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Lufkin Daily News Thurs 11 Sept 1997

Thomas Lewis Latane Temple, III

Artist, writer, businessman


TEMPLE

Thomas Lewis Latane Temple III (Latane) was born December 12, 1914 in Houston, Texas, and died at his home in San Miguel Allende, Mexico on September 9, 1997. The son of Thomas Lewis Latane Temple Jr. and Hal Crouch, Latane attended schools in Texarkana and was graduated from the Lawrenceville School, Lawrenceville, NJ, also earning a BA degree from The University of Texas at Austin in 1936.

Upon graduation, Latane began working with the Temple Cotton Oil Company in Little Rock and shortly after went to Texarkana to manage Farmers Cotton Oil Company, a branch of Temple Cotton Oil Company. He volunteered for the Army enlisted infantry in 1942, attended Officer's Candidate School, and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant, December 26, 1942. Latane saw combat in the Italian Theater from April to October 1944. Promoted to Captain, he returned to the States in 1945 and received his discharge in 1946.

From 1947 through 1965, Latane served in various positions within Temple Industries and affiliates, including serving as a member of the Board of Directors of Southern Pine Lumber Company (SPLCo), general sales manager and Vice-President of SPLCo, President of Temple Lumber Company, Houston, 1961-1965, chairman of the board of Scotch Investment Company of Temple Industries, Inc. Among his many professional duties, Latane served on the boards of banks, including Diboll State Bank, and on the Boards of Directors of Southern Hardwood Producers Association; National Lumber Manufacturers Association; Lumberman's Association of Texas; National Lumber and Building Materials Dealers Association; Lumbermen's Investment Corporation, Diboll Development Company, Tax Lam, Inc.; Topaz Oil Company; Woodward, Inc. Latane served as managing editor of The Angelina County Free Press, for which he wrote editorials and a popular weekly column.

Latane actively participated in civic organizations, serving, for example, as Director and President of Civic Houston; Director of the Texas Bill of Rights Foundation; Director of the Houston Symphony Society; member of The Chancellor's Council for The University of Texas System. He served twice as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention, once from Arkansas and once from Texas.

Moving to Galveston in the early 1970's, Latane concentrated on his art, which he produced in many media and styles and on his writing of both history and poetry. He once wrote: "I regard the role of artist as the highest men can aspire to, even higher than public service or scholarship... It is not a hobby. It is my central concern." He showed his work in many galleries including Meredith Long Gallery and Hooks-Epstein Galleries in Houston and most recently at the Museum of East Texas in Lufkin. In 1996, Latane donated his major collection of art, totaling hundreds of pieces, both pre-Columbian and contemporary, to the permanent collection of the Museum of East Texas.

In 1985, Latane moved to San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, where he established his own art gallery, Galeria L Temple, and continue to study and to produce his own artworks, including ceramics, and poetry. He kept his close ties to the Museum of East Texas, believing that, "It brings us together in our region and expands our lives."

Latane is survived by his wife, Billie Bisgaard Temple of San Miguel de Allende, Mexico; by his sons, Hal Temple of San Antonio, TX; Thompson Temple of Ingram, TX; Jeffrey Bisgaard of San Diego, CA; by his daughters, Alice Temple Harvey of Arlington, TX; Helen Cummins of Carmichael, CA; Kate Hughes of Houston, TX; Nicole Bisgaard de Mendez, Queretaro, Mexico; Liz Bisgaard, Sidi Bou Said, Tunisia; Vivien Viskin, Mexico City, Mexico, and 18 grandchildren.

The family requests that memorial gifts be donated in Latane's memory to The Museum of East Texas, 503 N. Second St., Lufkin TX 75901.

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Biographical Outline

Latane' Temple (Thomas Lewis Latane' Temple III) 3215 Reba, Houston

Born at Fannin and Bell in Houston December 12, 1914

Still an infant when family moved back to parents' native Texarkana, Ark.

After 1923 home was, in succession, in St. Louis, and in Nacogdoches, Tex. until graduation from college.

Schools:	Private and public grade schools in Texarkana, Ark.	4 yrs.
	St. Louis Country Day School, St. Louis, Mo.	2 yrs.
	Public Schools, Nacogdoches	2 yrs.
	Lawrenceville School, Lawrenceville, N. J.	4 yrs.
Colleges:	Texarkana Jr. College	2 yrs.
	University of Texas, B.A. Degree	2 yrs.

Art Training: Freehand drawing, School of Architecture, University of Texas, Life drawing under Reginald Marsh, Art Students League NYC. Summer, 1935.
Drawing under Harry Sternberg, ASL, NYC, Summer 1935.
Print making, Richard Stout, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 1 Semester
Oil Painting, Stella Sullivan, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 1 Semester
Life Drawing, Lowell Collins, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 1 Semester
Design, Stella Sullivan, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 1 Semester

Business Career: Temple Cotton Oil Company, Little Rock, Ark., 1936-52
was President at time of sale.
Temple Industries, Diboll, Texas 1952-1960, Vice Pres.
Great Texas Lumber Co. (Subsidiary of Temple)
1960-64 President
Retired 1964. Resigned all offices except
Director: Main Bank of Houston (Resigned 1965)
Director: Diboll State Bank, Diboll, Texas
Organizer (1964) and Director: Lumbermen's Nat'l. Bank Houston

Industry Activities:
President: Valley Division, National Cottonseed Crushers' Association
Director: Southern Pipe Association
Chairman: Trade Promotion SPA
Director: National Forest Products Association
Vice Chmn: National Wood Promotion, NFPA
Director: National Oak Flooring Manufacturers Assn.
Director: National Furniture Dimension Assn.
Director: Lumbermen's Association of Texas

Retained Industry Honor: Honorary Director NFPA

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Clubs: Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity; Houston Club

Civic Activities: Past Director (Charter) and President, Civic Houston
Past Director: Texas Bill of Rights Foundation
Director: Houston Symphony Society
Chairman: Downtown Subcommittee, Civic Affairs Comm. Houston C of C

Family: Married 1939 to Josephine Bond of Little Rock

Children: Mrs. Leo Bullock, Houston, Housewife
Hal Temple, Houston, College Student, South Texas, Houston
Helen Temple, Freshman, Newcomb, FA Major
Thompson Temple, Student, St. Johns School, Houston
Katherine Temple, Student, St. Johns School, Houston

Military Service: Volunteered as Private, May, 1942
Commissioned 2nd Lt. Inf., Dec., 1942
Served in Italy, Feb., 1943-Nov. 1945
Saw Combat
Discharged as Captain Inf. Feb., 1946

POLITICAL: ALTERNATE DELEGATE (SERVED AS DELEGATE) DEMO NATL CONV 1952 FROM ARC
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Comments

The works of anyone must make his artistic statement for him.

This is a limitation for anyone working at art. A glory as well.

So be it.

In any event, the compulsion is upon some of us to communicate the unique human experience which is common to all men. When this communication is successful, poetry is the means and art is the product.

The validity of the insight and sincerity in its transmission are essential to the production. Technique helps, but only as a tool.

I feel the transitory, instantaneous nature of insight demands simple, direct expression. It must be quickly caught and not fussed over.

Technique enhances the chance of success, but the effort should not wait for technical perfection. At least I hope not.

I regard the role of artist as the highest men can aspire to, even higher than public service or scholarship. I claim the right to aspire.

Art has always been a part of my life, without pretension, as pure enjoyment, escape or sublimation in the service of practical purposes. Perhaps I should be much, much better.

It is not a hobby.

It is my central concern.

I cannot help it.