

George M. Booth, 92

Nov. 7, 1908 - Oct. 3, 2001

BILOXI, MS – George M. Booth was born Nov. 7, 1908, in Harlan, to Nathaniel P. Booth and Martha Alice Booth. He graduated from Harlan Public Schools in 1926, and earned a Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in 1930 from the Iowa State University (ISU), where he belonged to Delta Tau Delta.

In 1931, George married Helen Virginia Harrison of Oakland, and moved to New Jersey, where he spent 32 years as an engineer and manager of an economics division at Standard Oil Co., now ExxonMobil. George contributed to the war effort as a member of a civilian industry committee, formed under the Petroleum Administration for War, and responsible for ensuring oil supplies to the Atlantic seaboard. Upon retirement in 1962, the couple moved west, residing in Salt Lake City, UT and Estes Park, Dillon and Boulder, CO. In the 1960s and 70s, he personally built a home in Boulder County, and a motel in Estes Park. In 1966, he made an unsuccessful bid for Boulder County Commissioner on the Republican ticket. During retirement, he was active as a volunteer with the Boulder Mountain Rescue Group, Board President of the Olde Stage Water District, Community Hospitality for International Visitors, YWCA Building Committee, Boulder Tomorrow Planning Committee, and Citizens Committee for Community Improvement. He did woodworking, extensive U.S. and foreign travel, and mountain climbing, continuing to rock climb and ski well into his 70s. He wrote a 22-volume family history, and continued adding to the work until his death. As members of the Founders Club of the ISU Foundation, the couple contributed over a million dollars since 1977 for scholarships and capital projects, including support of minority math and science students, and the creation in 2000 of Lake Helen in the school's Reiman Gardens. He was a humanist. In 1999, his wife of 68 years died. He has since resided in Biloxi. He died Oct. 3, 2001, in Biloxi, MS, of natural causes at age 92.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Helen, in 1999. He is survived by a daughter, Mary Booth Walsh of Biloxi, MS; a son, Richard George Booth of Brookfield, OH; five grandchildren; and four great grandchildren. His remains will be scattered in a Colorado virgin forest.

