Edward Clifford Gordon III


He was born June 30, 1912, in Fort Scott to Edward Clifford and Katherine Prager Gordon.

He was a member of the Fort Scott High School Class of 1928. He attended college at Westminster College in Fulton, Mo., and received a bachelor of science. He received a business degree from the University of Kansas in Lawrence in 1932.

He was a life-long resident of Fort Scott except during the time between May 1942 and May 1946 when he served his country in the U.S. Army. During World War II, he was a Chief Warrant Officer in Belgium.

He married Geraldine Pickerell on Nov. 25, 1944 in Cherryvale. She preceded him in death on June 6, 1977.

His father was a founder of the Western Insurance Companies in Fort Scott, and following his military service he returned to become a part of that group of companies. He traveled the Midwest for the Western during the 1930s. Following that, for many years, he was Secretary of the Western Corporations. He retired from the Western in 1978, after 42 years of service.

He was active in the First Presbyterian Church, ordained as an Elder, served as Clerk of Session for many years, and was a charter member of the church's Endowment Committee. He was also quietly active in the community, providing leadership and support, often anonymously, to many organizations. Among those local organizations where he was more visible are Fort Scott Community College, Mercy Hospital, The Becon, and Fort Scott Presbyterian Village. He served as the Honorary Co-Chair of the campaign to build the Presbyterian Village. Following retirement, he served as a volunteer at Mercy Hospital.

Survivors include two sons, Edward Clifford Gordon IV of Berkeley, Calif., and Albert Pickerell Gordon of Del Mar, Calif.; and two grandsons.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, David Gordon.

Rev. Steve MacArthur will conduct funeral services at 11 a.m. Friday, at the First Presbyterian Church. The family will receive friends from 10 a.m. until service time in church parlor. Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Konantz-Cheney Funeral Home.

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