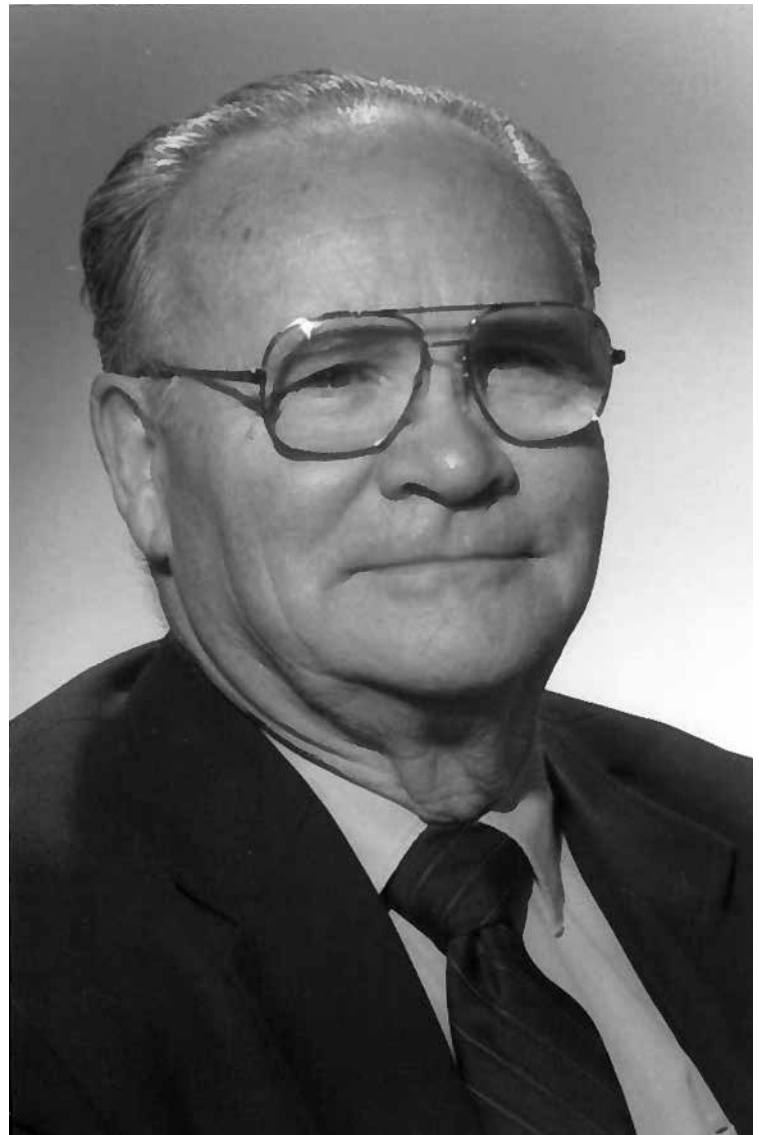


Winifred A. Mayfield, DTE



Many vocational education, technology education, and now technology and engineering education leaders have made their mark on our profession. Their legacy is something that members of the profession enjoy and have a responsibility to continue and build upon.

This is the seventeenth in a series of articles entitled "The Legacy Project." The Legacy Project focuses on the lives and actions of leaders who have forged our profession into what it is today. Members of the profession owe a debt of gratitude to these leaders. One simple way to demonstrate that gratitude is to recognize these leaders and some of their accomplishments. The focus in this issue will be on Dr. Winifred A. Mayfield, DTE. Regrettably Dr. Mayfield has passed away, so Dr. Gus Baker and Dr. David Greer will provide us with information about Dr. Mayfield's contributions to the profession.

by
Johnny J Moye,
DTE, Glenn
E. Baker, and
William David
Greer, Jr., DTE

Dr. Winifred A. Mayfield, DTE

Elementary and Secondary School Teacher, State Consultant, Teacher Educator, and Dean

Born-Deceased: January 25, 1920 - April 26, 2000

Married/Family/Service: Dr. Mayfield was preceded in death by his wife of 56 years, Alice. The Mayfields have five children and nine grandchildren. He was a veteran of World War II.

Degrees Held: B.S., M.Ed., and D.Ed. from Texas A&M

Occupational History:

For 17 years he taught at all levels in Texas public schools, including elementary, middle, and high school industrial arts. Teaching fields included drafting, woodworking, metalworking, electricity, crafts, and general shop.

- Texas Education Agency State Industrial Arts Consultant, 3 years
- Texas A&M Industrial Education Faculty, 5 years
- University of Texas at Tyler, Department of Technology

Faculty Member, 8 years, and Dean of the School of Applied Studies, 6 years.

He continued to teach until 1998, retired in 1989, and was granted Professor Emeritus status.

