

Trinity, where he resided for most of his life. He graduated from Trinity High School in 1934 and in June 1942 he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. Thanks to having completed a semester at Texas A&M University prior to his enlistment, he was awarded the rank of master sergeant and was initially assigned to help teach new recruits to march.

During World War II, he also served as a member of the famed Black Sheep Squadron with duties that included keeping war diaries for the pilots. Shortly after he was shipped out to Okinawa, the war ended but he had to survive a major typhoon before returning to the U.S.

While stationed in Oceanside, Calif., during the war, he met Helen Mae Price. He would later recall that it was "love at first sight" and that their first date was on Valentine's Day 1944. They were married on April 3, 1944 and were together for 60 years until her death in 2004.

After the war, Mr. Elliott returned to Trinity with his bride and worked at the First National Bank until 1963. At that time he began working fulltime with the Trinity Insurance Agency which he and his wife founded. He also started Charles H. Elliott and Associates Real Estate, which he owned and operated for 38 years. He operated both the insurance and real estate businesses until he retired in 2000 at the age of 84.

Mr. Elliott was a community leader and activist for both Trinity and Trinity County from the 1940s through the 1990s.

He was instrumental in keeping the Trinity hospital's doors open on two occasions by leading fund raising drives.

He also was one of the founders of the Trinity Community Fair and helped create the Trinity Development Lake (Mill Pond). Mr. Elliott also spearheaded the project to obtain a local nursing home and was responsible for bringing the developers of the Westwood Shores subdivision to Trinity.

During his later years, Mr. Elliott

Trinity Standard with his column, "Memories," which included many of his childhood recollections of life in Trinity.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Helen; and two brothers, Richard Elliott and Billy Elliott.

Survivors include two sons and a daughter-in-law, Bill and Marty Elliott and Jon Elliott; a daughter and son-in-law, Charicya and Jim Stayton; six grandchildren, Amber Crow, Ashley McDonald, Jonathan Elliott, Spencer Elliott, Elliott Stayton and Patrick Stayton; and three great-grandchildren.

Waller-Thornston Funeral Home of Trinity directed the arrangements.

Charles H. Elliott

TRINITY - A memorial service for longtime business and community leader Charles H. Elliott, 89, of Trinity was held Monday, May 1, 2006 at the First Presbyterian Church of Trinity.

Mr. Elliott died Thursday, April 27.

He was born Aug. 21, 1916, in

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