

Vincent Hiebsch

1920 - 2007



Vincent Hiebsch, Jr., was born November 4, 1920 in Wichita, Kansas, the only child of Vincent F. and Edith Lucile Hiebsch. Vince graduated from East High School in 1938. Upon his graduation, Vince and thirteen of his classmates formed the Last Man's Club. The members would meet once a year and the tradition continued through the decades. The Last Man's Club annual meeting became "bitter sweet" with Vince being one of the last two surviving men.

He attended University of Kansas from 1939 to 1942. He left KU to join the Army Air Corp and was a pilot during World War II. Vince flew a C46 Cargo plane over the "hump". The "hump" was a flight from India to China over the Himalayan Mountains. After a short business venture with his brother-in-law, Vince became an independent oil and gas lease broker. He enjoyed traveling western Kansas and negotiating with land owners. For nearly fifteen years, he had been brokering leases for major oil companies. In 1968, he put together a deal and drilled his first well in Ellis County, Kansas – it produced for 25 years. In 1969, Vince formed Vincent Oil Corporation and was President until his retirement in 1995. The company continued to operate in downtown Wichita with various geologists and

partners, drilling wells on the Barton Arch and in Pratt County in Western Kansas. Vincent turned over the business to his son, Richard, who was in business with him for 25 years.

Vince was a member of many civic and social organizations including Downtown Rotary Club, Wichita Crime Commission, Wichita Petroleum Club and Crestview Country Club.

SOURCE: The Wichita Eagle. July 9, 2007.