

“Scotty” Remembered

*Above, a young Ens. A. M. Scott Jr., U.S.N.R. and
right, as a successful McKinney
businessman in later years.
Photos courtesy of “Scotty’s” family.*

By Catherine M. Sjostedt

*Alfred Malley Scott, Jr.,
September 23, 1917 - February 10, 1999*

The life of A.M. Scott, which spans eight decades, exemplifies a life well lived, a life lived in and for the community of McKinney. The Scott family, into which Alfred Malley Scott, Jr., was born on September 23, 1917, was one of founding families of McKinney, with business interests in banking, insurance, real estate, ice and coal. His father, Alfred M. Scott Sr., founded A.M. Scott Insurance and Real Estate in 1910 in



Left, "Scotty" and wife, Janie at the wedding of Thad (grandson) and Dorie Helsley in 1987.

Right, surrounded by his five grandchildren, "Scotty" celebrates his 80th birthday.

McKinney, and was Chairman of the Board of the Collin County Bank, which became Texas American Bank, and later BankOne, and also served on the school board. His mother, Maude Allen Scott, came from a long-time McKinney family as well. Scotty's grandfather, Lewis Allen Scott, was president of the Collin County Bank and one of the early residents of McKinney. L.A. Scott built the maroon Victorian house on the southeast corner of College and Louisiana.

As long-time business partner Paul Hardin comments, "Scotty was born and raised right here, he was always interested in everything that was going on, as his father was." Scotty was born in a little house on Heard Street, attended Central Ward School and McKinney High School, where he was on the track team.

"He really loved McKinney, he never wanted to live anywhere else," said his son A.M. Scott III. Scotty studied business at the University of Texas at Austin and graduated in 1934, a life-long UT Longhorns' fan. On September 21, 1940 he married Janie Hawkins of Rice, Texas, and they lived in a frame house three doors down from his parent's red brick home on Waddill Street and Louisiana. Scotty served in the Navy during WWII, first as an Ensign on the destroyer escort, the U.S.S. *Duncan*, and later as Lieutenant. Following his naval career, he attended classes at Harvard Business School, returning to McKinney to join his father in business. Dr. Julius Smith

related the following story: "Scotty's father, A.M. Scott Sr., used to have a business club downtown and enjoyed playing dominoes. Scotty was in college. He came down and jumped on his daddy since he was not at the office. Mr. Scott, Sr. replied "These boys in college get awfully important," recalls Smith.

Scotty and Janie were married for 51 years, and had two children, A.M. Scott III, of McKinney, and Sally Scott Jones, of Richardson. "He and his wife Janie really loved one another," said long-time employee and friend Edna Merle Strickland. The Scotts had five grandchildren: Thad Helsley, Alan Helsley, Julie Cardwell, Shea Scott, Suzanne DiNicola, and 12 great-grandchildren. A.M. Scott III (known for many years as "Little Scotty"), Thad Helsley and Andy Hardin remain at A.M. Scott Insurance and Real Estate, which now specializes in commercial real estate and commercial insurance. Shea Scott, a business owner, also lives in McKinney and is a member of the McKinney Police Department Reserve.

It is evident that everything A.M. Scott, Jr. was involved in, he did consistently and well, albeit quietly and modestly. "He had a wonderful work ethic," remembers John Childers.

He was an active member of the McKinney Rotary Club for more than 50 years, serving in all capacities. He was a long-time member of both the McKinney Country Club and the Men's Golf Association, and a founding owner, director and the second president of the El Dorado Country Club.

Business partner Paul Hardin comments, "He was one of the nicest people you'd ever hope to meet. He was always there and always available."

"He was very thoughtful, very conservative," said Dr. Julius Smith.

"He was quiet, served so gently, very quietly," says Ren Veigel who knew Scotty for 48 years at St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

"When I think of my grandfather," Thad Helsley commented, "I remember him as always being consistent, courteous, gracious. He was honest, reliable, very altruistic and trusting. He wanted to be friends with everybody, and provide a good service to the city of McKinney."

"He was a wonderful father", said his daughter, Sally Scott Jones.