Dr. Mayfield was extremely involved. He was a member of the American Industrial Arts Association (AIAA), Association of Texas Technology Education (ATTE), East Texas Association of Technology Education (ETATE), International Technology Education Association (ITEA), American Vocational Association (AVA), Texas Vocational Teachers Association (TVTA), American Society of Training and Development (ASTD), Life Member of Texas Industrial Arts Association (TIAA), American Council of Industrial Arts Teacher Education (ACIATE), Texas State Teachers Association (TSTA), Texas Career and Technology Administrators (TCTA), Phi Delta Kappa (PDK) and many local service organizations.

Dr. David Greer's memory of W.A. Mayfield's contributions to the profession:

Professionally, Dr. Mayfield was involved in almost every activity related to Texas Industrial Arts Association/Association of Texas Technology Education (TIAA/ATTE) since 1954. Mayfield chaired the committee that initiated the TIAA and was elected as its first president. He served as Executive Secretary of ATTE from 1982-1993. He also initiated the Texas Industrial Arts Student Association (now TSA) and served as State Advisor for 15 years. He initiated the statewide competition for the TIASA and initiated the AIASA and served as National Advisor for six years. He wrote the first TIASA Handbook that was later adopted by the AIASA.

He served on the first Industrial Arts Curriculum Committee that developed Bulletin #565, "Industrial Arts in Texas," published by TEA in 1954. He worked on the woodworking and drafting curriculum that was a part of study "13," which produced Bulletin #615, a guide for all curriculum in the public school of Texas. He initiated the TIAA Curriculum Study in 1966 with co-chairmen M.D. Williamson and John Ballard. He chaired the TIAA Curriculum Committee, (1978-1989), that developed the course descriptions for industrial technology education.

Dr. Mayfield has served on the Legislative Committee, chaired the Industrial Arts Program Standards Committee, chaired the

TIASA Advisory Committee, was an ex-officio member of the Advisory Committee for the Industrial Arts Section of the Occupational Curriculum Development Center, a member of various levels of industrial arts textbook committee, Program Chairman for the Industrial Teacher Conference at Texas A&M, Program Chairman for the AIAA Dallas in 1972, a member of the National Youth Development Committee, Chairman of the Teacher Education Council, and a member of the committee that prepared data that was responsible for higher funding for industrial arts courses at the higher education level. He has served as State Board Member of the TIAA from three regions in the state as well as president to two of those regions.

Dr. Mayfield has also published numerous articles in professional journals. He has received honors from the TIAA/ATTE such as Outstanding Teacher, Distinguished Service Award, Distinguished Leadership, Teacher Educator of the Year, and was inducted into the ATTE Hall of Honor in 1986. He received many international awards from AIAA/ITEA such as the Lockette/Monroe Humanitarian Award and was recognized as a Distinguished Technology Educator (DTE).

W.A.'s many accomplishments listed above are a testament to what he did for all in our profession, but his greatest gift was the way that he impacted each of us individually, both personally and professionally.



Tom Hughes, Winifred Mayfield, and Laverne Eickhoff.

Dr. Gus Baker's memory of W.A. Mayfield's contributions to the profession:

Winifred Aubrey Mayfield was born in somewhere in Texas. The Directory of A&M Former Students lists W.A. as being in the class of 1949, which would suggest he enrolled in 1945, probably under the GI Bill. However, a lot of A&M's students were inducted into military service en masse in 1942 and 1943 before they graduated, and A&M let them identify with either the group they started with (e.g. a freshman in Sep. 1942 would be Class of '46) or the group they ended with. Jim Boone, for example, started in 1940 and claimed to be in the class of 1944; however, his whole class was inducted into the army in 1943, and he wound up a corporal serving in New Guinea and the Philippines. Jim finished his college degree in 1946 or 47 and not in '44. Chris Groneman was W.A.'s advisor on all his degrees, just as Chris was for both mine and Jim Boone's. Further, Aggies—particularly those who earned their baccalaureate degrees at A&M—are clannish. Those of us who were "Gronemanized" were perhaps even more so. It beat being vulcanized, which involves a lot of heat and sulfur.

In May of 1956, I was in my second senior year at A&M and had been active in both the Industrial Education Club and the honor society, Iota Lambda Sigma. I was also an athlete (fencing), and Groneman liked athletes who could read, write, and sometimes walk and chew gum at the same time. I worked on a lot of Groneman's special projects. Years later I was a graduate assistant (GA). GAs were required to work 20 hours a week for the department, and if you taught a course, he only gave you two or three hours for prep time. GAs and student workers did a lot of grunt work for Chris because Chris was so involved in athletics, writing books, developing industrial and professional contacts, and program development.

