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Grapeland Messenger 10/20/2005

### Harry Denton Kent

Harry Denton Kent of Glendale, Arizona went home to be with his Lord on Wednesday, October 12, 2005. He and his twin sister, LuEllen (Doll Baby), were born near Grapeland in the Reynard community on September 29, 1922. Harry and Doll Baby were the second set of twins born to Tom Smith Kent Jr., and LuEllen Denton Kent. The first set of twins were Donald and Dorothy who were born about ten years earlier. In between the twins were four other children, Helen, Charles, Tom Smith III, and Richard.

Harry's mother died approximately three weeks after he was born. She was 28 years old. Tom Jr. was left to raise eight children ranging in age from ten years to three weeks. All of the children moved into the home of their grandparents, Tom Smith Kent Sr., and Ellen Rocinda Hill Kent.

Approximately seven years later, Tom Jr. married Hazel Gentry. Two children, Dan and Pat, were born to this marriage.

After completing elementary and high school in Grapeland in 1940, Harry entered Baylor University in Waco.

Harry joined the Navy during World War II and initially served in various assignments in the U.S. Later he served on the U.S.S. Slater, a destroyer escort whose duty was to protect convoys of merchant ships as they crossed the North Atlantic to England. He was serving on Okinawa when the war ended. He was discharged from the Navy on February 1, 1946 after serving a total of 37 months.

Harry reentered Baylor University in September 1946 to complete his BBA degree in Accounting. He married Nelda Guice on June 2, 1947 and they both graduated from Baylor in 1948.

After Baylor he did a year of graduate study at Southern Methodist University followed by a year at North Texas State

University where he received his Master of Business Education degree.

In 1951 he was employed by Lon Morris Junior College in Jacksonville as Chairman of the Business Department. In 1954 he joined the staff of Baylor University teaching accounting. In 1955 Harry accepted Dean Glenn Eason's offer to become Assistant Business Manager and Professor of Business at Grand Canyon College in Phoenix, Arizona. Shortly thereafter Harry was promoted to Business Manager. In 1973 he became Chairman of the Business Department. He retired in 1985 after completing 30 years of service at the college.

Harry was an active member of the Gideons International from 1974 until the time of his death. He served in various offices at the state and local level. This included terms as Treasurer, Vice-President and President at the state level.

He is survived by Nelda Guice Kent, his wife of 58 years. Other survivors include his son, Larry; Larry's children Heather (Dallas) Williams and their two sons, Rome and Kodi; Phillip (Katie) and their two sons Nathan and Jamie; and Larry's youngest son Blake. Harry's younger son, David and his wife MaryAnn live in Crestwood, Kentucky with their children Alexander and Katie. Two of Harry's brothers survive him; Charles (Maggie) of Crockett and Dr. Dan Kent (Barbara) of Fort Worth, Texas.

A memorial service was held at First Southern Baptist Church in Glendale, Arizona on Monday, October 17. Burial will be at Guiceland Cemetery in Grapeland on Thursday, October 20, preceded by a service at Grapeland's First Baptist Church at 11 am.

Contributions in memory of Harry may be made to The Gideons International, P.O. Box 35111, Phoenix, Arizona 85069