

Longtime Midland philanthropist dies

From Staff Reports

Mrs. George T. Abell, longtime Midland resident, civic and cultural leader and philanthropist, died Saturday morning in her home after an extended illness.

Mrs. Abell, the former Gladys Hanger of Fort Worth, had resided here since 1939.

The daughter of a pioneer Tarrant County family, she graduated from Paschal High School in Fort Worth and attended Texas Christian University and the University of Texas at Austin.

Her husband, who preceded her in death in 1979, was a pioneer Midland independent oil operator and founder of the Permian Basin Petroleum Museum, Library and Hall of Fame.

Mr. and Mrs. Abell, personally and through the Abell-Hanger Foundation, contributed generously to many civic and philanthropic organi-

zations in Midland and throughout Texas.

Locally, the Abell-Hanger Foundation was a major contributor to the creation of Midland Memorial Hospital and continues to be one of the hospital's major benefactors. The Abell-Hanger Foundation has also given more than 1,500 Midland and Greenwood Independent School District students scholarships to Midland College over the past three years.

The foundation has awarded nursing scholarships to students at Midland College, Baylor University and Texas Christian University, donated a library to Austin College in Sherman, supported Midland United Way and awarded general scholarships to graduating students in the Crane and Fort Stockton Independent School Districts.

The Abell-Hanger Science Faculty Building at Midland College is named after them, as well.

Mrs. Abell was serving as president of the Abell-Hanger Foundation at the time of her death.

The Abells received the West Texas Chamber of Commerce Cultural Achievement Award in 1973. They also were recognized by the Texas Historical Foundation for their interest in historical endeavors statewide. The Abells sponsored the first Texas State Historical Marker, which was erected at Camp Ford, near Tyler.

Mrs. Abell also was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Permian Basin Petroleum Museum, Library and Hall of Fame. She retired in 1985 as a member of the Board of Trustees of Midland Presbyterian Homes (Trinity Towers and Manor Park), and was a former member of the Board of Governors of Midland Memorial Hospital. She was a life member of the Midland Women's Club.



Gladys Abell

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Mrs. Abell was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, Midland-Odessa Symphony and Chorale Association, President's Club of the Museum of the Southwest, National Society of Colonial Dames of America (Texas chapter), Daughters of the American Revolution, Women's Auxiliary of Midland Memorial Hospital, Delta Delta Delta sorority (UT-Austin), the Delta Delta Delta Midland alumnae chapter, Minuet Dance Club and a former member of the Midland Garden Club.

Mrs. Abell was the recipient of

Texas Christian University's 1984 "Special Award."

Survivors include one son, Duane H. Abell of Ranchos de Taos, N.M.; one sister, Mrs. Louis T. Burford of Fort Worth and several nieces and nephews.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. in the First Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Russell Ritchel officiating.

Interment will follow in Resthaven Memorial Park under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home.

The family requests that memorials be directed to the charity of one's choice.