W.A. and Chris got together to start the Texas Industrial Arts Association (TIAA) and a student organization concurrently in 1956. W.A. was strong on student clubs, and Chris was strong on professional organizations. I remember running errands for Chris, setting up the meetings, exhibits, and such, and serving as a runner at the banquet to pass out door prizes, and in the process met W.A. and several other people who were involved in the organization. W.A. was elected the first president of TIAA, and John

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Ballard (a prof at Texas State U. – then Southwest Texas) was the first secretary. I don't remember where W.A. was teaching then or who the other officers were.

I graduated in May, 1956 and entered the army soon after. When I got off active duty in 1958, I took a job teaching IA and math at Midland High School—my alma mater—to fill time until I decided what to be when I grew up. I taught there with Ralph Schultz and Joe Talkington. One day late in September of 1958, Schultz and Talkington asked me if I would be ready to go to Snyder by a certain time. I asked why, and was told to attend the monthly WTIAA (West Texas Industrial Arts Association) and that I had to go. I wasn't certain if it was camaraderie or kidnapping. Anyway, I went, and W.A. recognized me and went out of his way to greet me. W.A. was host, program head, president of the WTIAA and advisor to the district student group.

Texas is too large to have a single group that could meet often, so the TIAA was divided into several districts. The West Texas Industrial Arts Association (WTIAA) included Midland, Snyder, Odessa, Ballinger, Abilene, Crane, Andrews, and some others. W.A.'s IA program at Snyder included two other high school teachers and a junior high teacher. W.A. headed the program and taught at the Snyder High School with Jiggs Falls and Ed Rayborn, another WWII Aggie veteran. I only remember Jiggs Falls perhaps because one of his students had won a national project contest with a plastic violin. Jiggs said they softened the plastic in a kitchen oven. Ron Foy was teaching at Ballinger, Jerry Drennan at Abilene, and Billy Mayes was at Crane. They all had strong student clubs and very competitive students even though the towns were rather small.

All of these schools were in an oil-rich environment and were well funded. Andrews School District even owned several oil wells. In the aftermath of WWII, skills were highly valued in the oil fields, and all these schools were well equipped. Most of the districts did not have specific vocational programs, and the communities considered the industrial arts programs to be good vocational preparation as well as general education. Most of these districts offered three years of IA in junior high and at least two courses in woods, metals, and drafting in the high schools. In most of these towns, only a small fraction of students went to college from high school, so the IA programs were highly valued. Further, most engineering colleges at that time recommended that entering freshmen had had drafting and either woods or metals in high school.

The Russians had launched *Sputnik* in 1957, and by 1959 the country was reforming education to stress math and science according to a book written by James Conant, a Nobel chemist and Harvard's president. Midland's administration went overboard on reforms to the detriment of IA, and Talkington and I both left in 1960. Talkington went to Greeley and earned a doctorate with

Fred Kagy at Northern Colorado and went on to chair the IA program at Northern Illinois where he initiated perhaps the first computer course in an IA program. I went to A&M to be a GA working on a master's degree.

W.A. was an exceptionally ardent advocate of excellence in his program, and his shops were well equipped, laid out well, and color-coded. His main associate at Snyder was Jiggs Falls, who was very creative, good with students, and an excellent craftsman. W.A. held high standards for himself and promoted monthly WTIAA meetings at different schools to exchange ideas, compare each program with others, and strengthen professional ties. We almost always had 30 or 40 people in attendance. Considering the distances involved and the lack of travel funds, I think this was quite good. Chewy chicken and limp green beans served in school cafeterias certainly wasn't the drawing card! I don't think W.A. tried to be so much a leader as he tried to be one's co-worker and professional colleague.

Early in May, the district student organization had its contests, usually in Abilene, and we all took our best students there. We had project contests and various written knowledge contests as well. Of course, W.A. was always preeminent at this meet. The top three kids that placed in each contest were eligible for the state contest. The only college that volunteered its facilities was A&M, so the state contest was held there in late May.

When I went back to A&M in 1960, I was the only graduate assistant in the department. I taught at least one class a semester and did anything else Groneman thought I should do. I sometimes think Chris regarded me as his gradual resistant because if I had a different idea I would offer it. Of course, Chris' way was usually best, but I never learned. Chris put me in charge of checking in the kids, teachers, and one section of projects for the state contest in May of 1961. I think Billy Mayes from Crane was TIAA president that year, but W.A. was still the student association advisor, and I had to contact each of them about contest and housing arrangements. W.A. and his bunch showed up early, while Billy Mayes and his busload showed up at midnight and got both Chris and me up. Chris was more gracious than I was. W.A. was a lot easier to work with.

