

DEATHS



George T. Abell

George T. Abell

George Thomas Abell, 79, pioneer Midland independent oil operator and founder of the Permian Basin Petroleum Museum, Library and Hall of Fame, died Monday in a Midland hospital following a long illness.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday in the First Presbyterian Church with Dr. Ray Riddle officiating. Interment will follow in Resthaven Memorial Park, directed by Newnie W. Ellis Funeral Home.

Abell was born Aug. 8, 1900, at Wakeeney, Kan.

He long had been active in the Independent Petroleum Association of America, Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association, Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association and the Permian Basin Petroleum Association.

Abell was a charter member of the Permian Basin Petroleum Pioneers Association and had been a member of the Midland Downtown Rotary Club since 1937.

He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Midland.

Survivors include his wife, Gladys; a son, Duane H. Abell, San Antonio; a sister, Ester A. Denton of Midland, and two brothers, Walter Abell of Midland and Wallace Abell, Amarillo.

Pallbearers will include Jno. P. Butler, Arthur Yeager, John Younger, Harvey Herd, Ben Black and Robert Leibrock, all of Midland.

Honorary pallbearers will include J.M. Armstrong, Martin Allday, Hamilton McRae, Holt Jowell, Harry Neilsen, Maurice Bullock, Allen Traubach, Ed Vogler, James Trott and Lester Van Pelt Jr., all of Midland; A.R. (Happy) Dyer of Odessa; Ben Bird and Atwood McDonald, both of Fort Worth; Clayton Williams Sr., Lee O. White, Dean Whitley, all of Fort Stockton, Claud Aikman of San Angelo and members of the Downtown Rotary Club.

The family has asked that memorials be directed to the Permian Basin Petroleum Museum, First Presbyterian Church, Midland Memorial Hospital or Trinity Towers.

EDITORIAL

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George T. Abell

Midland and the Permian Basin Empire of West Texas and Southeast New Mexico lost a real friend and staunch, generous supporter in the death Monday of George T. Abell, a Midland resident for more than half a century.

Mr. Abell gave so unselfishly of himself to so many individuals and worthwhile causes that no one will ever know the extent of his benevolence. He is best known for his generous contributions, financial and otherwise, to the Permian Basin Petroleum Museum, Library and Hall of Fame; Midland Memorial Hospital, Boy Scouts of America and in the fields of education and culture, but this list by no means even starts to cover the extent of his broad-based giving. This was a marvelous trait, indeed.

But what really is significant, however, is the fact that George T. Abell plowed back into his beloved Midland and West Texas a generous portion of that which he had taken out and from which he had benefitted. His adopted community and region had been good to him, and, in return, he was good to them. Thus, Midland and West Texas are better and more enjoyable places in which to reside and work as a result of his generosity.

Modest to the nth degree, George Abell also was a kindly, gentle, compassionate and considerate man of the highest character and integrity.

Yet he was a determined person, one who never looked back once he originated or adopted a worthwhile idea, cause or project. He would go all-out in researching, organizing and promoting any endeavor he chose to support. He always solicited the assistance and support of others, but if it wasn't forthcoming, George Abell didn't lose interest in or give up on whatever project it was. His determination was responsible to a marked degree for the Permian Basin Petroleum Museum being what it is today. And so it was with

numerous other programs. The Aeroplane Museum at Midland Regional Airport is another example of his determined effort.

This also was true in his business career. He held degrees in civil and irrigation engineering and in mechanical engineering, but George Abell trained himself as a geologist and began his petroleum career as an independent oil operator here in 1930. He became successful through determination and tenacity.

He was a staunch supporter of the free enterprise system and always was interested and active in public affairs.

The American Association of Petroleum Geologists in 1978 named Mr. Abell as the recipient of its coveted Public Service Award. He previously had received the Permian Basin Oil Show's top award for service and contributions to the petroleum industry. He also had been inducted into the Petroleum Museum's Hall of Fame.

The West Texas Chamber of Commerce, in 1973, presented Mr. and Mrs. Abell with its Cultural Achievement Award. They also received an award from the Texas Historical Foundation, and the first Texas award for Historical Preservation. The Midland Rotary Club and other groups also had honored Mr. Abell.

But the wonderful part about it all was that Mr. Abell never failed to acknowledge graciously and sincerely his appreciation for any honors bestowed upon him. He was that kind of person. He was a distinguished citizen and business and civic leader, richly deserving of all the honors which had come his way, although he would have been the first to deny such a statement.

George Abell will be missed, certainly, but he has left behind living, lasting monuments by which he will be remembered and which long will benefit residents of this city and region and which will be appreciated and enjoyed by generations yet unborn.