

E.L. Flippen, City Leader, Dies at 82

Edgar L. Flippen, 82, retired Dallas banker whose career included periods as a bank executive, independent meat packer, insurance executive and co-developer of the Southwest's first model suburban town, died Wednesday afternoon at a Dallas hospital after a long illness.

He was chairman of the board of the First National Bank in Dallas until his retirement in 1955. His 75 years in Dallas reflect continual business success.

Flippen was born March 7, 1876, at Bryan, Brazos County, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Flippen, and moved with his parents to Dallas in 1883. He was educated in the Dallas public schools and at St. Paul's College, Garden City, L.I., where he was graduated as president of his class. In 1900 he married the former Miss Minnie May Armstrong, daughter of the late John S. Armstrong, widely known Dallas capitalist.

Mrs. Flippen died in 1949.

He began his career as an employee in the private banking house of Flippen, Adoue and Lobit, of which his father was a co-founder.

He joined the Armstrong Packing Company as secretary-treasurer in 1900, while longhorn steers were still representative meat animals in Texas herds being sent to market. A few years later he was made president and general manager, a post he held until the plant was sold.

For spanking carriage teams and fast-trotting buggy horses, Highland Park was far removed from the dusty hustle and bustle of Dallas when he first entered the development of that suburban town. The area at Knox and Travis streets was undeveloped countryside, and commuters could look across the land at farm houses as they drove proud horses to and from the city.

Highland Park originally was envisioned by Col. Henry Exall, who bought a 1,400-acre tract there in 1889 and joined with an Eastern syndicate in plans to develop it. Exall Lake was prepared and gravelled streets were laid, but the venture was halted by the panic in the early 1890's.

Armstrong bought out these interests in 1906, obtained the services of the best available city planners, and began the development.

Following his death in 1908, the work then was taken over by Flippen and Hugh E. Prather.

In 1932 he was elected president of the Gulf Insurance Company and the Atlantic Insurance Company and served in that ca-



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capacity until he resigned in 1944 to accept the presidency of First National Bank in Dallas. In 1950 he became chairman of the board of First National Bank in Dallas and so remained until his resignation in 1955.

He was the first president of the Dallas Country Club when it was relocated at its present site. He was deeply interested in, and for a time was president of, the Dallas Little Theater.

He was formerly chairman of the board of governors of the Dallas Foundation. He helped organize the Dallas Morris Plan Bank, now the City State Bank of Dallas, and at one time was a director of the National Bank of Commerce, the Republic Fire Insurance Company, the Great Southern Life Insurance Company, Dallas Chamber of Commerce and the State Fair of Texas. For years he acted as treasurer of the Diocese of Dallas of the Episcopal Church and the American Cancer Society of Texas.

He was a director of the Hillcrest State Bank, Gulf Insurance Company, the Southwestern Life Insurance Company, Texas & Pacific Railway Company, Dallas Power & Light Company, Dallas Grand Opera Association, the Dallas Historical Society, American National Bank of Oak Cliff, and advisory director of the First National Bank in Dallas.

He was a member of the American Bankers Association, the Reserve City Bankers Association, the American Newcomen Society, Brook Hollow Golf Club, Northwood Club, the Downtown Club, and the City Club.

His personal office was in the Flippen-Prather Stores, Inc. in the Highland Park Village, and his residence at 4518 Westway.

His only brother, W. H. Flippen Jr., died in January, 1952. He is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Joseph Rankin and Mrs. Robert K. Gaston, both residents of Dallas, and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held at St. Matthew's Cathedral, 5100 Ross, at 4 p.m. Thursday. Dean Gerald G. Moore will officiate, assisted by Father Guy S. Usher.

Burial will be in Oakland Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Fontaine Alexander, Edward Cary Jr., Henry Coke Jr., Edwin Gaston, T. W. Griffiths III, W. M. Long Jr., John A. Prather, David Reed, Jules Schneider and Dr. Ray Thomasson.