

# LOTTIE MAE DEAN TEMPLE

(1927–2002)

*Partner of Arthur Temple, Jr., Lottie Temple died on March 7, 2002.*

Affectionately known as Lottie, she was born December 13, 1927, in Groveton, Texas and lived in East Texas all her life. While living in Rockland, she graduated as valedictorian of her class at Colmesneil High School at age 15 and attended Pineywoods Business College in Lufkin. In 1944, at age 16, Lottie began working for Temple Lumber Company's retail yard in Lufkin when the general manager, Arthur Temple, Jr., hired her as his bookkeeper. In 1948, Arthur became vice-president of Southern Pine Lumber Company in Diboll, and he employed Lottie as his personal secretary. When they married in 1963, she continued to work as his personal secretary, managing their many businesses and investments, and working as his partner, confidante and advisor during his long career with the Temple companies, through its merger with Time, Inc., and finally as Temple Inland, Inc.

The Temples played a significant role in making Diboll the town it is today. They helped transform the town from a whistle stop logging camp to a community. In the 1950s they helped bring in businesses to Diboll such as a bank and insurance company that helped employees own their own homes and drive a car. They also were early adopters of business practices such as day care. The Company support of Diboll Day that also started in the 1950s served to bring together Diboll residents in a unique level of community spirit. Recognizing their abiding support for the community, the Diboll Booster Club named its 1988 Civic Center the Arthur and Lottie Temple Civic Center.

A businesswoman, Lottie founded and then managed the Temple Credit Union, where she became known in the community as "Lady Finance" for her expertise and help. She operated the Diboll radio station KSPL, served as vice president and secretary of the Board of Exeter Investments, Inc.; was a partner in Bartlett,



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Baggett and Shands Insurance Agency; secretary, treasurer, and board director of T and T Corporation; board of director of Green Acres Convalescent Centers, Inc.; and board of director for First Bank & Trust in Diboll for 10 years.

Lottie was active in her community as a founding director of the Katherine Sage Temple Child Care Center in Diboll; founding member of the board of the Angelina County/Cities health district; board member of the T.L.L. Temple Memorial Library; and board of director and trustee of Memorial Health System of east Texas. She was one of the strongest supporters for the Diboll Booster Club and loved to compete to raise money for Diboll Day. In 1996, the Angelina County Chamber of Commerce awarded Lottie the annual Angelina Award for her lifetime of public service. A special and gracious lady, Lottie will be missed by all. □



*Lottie Temple (center) inspects the ticker tape that listed Temple industries stock for the first time on the New York Stock exchange on September 26, 1969.*

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE T.L.L. TEMPLE MEMORIAL ARCHIVES, DIBOLL, TEXAS