

# **Weldon B. (Hoot) Gibson**

## ***Washington State '38***

### **Oxford Cup Roll No. 42**

A giant in the fields of international economic research and global business development, Hoot Gibson joined SRI (then Stanford Research Institute) as Director of Economics Research and Chairman of International Programs. He was SRI's third employee. For more than 40 years, he played a key role in SRI's steady growth in size and worldwide prominence.

After graduation from WSU in 1938, he received an MBA degree in 1940 and a PhD from Stanford University's Graduate School of Business. He is an International Associate of Stanford's Hoover Institution.

Following World War II service in the Army Air Corps as director of material requirements, he retired as a colonel in 1946 and became Assistant Director of the new USAF Institute of Technology at Dayton, Ohio.

In 1947, Dr. Gibson joined Stanford Research Institute, a new non-profit research organization. In the 1950s, he extended the scope of SRI's operations around the world, organizing 80 major international conferences for senior business executives in some 25 countries. In the 1970s he created the SRI International Associates Plan, including more than 800 companies in 63 nations.

Dr. Gibson was named Associate Director of Stanford Research Institute in 1956, Vice President in 1959, Executive Vice President in 1960, Senior Director in 1982 and Senior Director Emeritus in 1988.

In connection with SRI's worldwide operations, Dr. Gibson has travelled extensively throughout Europe, South America, Africa, the South Pacific, the Middle East, South Asia and the Far East. He co-founded the International Industrial Conference, a major meeting of world industrial leaders and has been on the governing boards of numerous civic, educational and business associations throughout the world, including the Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC), which he co-founded in 1967, and the American University of Beirut, which he served as a trustee. PBEC honored him in March 2000 as International Counselor and Senior Advisor.

In 1946, the U.S. presented Dr. Gibson the Medal of the Legion of Merit, and he was awarded the Order of Commander of the British Empire in 1947.

SRI established *The Weldon B. (Hoot) Gibson Achievement Award*. He was presented *The Weldon B. (Hoot) Gibson Silver Anniversary All-American Award* by Time-Life International in 1963. He is founding chairman of the WSU Foundation. Each year WSU presents a *Gibson Award* for service to the University.

A native of Eldorado, Texas, he and Helen Mears Gibson were married 60 years in March 2001. A son David M., is a figurative and landscape artist in New York. Another son, Arthur E., died in 1962 at the age of 19. Mrs. Gibson studied fine art at Oberlin and Stanford and continues to do watercolors. Dr. Gibson enjoys following Stanford and Washington State athletics. They have one grandson.

*L.E. (Erv) Johnson, Idaho '53, Editor of The Beta Theta Pi*