Chris Groneman's doctoral program in Industrial Education was approved sometime in 1961. That summer, I was finishing my Master's, and W.A., John Ballard, and Wendell Roy and a few others were starting their doctorates. W.A. and I roomed together in a dorm for one summer term. We were both taking the same courses, which meant we spent a lot of time studying and talking about our courses, which included a course in electronics taught by Jim Boone.

Jim was studying to be a ham operator, and the course sort of became the qualification course for ham radio. W.A. had trouble

with electronics, and we spent a lot of time repeatedly going over it. I think W.A. memorized everything but never really understood it. At some point he explained that he had suffered a severe head injury and had trouble with abstract ideas. He told me he had been in an artillery unit exchanging fire with German artillery at the Battle of Monte Casino in Italy in WWII (1944). His crew had been ready to fire their cannon one second and then he woke up in a hospital. He thought the Germans had scored a direct hit on his gun emplacement and had exploded the gun and some ammunition as well. He spent a long time in the hospital and because of his wounds, had trouble with abstractions, a tendency to be distracted, and some slight speech difficulty. If he was given time to think things out, I think W.A. was probably a brilliant man who overcame his disabilities with persistence and hard work. I don't think he told many people about this, and I don't remember him saying anything else about the army. I never heard him complain or mention his wounds publicly or to anyone else, although I'm sure several people knew. I think he felt it was his problem and he solved it; there were more important things to do.

I finished my Master's that summer (1961) and took a job teaching at a junior high in Fort Worth, well outside the WTIAA. In 1962, Jim Boone put me in charge of running the state electricity and electronics knowledge competitions, so while we were at the contests, W.A. and I would usually manage a quick visit. I ran these contests until May of 1966, shortly before I finished my doctorate. I started my doctorate in 1964 and was a graduate assistant to Jim Boone; W.A. would occasionally be around taking a course or working on an assignment when he could get away from work. It took W.A. several years working part-time to complete his doctorate. At some point about this time, the state I.A. coordinator, Rogers Barton, retired, and W.A. took over this position. I think W.A. completed his residence requirements commuting from Austin to College Station.

I left Texas in August of 1966 to take a job in Wayne, Nebraska teaching electronics, metals, and graduate courses. Oddly enough, the president of the college, W.A. Brandenburg, had been a roommate of Chris Groneman at Bethany College in Kansas. I'm pretty sure my taking the job there was somehow prearranged.

Looking back, I think everyone respected W.A. because he was so dedicated to both the TIAA and the Texas Industrial Arts Student Association. W.A. was not an imposing figure—he was rather short and stocky with a ruddy complexion and a pre-rumpled blue suit. He knew he was not an inspiring speaker, so when he had to make a presentation, he wrote his main points out on notes, followed the notes, and then sat down. I think he thought a good speech was a short one. (He was right!) He worked harder than just about everyone else and without complaint. He never considered a task too small or too large to do right, nor was there any doubt about his dedication to the strength of the two asso-

ciations. He gave ideas freely and would ask for help in achieving goals, but I never knew of him giving orders. He set standards for himself (and others) that were hard to meet, but that made you want to try.

My last memory of him was at a TIAA board of directors meeting, probably in 1990 or '91. By then TIAA had morphed into the Texas Technology Education Association (TTEA), and there were several issues about curriculum and the effects of declining programs. By then attendance at the conference was between 200 and 300, down from the 500+ in years past, and I was almost completely out of the field.

Drs. Greer and Baker personally knew and worked with Dr. W. A. Mayfield. They are in the position to recall some of Dr. Mayfield's contributions and influence to the technology and engineering profession. Without their input it is very possible that Dr. Mayfield's contributions would never be captured. It is obvious that Dr. Mayfield had a significant contribution to the profession in both Texas and nationally. His is a legacy to admire and for others to emulate.

To view Dr. Greer and Dr. Baker's (and other) legacies, the reader may find them at this link: <http://www.iteea.org/About/History/LegacyProject.aspx#tabs>

It is beneficial for current (and future) leaders to read about the issues that existed and how they were addressed "back in the day." In a few months the next interview will appear in this journal. If you have a suggestion of a leader to recognize, contact the author with that person's name and contact information.



Johnny J Moye, DTE recently retired from his position as a Supervisor of Career and Technical Education at Chesapeake Public Schools, Chesapeake, VA. He can be reached at johnnyjmoye@gmail.com.



W. David Greer, Ed.D., DTE. Dr. Greer was an industrial arts teacher, a CTE Program Director, and Adjunct Professor at University of North Texas.



Glenn E. Baker, D.Ed. Starting as a carpenter, oil-field worker, and law enforcement officer, Dr. Baker then become an industrial arts teacher and later went on to be a Professor of Educational Human Resource Development at Texas A&M.