

BILL TIPPIN SR.
A True Contributor To The Community

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July 23-29, 2000

William D. (Bill) Tippin, a partner in Rogers and Belding Insurance and a former director for the Texas State Board of Insurance Agents, has died at the age of 79.

The list of activities with which he was involved is extensive, and they include: the Rotary Club of El Paso, where he was a Paul Harris Fellow; past, president of the Jaycees; a member of the Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite Temple, the Royal Order of the Jesters. He was twice president of the Yucca Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Former state Rep. Jack Vowell, who knew Tippin for 67 years, said, "When I was 5 years old my family lived next to the Tippins. Bill's dad was superintendent of Portland Cement and also superintendent of Altura Presbyterian Church's Sunday School. We grew up to work together in the same service clubs.

"Bill was a good man, friendly, cheerful, always helpful and available when needed. He was very understanding and helped a lot of people, but didn't get much credit for what he did. He was a true contributor to our community."

Tippin and his twin sister Mary were born in El Paso on Dec. 27, 1920. Their parents were Walter Emmett and Urada Mitchel. Bill's sister, now Mary Johnson, tells a bit about their childhood:

"We had a really good time in our house on Country Club Road," she said. "We rode horses and went swimming in the ditches. Bill was a tow-headed kid with curly white

hair and always my buddy. We went to a two-room school (Zach White), then rode the bus to El Paso High school."

Bill's father, from an Oklahoma family of seven boys and three girls, came to Fort Bliss as a member of the Medical Corps in World War I. His grandson Tip remembers that his grandfather was assigned "to guard the Railroad Bridge during the Great War because they were afraid the Germans would blow up the bridge by sneaking into the United States through Mexico."



Bill and Mary Tippin

On graduating from high school, Bill enrolled in New Mexico State University. He left college and went to work for Rogers and Belding at age 19. Jimmy Rogers Jr. remembers: "Bill started working for the company in 1941 and was still going to work every day nearly 60 years later. I've known him since I was 7 years old. We have been partners for 41 years. Even though we had different thoughts and ways of doing things, we never had a cross word. I can truthfully say I've never met a better person."

Mary Newell worked in the administration office of the College of Mines. One of her friends came in one day and said, "I have this single cousin I want you to meet."

Mary and Bill were married Sept. 24, 1948.

Their two boys, William Jr. and Walter, attended Crockett Elementary School. Mary became interested in the PTA. She continued sharing her talents with the Austin High School PTA, became treasurer of the City Council PTA, was president for two years of the District PTA, and during 1984- 86 became president of the State PTA. Her husband Bill supported her in all these activities. He became known by several organizations as a top fudge producer. Mary was responsible for getting her husband to make enough fudge for each teacher of Austin High School to receive five pieces during Teacher Appreciation Week. Other organizations that received his tokens were the Woman's Club, and the UTEP Auxiliary.

While Mary worked with PTA, Bill became a leader in the Boy Scouts of America. In 1971 the Boy Scout Silver Beaver distinguished service award was presented to Bill.

His son Walter said, "My Dad helped us with every-thing. He was our leader in Indian Guide, Cub Scout camping, and was always helping us get ready for college, work and school. He would stay up all night to help us."

When we asked Bill's wife Mary what she remembered most about those years she said, "In 1958 we drove to the New York World's Fair. We always did things together."

In 1975 Bill received a special honor bestowed on him by the El Paso Insurance Agents Association as 'Man of the Year.' He was a director of the Texas State Board of Insurance Agents during the 1974-77 years.

A sudden and unexpected illness sent him to Sierra Medical Hospital on June 23, where

he later died. His funeral service was held at First Baptist Church with Dr. Levi Price and the most Reverend Phillip Jones of St. Clement officiating. His five grandchildren gave the eulogy written by grandson Chilton Tippin. Burial was in Restlawn Memorial Cemetery where. A Masonic service was held. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Mary Newell Tippin, sons William (Tip) Tippin and his wife Jana, Dr. Walter L. Tippin and his wife Margie, twin-sister Mary Johnson and her husband Winston.

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