



Pillar & Post

Society of 1925—Our Enduring Legacies



Born on January 31, 1917, Roy Boyd was chosen as member of the very first class inducted into the Trinidad State College Foundation Hall of Fame in 2007. His induction honored decades of service to the College, and it would come posthumously, one year after his passing in 2006.

Boyd was a beloved member of the Trinidad State family. He served in various roles, including as our Physical Plant Director, as Dean of Administration and a year as interim College President.

“Roy was dedicated to the College. He was one of the spearheads in its growth, and was in charge of finances when most of the buildings were constructed,” said Pete Deluca. “Roy supervised the construction of the Banta, the student center, the library and the Massari.”

In honor of his contributions, the Roy F. Boyd Building on the Trinidad campus bears his name.

In addition to his staff leadership, Boyd helped co-found the Trinidad State College Foundation in 1968, serving as an inaugural board member. Roy later became a driving force in securing funding for the carillon bells, and he also helped the Foundation establish its permanent endowment in the early 1990s. His endowment efforts included a personal gift to establish the *Roy & Lucille Boyd Scholarship*. His scholarship donation helped the Foundation secure matching challenge grant funds, while also honoring his late wife.



Upon his passing in 2006, Trinidad State received a legacy gift from Roy Boyd, further supplementing his endowed scholarship. Roy Boyd’s legacy will live in perpetuity, as a member of the Society of 1925, and especially in the lives of the students who benefit from his scholarship.

We are pleased to honor the many impacts he made in service of Trinidad State.



In sharing memories of Roy Boyd, we turn to a remembrance written by Reverend Mary Barbee, who knew Roy personally through the First United Methodist Church in Trinidad. Written soon after he passed away, her words bring to life the spirit and impact of Roy Boyd.

There is no better phrase to describe Roy Boyd than “a gentleman and a scholar.” A gentle man indeed—impeccable manners, meticulously groomed, excellent taste in all things. Roy was a man of great character, a firmly grounded spiritual life, an achiever, considerate, kind, an extraordinary friend. There are simply not enough adjectives to describe Roy. He was a cut above in every way.

He was like his principles in life—purposeful, meaningful, full of grace, gently powerful. A loving, kind man dedicated to the well being of his family, his career, his community, his country and others. He commanded your respect not because of anything he said or any dictates issued, but because you knew this man held and lived principles that made life better for us all.

Roy began his life as the only child of a Southern Methodist Circuit Rider and a devoted mother. His parents must have been full of great faith, because to live the life of the circuit rider family was to move constantly, staying in homes or hotels, dependent on the generosity (or lack thereof) of families who took life on in their own independent and peculiar fashion. Ministering to those who made life work in isolated, often desolate and even desperate conditions of nature and location. It often meant great hardship for the itinerant preacher family, moving from location to location on the circuit. This was the life they were dedicated to living, to serving God.

Roy was less than twelve, when one stormy cold wintry day he went with his dad out to visit a ranch family. Roy and his parents were staying in the hotel in Kim (Colorado). Roy and his dad got an early start, hoping to get to the ranch, make the visit and return before the storm got to them. We all know what winter is (like) out east of Trinidad, not really predictable, always changing quickly. The snow came earlier than expected and, as they made their way back to Kim, the Model T slipped to the side of the road and wedged itself firmly in the ditch.

Roy’s father worked in the bitter wind and snow to free the car, and finally late that night they got back to the hotel. Within days Roy’s father died of pneumonia.

Raised by his mother and his unmarried school teacher aunt (women school teachers were unmarried in those days), Roy began to help with the family income by delivering papers and doing all sorts of odd jobs as were available to a young boy in those days. Bright and adept in school, Roy worked hard both academically and, as a teen, at the brick yard to help the family income.

Roy spent ten years there, and eventually evolved into a position of responsibility as management. He graduated from Trinidad High School in 1935. Trinidad State Junior College rounded out his education, graduating in the class of 1939.

Along the way he learned to fly airplanes through a fellow who had a plane in town. World War II loomed on the horizon and, before long, the young Roy enlisted in the Army Air Corps as it was known then. He was already a skilled pilot. Roy must have cut a dashing figure, and he demonstrated exceptional skill and courage as a flying ace in many skirmishes of World War II in the European front. The need for skilled pilots far exceeded their availability. Training was critical, yet how to do that in a brief time so that (new pilots) could get into the war effort was the challenge.

Roy was assigned training duty and began to train pilots, refining the flying education time to be as brief as possible, yet with the greatest skill possible for lives were at stake. In the European campaign Roy (also) volunteered for duty with the Royal Air Force. The war was in the air and Roy was an essential element in preparing English Air Force men in the technology and flying of American-build aircraft.

Roy served until the end of the war and even after, being assigned to help with the wrap-up details of getting troops mustered out and home. Roy loved his country, believing in the principles of Democracy. Roy served his country with valor.

Back in Trinidad again, having seen the world, Roy settled into work at the brickyard and (later) went to work at TSJC. His service was a lifetime dedication to this institution of learning that he loved. Roy proved himself to be responsible, thoughtful in his leadership, and respected as an essential part of the school and building art program, Physical Plant Director, Business Manager, (and) Dean of Administration...eventually serving one year as its Interim President.



Roy was an active member of the United Methodist Church as a board member, singing in the choir and as a guest lecturer in the absence of the pastor.

Roy was a talented and accomplished musician. Perhaps it was in the genes, for he was a direct descendant of Stephan Foster, the composer of *Oh Susanna*, *Swanee River*, *My Old Kentucky Home*, *Beautiful Dreamer* and others.

Roy had a special gift for life—a life that was passionate about many things, especially his beloved wife, Lucille, whom he married in 1965. They enjoyed twenty-five years together before her untimely death in 1990.

Just about everyone who knew Roy Boyd respected and loved him. A man of great kindness, a smile that lifted your spirits, a man of courage, a man that refused to let any of this world's difficulties have the last word, a man that knew how to make a significant contribution to society. He was admired for his straightforward honesty, his adventuresome, confident self.



Trinidad State remains grateful for the lasting impact of Roy Boyd, and the Society of 1925 honors his enduring legacy of support.

For more information about creating a legacy gift for Trinidad State, please contact Toni DeAngelis at toni.deangelis@trinidadstate.edu or 719-846-5520. There is no expectation or obligation to complete a gift and all inquiries will be held in strict confidence.

**SOCIETY OF
1925**