



**William D. "Bill" Kleine**

1928 - 2010

Inducted 2011

Born in Missouri in 1928, **William D. "Bill" Kleine** attended Missouri Valley College, graduating cum laude in 1949 with a degree in Business Administration. After graduation, he joined Phillips Petroleum Company, mainly to play basketball with the famous "Phillips 66ers." (He turned down offers from several professional basketball teams, including the New York Knickerbockers.) He then settled in Midland working in the crude oil support division for Phillips. In 1956, Kleine joined Western Oil Transportation Company which later became The Permian Corporation, a crude oil marketing company, a new concept in the oil fields.

Insightfully, Kleine developed a relationship between purchasing the oil in the field and building the contacts within the oil refineries, alleviating market concerns of Permian Basin independent oil companies. Under Kleine's leadership as Vice-President of Marketing, the small local company with twenty-two trucks, transformed into a worldwide competitor. In the early 1960s, The Permian Corporation became the first Midland-based company to be listed on the New York Stock Exchange. When Kleine retired as President and Chief Executive Officer in 1989, The Permian Corporation operated over 600 trucks and 6,000 miles of pipeline, employing 2,000 people and doing business in 15 states. After his retirement, he became involved in consulting and investments. During his lifetime, Kleine was active in many Midland organizations including the Junior Chamber of Commerce, High Sky Children's Ranch Board of Governors, and Midland College Foundation Board. Serving on the Midland College Board of Trustees from 1980 through 2006, Kleine championed community college education for those in Midland and the surrounding Permian Basin. He was a long-time member of St. Ann's Catholic Church, and even coached the 8<sup>th</sup> grade basketball teams. Admired both professionally and personally,

he shared his expertise, experience, and wisdom with peers and friends as well as mentored those new to the oil business. Kleine also served on an advisory board at Notre Dame University and was a Trustee Emeritus at his alma mater Missouri Valley College at the time of his death in June 2010.