

# Bryan mayor says knowledge of people key to successful life

By Cindy Milton  
Staff Writer

It takes more than book knowledge and a college education to become successful in the business world today, says one of the influential city officers in the area.

"Book knowledge is a necessity, but it's how you handle people that will get you somewhere," says Bryan mayor Marvin Tate.

In his second term as mayor, Tate attributes his success to his ability to relate to people. "I feel that positive thinking, maintaining perspective of priorities and having a genuine human interest can carry anyone up the career ladder," he says.

Tate, a 1955 graduate of Texas A&M, feels he has been well-rounded in the career field.

Tate's motivation toward his mayoral position gathered steam in 1983. "I wanted to let people know what was happening in the city," he says.

"I felt I had been through a great learning process at A&M, both in college and in my 15 years working with the (A&M's) athletic department, but until I got out of the athletic arena, I wasn't very aware of what was going on in my community."

After his election for a one-year unexpired term on the city council in 1983, Tate began a second term the following year. Tate ran for mayor in 1985 — what at first had been a personal interest became a career goal.

Tate's main interest as mayor is getting people involved in the community. However, he says it's difficult finding people who are willing to take the extra time and effort to stay involved.

"The hardest thing we have as a council is to find people to be very sincere with the job," he says. "It takes time and effort to get something back in this position. There aren't a whole lot of people who are willing to put time and effort into a position that doesn't always get positive feedback from the community."

But Tate is very optimistic about the future of the Bryan-College Station area. His biggest ambition, along with other city council members, is to eventually incorporate the twin cities.

"Bryan-College Station is a tremendous place to live," he says.



Photo by John...

Marvin Tate, mayor of Bryan, talks about the positive future he sees for the Bryan-College Station area. He says his biggest ambition is to eventually incorporate the twin cities.

"Texas A&M attracts a lot of positive things in the community."

The University has boosted the economy of the area greatly, he says, and the geographic location of Bryan-College Station between Texas' big cities adds to the positive future of the area.

"This is a people-oriented community with a mostly happy, well-adjusted lifestyle," he says. "Texas A&M has given us the type of lifestyle that's adaptable to anything. We can attract every personality here and fulfill just about any need because of our location and our constant development."

However, Tate admits that incorporation of the two cities may take some time to materialize.

"Bryan has been around for a long time, and the people have chosen to keep it a separate entity from College Station," he says. "Just like traditions at A&M, it might take awhile for people to get used to the idea of change," he said.

For the time being, Bryan remains independent from College Station. Tate, however, feels it is essential to keep close relations with the area.

He and Mayor Larry Ringer of College Station meet socially once or twice a week to discuss the mutual problems facing the cities.

"I'm a good old Ag, and I like to stay involved," Tate says. "Like any other person, I have my priorities for everything. My family and my work keep me very active all the time."

Tate, 54, is the father of five and the owner of his own real estate business. He spends at least 30 hours a week working as mayor while balancing his time with his business and his family.

Tate first set eyes on College Station when a football scholarship brought Tate to A&M from his hometown of Abilene. He played under Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant when the team practiced in Junction and he lettered in the sport for three consecutive years.

Tate graduated with a business degree and went to work for IBM and later for Payne-Webber in Houston. But in 1967 Tate returned to A&M to work as the University's associate athletic director.

From that point, Tate advanced to

athletic director, until 1981 decided to go into the business.

As far as his future, Tate doesn't have the aspirations to come a senator. "I don't want myself a politician," he says, "my job as mayor because working with people. Right just want to see the community develop and remain strong."

Retirement isn't in Tate's either. He says he plans to stay with his eyes open to any career-wise that may come along.

Tate feels he has been just about everything within his profession.

"I've met all kinds of people," he says, "and I feel that if you want to deal with people reasonably, keep your priorities straight, do just about anything you want."

"People get so involved in their own lives that they aren't aware of what goes on in their community. I think that you should establish goals and work toward them. Get involved and keep your priorities straight, you'll get a lot out of it, matter what you do."

## High-rise buildings in Texas stand tall in skyscraper architecture across U.S.

DALLAS (AP) — With gleaming angles piercing the sky and towering arches 60 stories tall, designers of skyscrapers in Texas have been among those at the forefront of high-rise architecture over the past decade or so.

Structures such as Pennzoil Place and Transco Tower amid the bayous of Houston, the blue-green prism-like Allied Bank Tower and the Texas Commerce Tower across the urban prairie of Dallas have given the skylines a "signature" of their own, architects say.

With the faltering oil economy, the Texas real estate market isn't conducive to new developments now, but architects say some of the same concepts already employed in Texas seem to be showing up elsewhere.

"There is an ongoing development in design in architecture," says Hal Box, dean of architecture at the University of Texas in Austin.

During the past decade, Box says, "A lot of the building in the United States was going on in Texas, in Houston and Dallas. It wasn't happening in New York and Boston several years ago."

During the Texas boom years, there began a trend toward breaking out of the rectangular, vertical steel-and-glass boxes that had dominated high-rise architecture.

Slanting towers broke the form in buildings such as the TransAmerica tower in San Fran-

cisco, Citicorp headquarters in New York and Houston's Pennzoil Place, completed in 1975.

Later, decorative tops, or "hats," began to grace skyscrapers on buildings, such as a pyramid on Dallas' LTV Tower and the groined vault of Momentum Place.

"There's a helluva lot of energy and entrepreneurship in Texas in a hardscrabble sort of way," says Richard Keating, who designed Texas Commerce Tower and LTV Tower.

The developer, Trammell Crow Co., one of the largest in the world, is Dallas-based. Keating says Crow and other major Texas-based developers embody the type of spirit to which a bold architectural statement might appeal.

John Burgee of New York says, "This search for identity has become a very real thing, not only among corporate buildings but also among developer buildings."

Burgee's firm designed Momentum Place, a new Dallas high-rise that is a series of arches growing out of arches, topped with a quadruple vault.

"We've always been interested in making buildings identifiable, not only at the skyline, but at the ground," says Burgee, who with Philip Johnson has designed some of the most notable buildings in Texas.

Here, they began with a great arch for a tranche-way to the major tenant, MBank, to a vaulted ceiling over that, and played it to the very top."

It was Johnson who designed Pennzoil Place in Houston, a dark glass double tower with tops and base.

"The thing that was so striking about it was that it broke the box," says Lawrence Speck, head of UT's Center for the Study of Architecture. "It had been a long time since that kind of visual vitality had been brought to a rise building."

Speck says the developer, Gerald Healy, realized that if he constructed offices without striking buildings he would "leave them cause everybody will want to be in this kind of building."

Other developers followed suit. "It became, 'My tower will be different from your tower,'" says Michael Graves, an architect and teacher of architecture at Princeton University. "Always before it was 'My tower higher than your tower.'"

The result in Dallas, as the 1980s unfolded, came an eclectic skyline highlighted by a 75-foot tower outlined in green argon, a ball of Reunion Tower, a green-glass presiding over an array of fountains, and a 10-story needle's eye at the top.

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