

Helen M. White

1907 - 2004



Mrs. White was born April 5, 1907 in Richhill, Mo., the daughter of Robert and Ethel (Wilcox) McKown. She came to Kansas as a young girl and graduated from Rosalia High School. On June 5, 1933 she was united in marriage to Erman White in El Dorado.

She moved with her husband in 1943 to Emporia where her husband trained pilots for World War II. They operated the flying school and returned to El Dorado after having started the White and Ellis Drilling company. Her husband passed away in 1959, and as the widow of Erman B. White, Mrs. White assumed the role of President and Chairman of the Board of White & Ellis Drilling Inc. in 1959. She was very involved in the daily operation of the company. After more than 50 years in the oil business, surviving many industry highs and lows, White & Ellis Drilling, Inc. continues to be an active member of the Kansas oil industry.

Mrs. White was a member of the First United Methodist Church. She was very active in many organizations, and she gave as a volunteer to the town she loved. These included the board of directors of El Dorado Chamber of Commerce, the El Dorado Country Club and the Warren Hall Coutts III Memorial Museum of Art.

She served two terms of the El Dorado Planning Commission, was a member of the Desk and Derrick, Friends of the Library, El Dorado Charities and Susan B. Allen Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. Other organizations included Butler Community College Alumni Association and Endowment Association, Kansas University Alumni Association, the Wednesday Book Club, the Knife and Fork Club, El Dorado Senior Ambassadors and the Suburban Garden Club.

She loved to travel. She was very proud that she had been to the South Seas, Orient, Mediterranean, Australia, Europe, Canada and was blessed to see most of her beautiful country in the United States.

SOURCE: <https://www.butlercc.edu/info/200151/art/66/eb-white-art-gallery>
<http://genealogytrails.com/kan/butler/walnutwwhcmemeteryobits.html>