

COLLIS DIXON SELLMAN

1934-2012

HAWKINS: Collis Dixon Sellman, 78, of Hawkins, died Thursday, June 14, 2012, in Tyler.

Collis was born March 20, 1934, in Dallas, Texas, to Collis Fred and Marguerite Sellman. He was the second-oldest of five children. He graduated from Bridgeport High School in 1952 and attended North Texas State University in Denton. He married Billye Sue Kelley on May 15, 1955. Collis began his military service in June 1956 and was stationed at Presidio Army Base in San Francisco.

Being from a newspaper family, he pursued that career. He owned The Valley Mills Tribune, The Crawford Sun, and The Progress newspapers between 1961 and 1998. He was a 25-year member of the Three Rivers Lions Club and was named Citizen of the Year by the city of George West. He was also named a Community Builder by the George West Masonic Lodge.

In his retirement, Sellman wrote "From Acorns to Live Oaks," a historical digest of Live Oak County. He also started a manuscript on the Sellman family, "Ink to Blood," which is to be completed by his younger brother, John.

He was a Sunday school teacher and deacon at the First Baptist Churches of Valley Mills and George West. He later became a member of the Holly Lake Church of Christ.

Collis was preceded in death by a son, Collis Michael, and his parents.

He is survived by a son, Steve Sellman and wife, Susan, of Valley Mills; a daughter, Kelley Rogers and husband, James, of Nashville; a granddaughter, Hillary Sellman, of Brown-wood and George West; two sisters, Nancy Dugan and husband, Jim, and Sue Womack and husband, Gilbert, all of Arlington; two brothers, Bob Sellman and wife, Linda, of Hawkins, and John Sellman and wife, Pam, of Mart; a cousin, Collis Roy Parker and wife, Eunice, of Cleburne; and many nieces and nephews.

His funeral was June 18 at Holly Lake Church of Christ with Bill Holt officiating. Burial was at DFW National Cemetery.

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