

Donala Water and Sanitation District, April 21

# Donala visionary Bill Nance eulogized

By Jim Kendrick

Donala Water and Sanitation District Director, former board President, and former District Manager Bill Nance passed away early on April 20 and was eulo-

gized by President Bill George at the start of the April 21 regular board meeting. Nance was two months short of his 93rd birthday. He is survived by his wife, Mary. Nance's director chair was shrouded in black bunting for the April 21 board meeting. The board unanimously approved a motion to fly the U.S. flag in front of the Donala office building at half-staff through the date of Nance's memorial service.

The board also honored the retirement of Office Assistant Ginnette Ritz. A life-long local resident, Ritz has served her entire career supporting the community working for the Colorado Springs Police Department, Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, and Donala. District General Manager Kip Petersen said he would call her back to serve again as Donala's designat-

ed election official. Office Manager Betsy Bray stated, "Ginnette knows every single job in the office. She can do every single person's job without a flaw."

### Nance's achievements

George reviewed an email from former 20-year Donala Superintendent and General Manager Dana Duthie. Some of the items George and Duthie noted were:

Nance provided vision about future needs and proper planning that Donala had never had before as a developer district. Nance was a strong advocate for acquiring renewable water sources and would have bought more ranches in addition to Willow Creek Ranch if Donala had been able to generate more financing.

Nance transitioned from Donala's board president to general manager "for very little pay"

under a consulting contract in 1993 to initiate long-range planning and short-term staff and consultant changes, as well as to hire Duthie. Two years later, Nance returned to the board and was re-elected to board chairman as Duthie took over as general manager for the next 18 years. The new auditing firm, Hoelting and Co., and the legal firm of Petrock and Fendell P.C. that Nance and Duthie hired are still used by Donala to this day.

Nance initiated a first of its kind as well as the first successful lawsuit against the state water engineer's office that resulted in hundreds of thousands of district water augmentation cost savings. Nance "held firm" in the district's pursuit of this litigation in the face of strong advice "many times to give in to the state."

Nance also stood firm in

converting Donala away from being a purely reactive developer district in order to control Donala's growth as a forward-looking stand-alone entity that matched the available water supply rather than developer preferences. Donala was successful in negotiating acquisition of underground water rights in Fox Run Park from El Paso County.

Nance was the first president of the El Paso County Water Authority that has since evolved into the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority, bringing together all county water entities to have an equal standing with Colorado Springs Utilities.

Duthie's closing statement in his April 20 email to the board was: "A great man passed today and the people of Donala owe him a huge debt."

George stated that most Donala constituents do not know the magnitude of Nance's effect on Donala. George said that throughout his life he was visionary "always looking to do better for people" through Donala and Gleneagle Sertoma. "Losing Bill puts a big hole in the district. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Mary and his family. Bill's in a better place. That we remember him with fondness is an understatement. He was a straight shooter. You never had to ask yourself 'What did he really mean?' He could cut to the chase very quickly." George added, "He knew he was cared about. He knew quite clearly the respect we all had for him and his contributions."

George then formally announced that Donala will be seeking a replacement for Nance in June. Those interested in seeking consideration for this June appointment should contact Betsy Bray at 488-3603 before May 26. An official announcement of

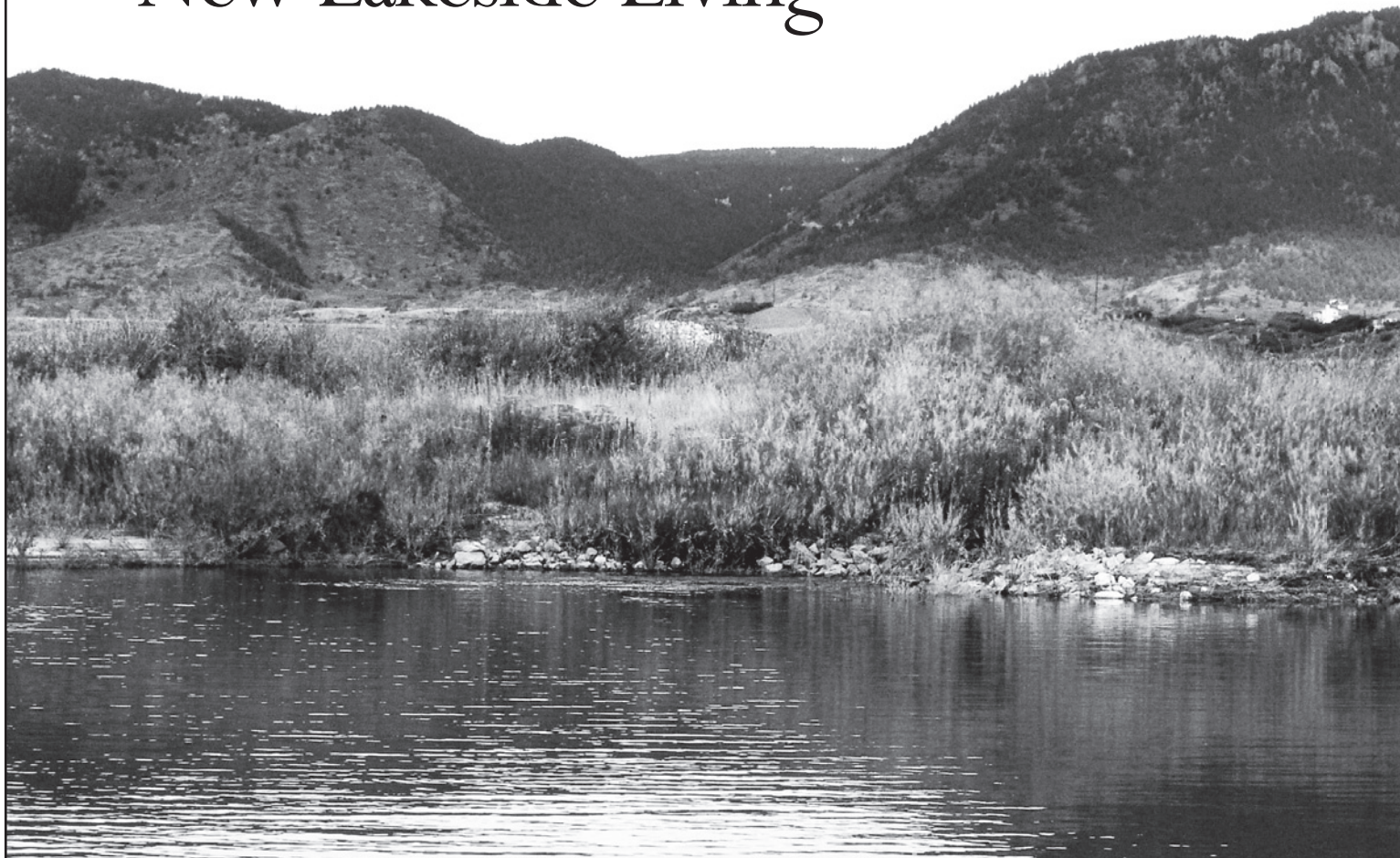


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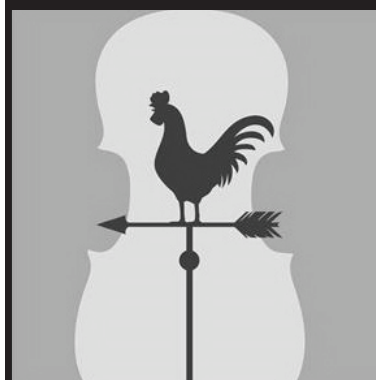
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