

Leon Ray Pivont, Sr.

Leon Pivont was born February 16, 1909 in Clarksburg, WV. He graduated from Washington Irving High School in Clarksburg in 1929 and attended Clarksburg business school for two years.

He was employed for one year by the American Dental Laboratory and then joined the G.C. Murphy Co. in May, 1931 as a Trainee. He moved to Buckhannon in 1932 as a stock room manager. In 1934 he moved to Elkins, WV as a First Assistant Manager. In 1936 to 1938 he worked in Ashland, KY as First Assistant Manager. From 1939 to 1942 he worked in Montgomery, WV and then to Hinton WV as Manager of the G.C. Murphy Co. store on Temple St. He remained in the Hinton Store as Manager until his retirement in 1973, due to illness.

Leon married Anna Ruth Vanscoy, a native of Elkins, WV who died in 2012 at age 100. They had 3 children; Sandra Sue Pivont Hardy of Clifton Forge, VA, Judith Kay Pivont Fleshman (deceased) and Leon Ray Pivont, Jr. of Hinton. They also had an adopted daughter who was his niece, Stephanie Shelley Callaghan of Charleston, WV.

In addition to managing the largest retail store in Hinton, Leon was very active in the community: he was a member of the Central Baptist Church, he served as church treasurer, was on the Board of Deacons, and a church trustee. He also served as Sunday School Superintendent for many years.

Leon was one of the founders of the West Virginia Festival in 1964 with the cooperation of the Hinton Rotary Club, which he was president for several years. He also played an active part in organizing the Hinton Merchants Association through which many programs have continued to develop the business climate in Summers County.

The Hinton downtown Christmas light project was one of many civic projects so dear to Leon's heart. At the time of his death he was trying to raise money in hopes of getting the lights up in time for the Holidays. As a result, one of the most unusual memorials ever erected in Hinton lit up the downtown area for the Christmas season. Volunteers from the Hinton Fire Dept., Willey Bros. Construction Co., City Police, and many, many volunteers wanted to know Leon's project was finished in time to light up the City and hearts of his loved ones.

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Now, each year, practically all civic organizations and stores donate toward paying any outstanding bills involved in this project which has become an annual memorial to Mr. Pivont and his love and dedication toward his fellowmen and his community.

At the time of his death, he was serving as president of the Hinton-Summers County Chamber of Commerce and on the Hinton City Council. He was a member of the Elks and Moose Lodges in Hinton.

He also loved sports, and served many years as ticket-taker at Hinton High School football games.

Leon enjoyed the arts, especially theatre and made many trips to New York City to attend Broadway shows.

Leon died December 13, 1976 in Hinton after a sudden illness.

Leon Ray Pivont, Sr. We Salute You!

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