over $5.5 million to local charities which included:

- First United Methodist Church of Roseville
- Placer ARC
- Placer County Libraries' Adult Literacy
- Placer County Office of Education
- Placer Land Trust
- Roseville Homestart
- Roseville Public Libraries' Adult Literacy Program
- Shriner's Hospital for Children
- St. Rose of Lima School
- St. Vincent de Paul of Roseville
- The Dry Creek Conservancy
- The Salvation Army

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