

## **Willard W. Garvey**

### **1920 - 2002**



Mr. Garvey was born in Colorado Springs, Colorado on July 29, 1920 and moved with his family to Wichita in 1928. He graduated from East High and from the University of Michigan, where he was a member of the national championship swim team. He attended the University of Wichita from 1941-1943, before serving in the Army during World War II. Upon his return to Wichita, he became President and CEO of his family's most prominent businesses, Garvey Industries, a diverse organization of companies involved in agriculture, real estate, transportation, food processing, natural resources, investments, and philanthropy. Garvey Industries companies involved in natural resource development include: Petroleum, Inc., Garvey Exploration Ltd., Grain Power, Inc. and Story Well Service, Inc.

Mr. Garvey was well known for his philosophy of "philanthropy, education and seeing others succeed." His passion for building is evident in Wichita's Epic Center and Garvey Center, as well as in 27 other countries he helped to build homes.

He was a visionary businessman who dreamed of “Every man a homeowner,” Garvey pioneered affordable home ownership in developing countries at a time when millions hardly knew about the conditions worldwide. As President of Builders Inc., he gave the land necessary for the south branch of the YMCA.

He and his wife, Jean, would found Wichita Collegiate School and the Independent School of Wichita. In 1988, they would establish the Willard W. Garvey Professorship in Business History as Mr. Garvey believed in the relevance of business history and hoped to “create a closer link between WSU and the business community.”

Upon his death in 2002, Mrs. Garvey endowed the professorship, enhancing the position as a Faculty Distinction.

SOURCES: <https://www.bizjournals.com/wichita/stories/2002/07/22/daily58.html>  
<https://www.independent.org/store/book.asp?id=108>

<https://www.wichita.edu/foundation/spiritofthegiftbiographyproject/biographies/willardw.garveyprofessorshipinbusinesshistor.php>