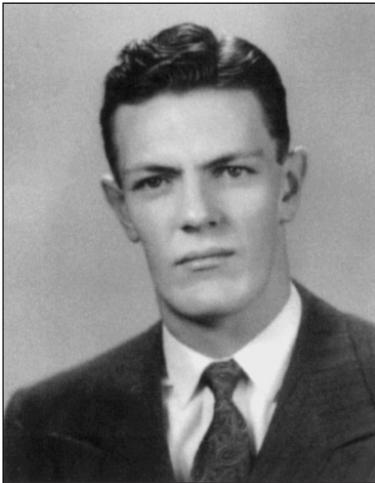




Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial



JACK EARL SHELTON

August 9, 1928 - July 23, 2003

Stillwater High School Class of 1946

9th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

September 25, 2004

Jack Shelton was born on August 9, 1928 in Stillwater to W. W. and Kathryn Shelton. His family also included an older half brother, Charles and a younger sister, Kathleen. It became apparent to those around him that at a very early age Jack was not only taller than most of the other kids but that he also possessed a great deal of athletic ability.

Jack grew up in Stillwater and was a Pioneer from 1943-1946. While in high school he lettered in football, basketball and golf. His senior year he was recognized as an All Stater in both football and basketball and picked as the player of the year in Oklahoma for his basketball accomplishments. By now Jack had grown to be 6-7 and it was becoming obvious that his future would be on a basketball court.

Henry Iba recruited Jack to come and play for the then Oklahoma A&M Aggies. He signed on and began his college career in the fall of 1946 pursuing a degree in Business Administration. It was during his junior year that the team proved to be the strongest by claiming a conference championship and then finishing as the runner-up in the NCAA tournament. Along the way it was Jack that hit the game winning shot with only six seconds left versus Wyoming that sent the Aggies into the Final Four. Once there they defeated Oregon State before a Lou Groza led Kentucky team prevailed in the finals, Jack being the leading scorer for A&M with his 12 points. It was his fine play in his junior season that earned him high praise heading into his final year. One publication compiled a list of the top returning players in the college game and number one on that list was Jack Shelton. Jack continued to excel not only with basketball but also in the classroom as he was named one of the Top Ten students in the A&M senior class.

After his college career ended Jack was a 5th round pick in the pro basketball draft by the Boston Celtics. At the time the Boston team was not very good and Mr. Iba recommended against signing with them. So instead of signing with the Celtics Jack agreed to a \$5,500 contract to play with the St. Paul Lights of the National Professional Basketball League. He played in a total of 19 games for St. Paul and scored 109 points before he was sent to another team in the league, the Wilkes Barre Barons. Jack finished out the year with his new team but with the league struggling to make money he decided that it was time to come back home.

It was 1951 and that summer Jack met his future bride, Marguerite Goodpaster of Vinita, and they were married the following summer. While in school at A&M Jack had been in the ROTC program and it was not long after the wedding when he received a call to serve his country. Jack and Marguerite picked up and moved to Roswell, New Mexico where they spent two years at Walker Air Force Base before coming back in 1955 to settle in Stillwater. Upon their return Jack began to work with his father in the family business, Shelton Lumber Company. It was then that he began to build custom homes and his reputation as a designer and builder grew very quickly. To this day, his name included in the description of a home for sale brings a certain assurance to a prospective buyer.

Just because Jack was on the way with his building career didn't mean that he was through with athletics. Golf had always been his favorite pastime and he started to pursue it with the same passion that he had for building. He traveled all over the state and beyond winning tournaments along the way. He not only won the club championship at Stillwater Country Club several times but once he turned 50 he was a four time winner of the Oklahoma State Senior Amateur.

Jack's favorite activity was following his beloved Oklahoma State Cowboys. Whether it was by radio, television, attending home games or traveling around the country he was the most avid of Cowboy fans.

Jack Shelton always achieved at a very high level. It was a testament to his confidence, his skill and his hard work. It didn't matter if he was competing for the Pioneers, playing for Mr. Iba, playing championship golf or building a custom home, he was always driven to do his very best.

Presenter
Jeff McMillian
Stillwater High School, Class of 1978