

Merle Edward Britting

1916 - 2002



Mr. Britting, also known as The Boss and Chief, was born to Herman Earnest and Mary Midge Britting on December 20, 1916 on a family farm two and a half miles north of Haverhill in Butler County, Kansas. At the age of five, Merle and his family moved a few miles north to El Dorado. El Dorado grade schools, high school, and junior college provided the educational base that led to a 1938 degree from Kansas University in Business Administration. Four years later, he passed the Kansas Certified Public Accounting Exam on the first try.

While in school, his extra curricular activities included raising goats, throwing four different paper routes, running the half mile in track and playing the trumpet both in the high school band and several dance bands. He married Helen Elizabeth Paterson in 1935.

Shortly after receiving his Certified Public Accountant certificate, he moved his family to Wichita and went to work for Elmer E. Fox and Co. After attaining a general partner status at Fox, he and his college roommate, Ed Kruger, started the accounting firm, Britting-Kruger Co. in 1950. In April 1953, Britting-Kruger Co.

merged with Moberly-West-Calvin & Jennings. It was about this same time that he went to work for M.B. Armer, a local oil and gas producer. It took only a short period of time, while working as Mr. Armer's business manager and accountant, for Merle and "Buddy" to develop a very close personal relationship. A relationship that was based on mutual feelings of trust, honesty and respect.

After a long illness, Mr. Armer died of cancer in 1960. After Mr. Armer's death, Merle was responsible for several trusts and continued to operate H-30 Inc., a drilling company that had been organized in September of 1953. Merle managed the operations of the drilling rigs and oil production. It was during this time that he began investing in various business interests. His accounting skills enabled him to ferret out the wheat from the shaft. He was involved with many companies with a diverse mix of market pursuits: banking, apartments, grocery stores, office supply, real estate, roller skating rinks, seismograph, auto parts and construction were all included in his investment pursuits.

Health problems interfered in 1979. From 1979 to 1981 there was a transition at H-30 Drilling where Merle gradually turned over the management and part of the ownership of the business to his son, Dean Britting and a trusted fellow C.P.A., Gary Younger.

The decade of the 1980's saw wide swings in oil prices. A challenging decade to say the least, H-30 Inc. survived and was renamed H-30 Drilling Inc. Eventually, H-30 Drilling Inc. became a nine rig drilling company before being sold to Colombian Companies in December of 1990. After the sale, Merle completely retired and enjoyed several years with friends, family, and traveling.

Merle passed away on June 20, 2002 after being worn down from an acute blood infection. His life was busy with work, but he made time for involvements with several organizations. He played the trumpet in the Shrine Band, was president of the Berean Sunday School Class at Hillside Christian Church, was a member of Wichita Kiwanis Club and a member on the University of Kansas School of Business advisory board.