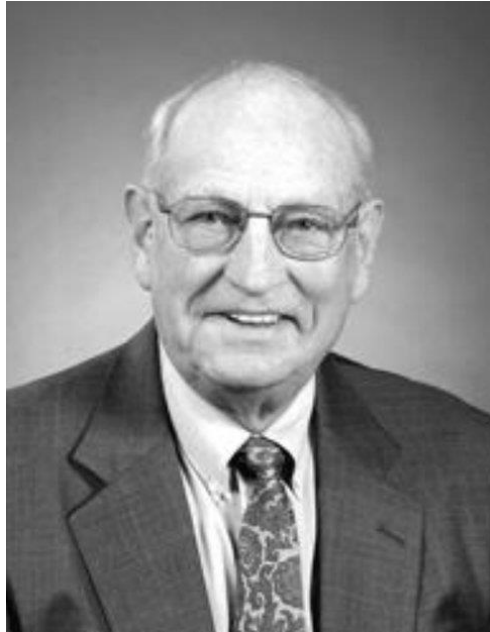


Sterling Varner

1919 - 2009



Mr. Varner was born in a tent in Ranger, Texas, on Dec. 20, 1919, to George Virgile Varner and Christina Shafer Varner. His father and grandfather were contractors providing mules to haul oil field equipment during the Ranger oil boom. He grew up in Oklahoma where he graduated from high school in Fox, Oklahoma. He attended Murray State School of Agriculture in Tishomingo, Okla., and passed the entrance exam to join the Army Air Corp, but complications following appendicitis left him ineligible for service during World War II.

He married Paula Jean Kennedy on Nov. 17, 1945 in Elmore City, Oklahoma, and soon thereafter began working for Rock Island Refining in Duncan, Oklahoma. The refinery was purchased a year later by Fred Koch of Wichita, commencing a career spanning more than six decades with the company that was to become Koch Industries.

During his tenure with Koch, Varner held a variety of positions including purchasing agent, crude oil trader and ranch manager. He was elected to the board of directors of Koch Industries in 1967 and was named president in 1974, serving in that role until 1987. He eventually handed over the presidency and

chief operating officer duties to Bill Hanna. In 1987 he was also named vice chairman of the Koch board, and after retiring as vice chairman in 1989, he remained active on the company's board. He was also engaged in the operation of his beloved Shadow Valley Ranch.

Mr. Varner was a member of RiverWalk Church of Christ and active locally with the Youth Entrepreneurs of Kansas and Goodwill Industries.

SOURCES:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/wichita/stories/2009/09/28/daily34.html>

The Wichita Eagle. October 2, 2009.