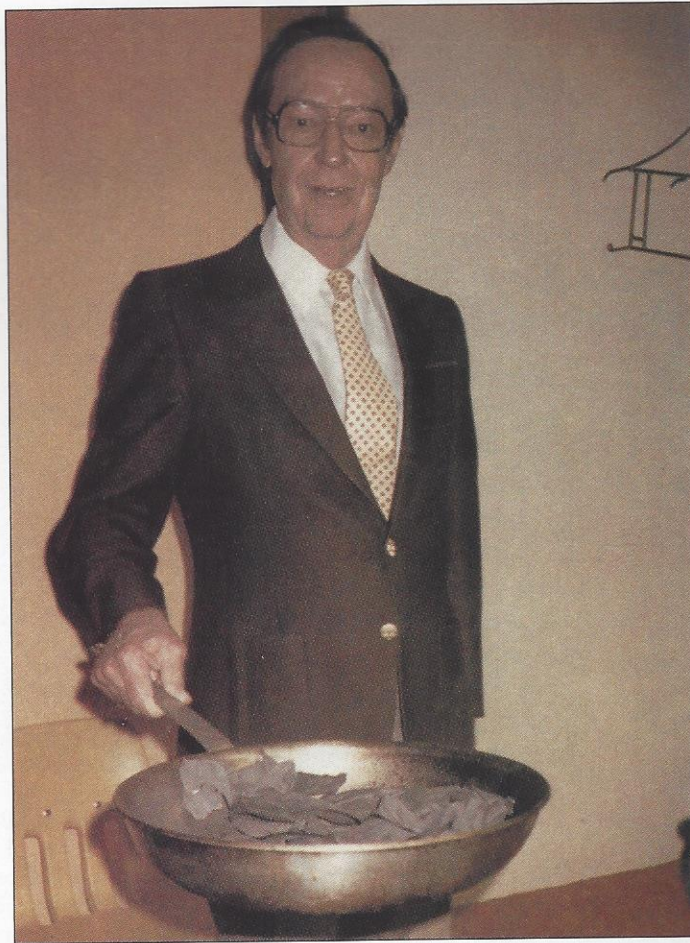
Long-time friend and employee, Edna Merle Strickland reflected, "He could be very funny and not realize it. As an employer, he was always in a good mood, fair, as well as being considerate of you as a person."

As far as his interests and hobbies were concerned, he loved family, his church, golf, deer hunting and the town, remembers Thad Helsley fondly. He enjoyed frequent travel with his wife Janie, his children and grandchildren.

"He traveled all over the world to play golf, the Carolinas, Scotland and England, and the Boulders," said his grandson.

He became a self-taught painter in the mid 70s, favoring western and Texas Hill Country scenes. There are countless stories of his generosity and concern for others.

"Scotty" burns the note for St. Peter's Episcopal Church where he served as Treasurer for 47 years. Photo courtesy of St. Peter's archives.



"I think he felt like he was blessed," said his son. "He was always looking for a way to give back to the community. He did a lot through his church and Holy Family School. One time when I was a boy, I came home and there were all these model airplanes on the table. 'Those are not for you, you have enough, those are for the kids at Holy Family,'" said Scotty.

Edna Merle Strickland recalls, "He and his father were very generous people. His father was responsible for my husband and I having our first home, it was 100 percent financed."

Scotty was that way also. He was very generous to people, with their insurance and other things, and he helped the families at Holy Family School a great deal. During the first years of Christmas donation program at church, it would be the Scott's pleasure to get a name to give gifts, toys or a new bicycle," she said. Paul Hardin agreed, "He always had somebody he was doing something for," he said. "He did what he could, and he did it for everybody." "He was kind and he loved people, kids and animals especially," remembers Sally Scott Jones. "I remember once, my dad was visiting a friend who was a vet, and a man brought in two puppies, hunting dogs, that were gun shy, to be put to sleep. We already had a dog and a cat, but my dad brought

A.M. Scott Real Estate Inc.



COMMERCIAL, LAND &
INVESTMENT PROPERTIES



Thad Helsley, President

Our family-owned business has provided the city of McKinney with quality real estate brokerage services since 1910.

Cedar Creek Office Building
1650 West Virginia, Ste. 102 • McKinney, Texas 75069
972-542-1221



*In loving memory of
my grandfather*

*Alfred Malley Scott Jr.
"Scotty"*

1917 - 1999

those puppies home. My mother almost killed him. Later he gave them to someone and, you know, they became great hunting dogs," she said.

Scotty was very proud to be a member of the Volunteer Fire Department, a job he held for more than 15 years. "It was something he always enjoyed," reports his daughter, Sally Scott Jones. "I remember going to Bingo parties at the Fire Station," she said. "One of my main entertainments as a child was to play in his fire boots, which were always in the closet," she said.

His son, A.M. Scott III remembers going to fires with his dad. "You could do that in those days," he said. "When I heard my dad's feet hit the floor, I would run to go along too. We would go to the fire station on Monday nights and I would play on the fire trucks and slide down the fire pole," he commented.

Dr. Julius Smith served on the Volunteer Fire Department with Scotty for years. "We were a regular fire department, with all the paraphernalia. You would pick up the phone, in those days, and ask the operator, 'Where is the fire?' and then they'd tell you. We were in some tight places together a time or two. We got caught one time when the old cotton mill forced us out, a spectacular fire. Scotty was always

right there," said Smith. "He made the fires reckless."

