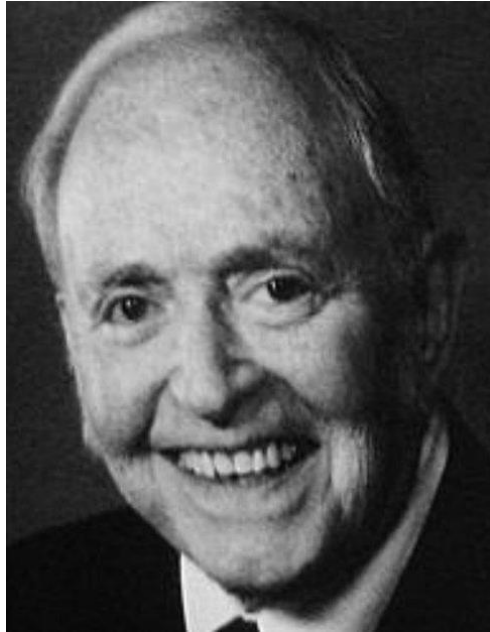


Theodore I. Leben

1919 - 2010



Theodore I. Leben was born to Sam and Libby Gootkin Leben on May 24th 1919, in El Dorado, Kansas. He was their third of five children. His siblings were Harold Leben of blessed memory, Jimmy Leben of blessed memory who died as an infant in the flu epidemic of 1918, younger twin brother and sister, Archie of blessed memory and Cissy Kotkins's who lives in Portland, Oregon. At the young age of six Ted was a violinist. By the time he was thirteen he helped support his family during the Depression by giving violin lessons. He sat first chair in the El Dorado High School Orchestra as well as first chair in the Kansas Youth Symphony; two accomplishments that he was very proud of.

When Ted was only nineteen, his father was killed in an automobile accident in Kechi, Kansas. Ted came back home from Seattle to take over his father's small watch repair business and help raise his very young sister and brother. Ted married his beautiful bride of 66 years, Aileen June Boucher in 1944 during the war while he was serving in the Army Air Corps. They were married in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Not a day went by that he didn't tell her how much he loved and adored her. She was to the very end his most devout inspiration in life and love.

After the war they came back to El Dorado, Kansas to raise their four children and continue to work in the jewelry business until the mid-1950's. He moved the family to Wichita, Kansas. Ted got the bug for the oil and gas industry. He sold his three jewelry stores and bought one rotary drilling rig. From 1958-1970, Mr. Leben grew his Wichita based oil company into Leben Drilling, Inc. which was the workhorse of the company. In 1970, the company contracted more than 250 wells, thereby establishing itself as one of the nation's big three land based rotary rig contractors. Mr. Leben's oil company included Leben Drilling, Inc., Natural Resources Fund, Inc. and Kinetic Corporation all under the umbrella of Tilco, Inc.

Ted was an active philanthropist and believed strongly in supporting his community. He served as President for Congregation Emanu-El for two terms, President of Mid-Kansas Jewish Federation for two terms, Chairman of Israel Bonds, a Co-Founder of National Council of Christian and Jews; Wichita Chapter, Regional President of Hebrew Union Congregations, a longstanding member of Kiwanis, and a 33rd Degree Mason.

SOURCE: The Wichita Eagle. September 28, 2010.