

Meredith Stipp



Meredith Russell Stipp was born September 19, 1923 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the third son of James A. and Blanche B. Stipp, turn-of-the-century settlers of northern Texas and southern Oklahoma. He was educated in Tulsa public schools where his mother was employed as a teacher, graduating from Tulsa Central High School in 1940 at the age of sixteen. He attended the engineering school of the University of Tulsa for two years, then enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force as a meteorology cadet. Appointed as an officer in the U.S. Air Force after obtaining a Certificate of Meteorology from U.C.L.A., in 1943, he participated as a Weather Officer in the Long Range Research Unit at the California Institute of Technology and served as an instructor of meteorology in basic and advanced Air Force flying schools in Kansas and Texas. Later, he was a member of the Office of Strategic Services until it disbanded at the end of World War II. Returning to the University of Tulsa after discharge from the armed forces, Russell received a degree in geology in 1948 and was employed by Standard Oil Company of Texas (later Chevron Oil Co.), his initial assignment being in Midland, Texas. When Standard organized a District Office in Abilene, Texas, Russell was transferred to that location, where he became acquainted with a legal secretary by the name of Eloise Grant. They were married in Midland's First Methodist Church on

September 30, 1950. Following two years of seismic work, Russell returned to Midland as a District Exploration Geologist. In 1957, he organized a new district office in Roswell, New Mexico, where he and Eloise resided for five years, then returned to Midland. In early 1969, Russell resigned from Standard to become an independent geologist and consultant. Russell's professional affiliations included the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists and the West Texas Geological Society, from whom he received a Pioneer Award in 2004. He was a past president of the Midland Community Concert Association, a member of the Midland Genealogical Society and an active participant in the informal Midland Exploration Society. Russell enjoyed a variety of activities during leisure hours, relishing the challenge of golf, hunting and fishing. He made many trips to Lake Novillo, Mexico with his brother, Robert. A voracious reader, he also conducted extensive correspondence with old friends and numerous relatives, particularly German cousins, with whom he and Eloise often exchanged visits. Left behind to mourn Russell's departure are his wife, Eloise Grant Stipp; daughters, Diana Mathis of Midland, TX, Susan Stipp of Berkeley, CA, Elaine Smith and husband, Steve, of Midland, TX, and Vanessa Leong and husband, Jack, of Hilton Head Island, SC. The seven Stipp grandchildren are; Kian Stipp, Melinda Mathis, Jennifer Mathis, Alexis Smith, James Blake Smith, Shelby Leong and Kamryn Leong. Two nieces also survive, being Marilyn Justice of Hobbs, NM and Nancy Pierce of Lewisville, TX and one great-grandson Greyson James Smith. At his request, Russell's departure will be marked with only a brief graveside service at 1:00 pm on Saturday, February 12, 2011 at Resthaven Memorial Park. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Friday, February 11, 2011 from 6:00 until 8:00 pm. No specific organizations are recommended to receive memorials in his honor. Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com.