

## Cox, Oscar, Jr. | 1918-2013

*Published in the 'Wise County Messenger' Wednesday, February 13, 2013*



Oscar Cox Jr.

Oscar Cox Jr., 94, of Fairview, formerly of Bridgeport, died Sunday, Feb. 10, 2013, in Allen.

Funeral is noon Thursday, Feb. 14, at Hawkins Funeral Home with burial in East Bridgeport Cemetery. The Rev. Siegel Glover will officiate. Visitation is 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home and one hour before the service Thursday.

Pallbearers include Clay Stark, Brandon Stark, Colin Stark, Stephen White, Walton Cox Gasaway, Bob Simmons and Patrick Simmons.

Oscar was born April 27, 1918, to Oscar Sr. and Earline (Wood) Cox in Chico and 10 days after his birth, the family moved to Bridgeport. He was the second son. Oscar worked in his father's grocery business and as a boy, delivered groceries in a donkey-drawn buggy.

In 1938, he married Ruth Tally of Decatur. They spent two years on the Gulf Coast when Oscar was buying oil leases for Gulf Oil, and then he served three-and-a-half years in the Navy Air Corps as a flight engineer. They returned to Bridgeport, where he worked in the grocery business and built multiple homes and commercial properties, including the Bridgeport Motel and Restaurant, the first motel ever built in Bridgeport.

During this time they had two children, Johnye and Cheryl. At the motel he met George and Johnny Mitchell of Houston, and Ellison Miles and John A. Jackson of Dallas. Oscar joined them in developing more than 4,000 oil and gas wells in Wise County. He was also instrumental in locating and negotiating the purchase for the Mitchell oil and natural gas processing plant, one of the largest in Texas.

He and his family moved to Decatur where he operated several businesses and built the Wiseman Motel and Restaurant. During this time, he and his family enjoyed many ski trips and other travels. They resided in Decatur until he retired and moved to Dallas. He continued building homes and owned half interest in a realty partnership. He also built homes in Rowlett on Lake Ray Hubbard and participated in other investments. In 1985, he married Bonnie Simmons. They enjoyed spending time at South Padre Island where they bought and sold several condominiums. Oscar served as president of their condominium association board for many years. He also built several homes in Plano. Oscar and Bonnie traveled extensively before moving to Heritage Ranch in Fairview, an active adult resort community. Oscar and Bonnie enjoyed

attending the Oaks Baptist Church in McKinney. He will always be remembered as a delightful man with a wonderful smile.

Oscar was preceded in death by his parents; his son, Johnye; sister Mona Lee Gasaway; and his first wife, Ruth Cox.

Those left behind to cherish his memory are his wife of 27 years, Bonnie Cox; his daughter, Cheryl Stark and husband, Ron; grandchildren Kimberly White and husband, Stephen, Clay Stark and wife, Allison, Brandon Stark and Colin Stark; great grandchildren Michael White, Savannah Stark and Hunter Stark; nephew Walt Gasaway; nieces Rae Vorwald and Gae Pond; great-niece Lisa Crawford; Bonnie's children, Jennifer Kuzbary and Robert Simmons; Bonnie's grandchildren, Miriam Kuzbary and Patrick Simmons; Bonnie's sister, Elaine Snow; Bonnie's brothers, Joe, Merlin, Paul and Steve Reneau; many nieces and nephews; and a host of friends.

Memorials may be made to a charity.