

Tex Pritchett (Sept 2, 1925- Nov 13, 2012)

Tex grew up in Colorado City, TX, where his folks owned a small grocery store. During World War II, he was in the U.S. Army Signal Corps stationed at Adak, In. Tex graduated with a PhD in Chemical Engineering from the University of Texas.

He worked at DuPont and Monsanto before joining Kaiser DMR in 1952. Tex began his career in the Corrosion group, working on field development of roll-form welded aluminum tubing for irrigation and for portable pipelines to oil drilling sites and corrosion inhibitors. He was promoted from Group Leader to Head of Corrosion to Assistant Director and finally to VP of Research, Center for Technology.

While head of CFT, Tex oversaw many projects, some before their time. These included the LNG program, Electro Magnetic casting, aluminum household wiring, Al-Li alloys, armor plate, Titanium di-Boride for reduction cell lining (DARPA), brazing sheet alloys for radiators, evaporators and condensers, aluminum alloy anode development for hot water heaters, technical support for Highway Products Division, and the various sheet/plate, extrusions, forging plants as well as Refractories and Chemical plants.

Tex retired at the end of 1989. He and Mary moved from Alamo, CA, to Alamo, TX. They owned and operated several grapefruit and orange groves near McAllen, TX.

Tex passed away in his sleep on November 13 and was buried next to Mary (who passed away in 2009), in Alamo, TX. They are survived by their three children: Rhonda (husband Alain) of Houston TX, Randy (wife Rebecca) of Everett, WA, Becky MacVittie in Temecula, CA, and their grandson, A.J. MacVittie in Missoula, MT.