



William "Bill" Collyns
1908 - 2003
Inducted 2001

Bill Collyns was born in San Angelo, Texas. His newspaper career began early—as a young man, he had a paper route, was the ad manager of his high school newspaper, and worked at the *San Angelo Evening Standard*. In 1927 he moved to McCamey, where he worked days as a geological draftsman for Humble Oil and Refining Co. and nights as the sports editor for the *McCamey Weekly News*. In 1935, when Humble moved its headquarters to Midland, Collyns moved, too. A year later, he joined the Midland Chamber of Commerce, where he coordinated the city's efforts in attracting oil companies to Midland. He also worked to promote a healthier transportation system in the Permian Basin, pushing the development of a much-needed infrastructure. Later he would spearhead the effort to bring Continental Airlines to Midland. Following service in World War II, Collyns was named editor of the *Midland Reporter Telegram*, a position he held for 34 years. During his tenure, he established an oil and gas section and put oil and gas industry news on the front page.