A devoted lifetime member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, he served as their treasurer for 47 years and served on the governing body innumerable times. Thad Helsley recalls a picture of Scotty when he was only 2 or 3 with his mother on the front porch of the original little church.

"He grew to become its patriarch," said Chuck Treadwell, Rector. "When the 'boom' came, he was anxious to grow, and embraced the growth of the community and the parish as a wonderfully exciting thing," said Treadwell. "Scotty was the kind of guy when the church balance was in the red, it wasn't in the red anymore," Treadwell said.

"When I was first called to this parish," said Father Treadwell, "I wanted to meet with the treasurer to find out about the financial dealings of the church, and Scotty suggested I come on over to his office. He kept a pencil ledger of the books. It is the only time before or since I have known what each family gave, but what made it so interesting and it took several hours, was that Scotty gave me a snapshot of this parish. He would tell me about this or that family, about their successes and triumphs, their disappointments and deaths,

changes in their family or how important they were to him personally. Scotty, as much as anything in this world, loved this church, the people were an extension of his family."

St. Peter's hosted "Great Scott Day" in recognition of his years of service. A set of carved wooden doors were commissioned in Scotty's memory by a grateful parish. The plaque adjacent to them reads: "In thanksgiving for the life and ministry of A.M. Scott, Jr. His dedicated service to St. Peters made it possible for the doors to be open for others."

Mr. Scott composed a history of the church on its 100th anniversary, and in his words, his church was "A place to come home, a place where you can love and help others as you can have them love and help you. A place where inspiration and support are bountiful"

It is safe to say this description aptly described McKinney with Mr. A. M. "Scotty" Scott in it as well.

Note: This year a scholarship was funded in Scotty's honor at the McKinney Education Foundation in order that his legacy may continue. 🌿

About the author: Catherine Sjostedt has made her home in McKinney since 1998. She has written for community and special interest publications in Los Angeles, CA; Salt Lake City, UT; and Madison, WI.

Call Coldwell Banker

COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

(972) 562-9898

McKINNEY OFFICE ♦ 1801 W. LOUISIANA

1-800-542-5582 • email www.coldwellbanker.com



LAND

- FOUR TRACTS ON CR 831: 26.6 ac, 20.2 ac & two 10 ac tracts.
- FM 981/CR 1135 - 112.02 acres - rolling terrain.
- 15 PLUS ACRES ON FM 981. Some wooded area.
- 185 ACRES WEST OF HONEY GROVE.
- 50 ACRES ON CR 597. Cropland w / grove of trees.
- 8200 ASCOT PLACE - 5.143 ac cul de sac lot.

Call the MILSTEAD TEAM 972/381-6620



2321 SHERBROOKE LANE \$254,900
BEAUTIFUL CENTEX GETTYSBURG II PLAN. 4/2.5/2/3LA has loads of upgrades! Triple upgraded carpet. See this one soon!
HOLLY MILSTEAD 972/381-6630 #18492



101 DRIFTWOOD CIRCLE \$119,900
HAVE IT ALL! Well maintained 3/2/2 brick on beautifully landscaped lot w/inground pool & charming gazebo. Sunken Living RM features WBFP Formal DR is perfect for entertaining. SHARYN & LARRY PANKEY 972/380-7906 #19512



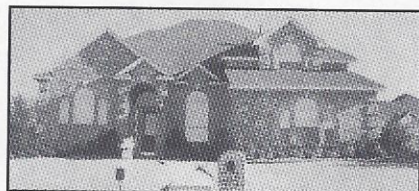
1405 RANCHO VISTA DRIVE \$209,500
PANORAMIC VIEW OF GOLF COURSE FROM BREAKFAST, FAMILY & MASTER BR. Zero lot line 3/2/2/LA has 2 FP's. Kitchen Pantry. Beautiful décor.
LENA MILSTEAD 972/381-6620 #18672



2712 NORTHVIEW \$254,900
THE BEST IN GOLF COURSE LIVING! 4/3/3/3 Las on 8th Tee. Features: Plantation Shutters, Custom window treatments, Hardwood floors, Corian countertops. Make this carefree home yours & spend your time on your golf game!
KAY CARLSON 972/333-4174 #18822



5105 LAKE BEND DRIVE \$189,900
EXCEPTIONAL 4/2.5/2/LA W/SPARKLING POOL & SPA. 48" White kitchen cabinets, Tile flooring, 2 BR up/2 BR down. Oversized backyard has expanded aggregate & rock pool decking.
LENA MILSTEAD 972/381-6620 #19562



6512 WILDWOOD DRIVE \$382,000
IMMACULATE 4/3.5/3 SHOWS LIKE A MODEL! Barely lived in w/numerous upgrades & spacious rooms. Area for golf cart, exercise or hobbies. Backyard Tiff Putting Green. Must see side yard!!
JO-LYNNE ATKINS 972/562-9898 X38 #19642