

Proudly presents

Memories of Yesteryear



W. H. Smith, Jr., 1883-1948

Our community can certainly be proud of its heritage. Many wonderful men and women have labored to make this part of Texas a better place to live. Most of these people have left descendants to carry on their work and to share the responsibilities of today's living. But the memories of our forefathers are forever with us. And we we want to pay a special tribute to some of those who once were so active... those who have left us with more than just fond memories.

W. H. Smith, Jr. could well be described as one of the more active business men of his time.

Born Dec. 29, 1883 at Indianola, his family later moved to Port Lavaca where he was educated in the local school system before finishing at West Texas Military Academy.

While just a young man, he was an active member of the old Port Lavaca band, the baseball team and was one of the first members of the fire department. Throughout his entire life, W. H. took an active part in the civic work of the city.

His business interests were many and varied. His first position was with the old First National Bank. Later, he became a deputy county clerk and then became associated with the Rachgens-Smith Lumber Co. Following this, he joined in the firm of W. H. Smith and Sons in ship's channelry work.

While working with his father, he often operated "The Buffalo," a boat engaged in carrying passengers to various pavilions along the coast.

Smith and two of his brothers—along with a brother-in-law, later formed the Smith-Ulrich Dredging Co. and Mr. Smith was installed as manager of the firm. This firm was later dissolved and Mr. Smith then operated a shrimp boat until the family moved into the fish business. Still later, Mr. Smith, a brother and the senior W. H. Smith formed the Smith Dock and Harbor Company, a firm which operated in Port Lavaca for many years.

Mr. Smith was married on April 23, 1919 to Mary Louise Gramann in her home city of Victoria. The couple had four children; Mrs. Mary Louise Powers, Mrs. Nancy Luekfahr of Brownsville, Dr. Joseph Smith (deceased) and Dr. William G. Smith, both of Port Lavaca.

Other survivors include a sister and a brother Mrs. C. B. Elder and Harry C. Smith of Port Lavaca.

W. H. Smith, Jr. died at the age of 64 on June 3, 1948.

MEMBER

F.D.I.C.

first national bank
in port lavaca
PORT LAVACA, TEXAS