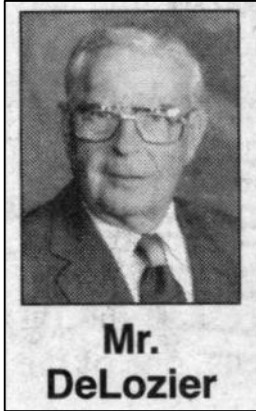


LEON THOMAS DELOZIER OBT.

b. 26 July 1920, Maryville – d. 1 January 2015,
md in 1950 to **Mary Jean (unknown) DeLozier.**

COOKEVILLE — Leon Thomas DeLozier died on New Year’s Day 2015, at the age of 94. He and his wife of 64 years had recently moved to Fresno, Calif., to live close to their children and grandchildren.



He is survived by his wife, **Mary Jean DeLozier**, now of Fresno, Calif., and his children, Thomas Montgomery DeLozier and wife Jane of Sebastopol, Calif., and Celia Dawn DeLozier of Fresno, Calif.; as well as his five grandchildren, Elizabeth, Sandy; Justine, Serge and Raphael; his brother’s children, Martin DeLozier and Valerie Maner and their families of East Tennessee.

Leon DeLozier was born July 26, 1920, in Maryville. After college at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, and post-graduate education in accounting at UCLA, he volunteered for service in the Navy. He trained in New York City, where he earned the rank of ensign. After the war he worked in Nashville, where he met Mary Jean DeLozier, whom he married in 1950.

During his employment with Rockwood Amusement Company as a theatre supervisor, he was offered the opportunity to purchase the Princess Movie Theatre and the Putnam Drive-in Theatre in Cookeville. In 1960, the family moved to Cookeville. **Mr. DeLozier later built the Varsity Cinema and Highland Twin Cinemas; he was the owner and operator of all the Cookeville movie houses for the next 20 years.**

Leon had a knowledge of business and investments which was invaluable in his professional and volunteer activities, as was his courteous and kind manner. These attributes led him to be elected a board member, and later chairman of the Board of Citizen’s Bank of Cookeville (today, Regions Bank)

DeLozier was always active in community service. Among his responsibilities were serving as president of the Chamber of Commerce, as a founder and chairman of Cityscape, president of the Board of Putnam County Red Cross, director of Leadership Putnam and president of the Board of the Depot Museum. He served on the Board of the Putnam County Housing Authority for almost 50 years. He was a member of the Lion’s and Rotary Clubs and a trustee of the First Methodist Church of Cookeville, and served as a docent for the Depot Museum.

In 1998, DeLozier received the PRIDE of Putnam County award from the Cookeville Chamber of Commerce, an award given annually to a citizen who has shown through public and professional service to be “an individual of exemplary character and reputation.”

A Celebration of Life will be organized in Cookeville in the spring of 2015.

Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN: 9 January 2015



HONORING THE DELOZIER

Joining long-time Cookeville Depot Museum supporters Mary Jean and Leon DeLozier, in front, on April 4 at Heritage Pointe Senior Living in Cookeville are Judy Duke, administrator of Cookeville museums, and Don Prince, Friends of the Depot board president. Friends of Cookeville History Museum honored the couple for both their volunteer and financial support since the mid-1980s. To recognize and thank them for their service, a proclamation by Mayor Matt Swallows was read by Rick Woods, director of Leisure Services and Public Facilities. Photo by Amy Davis.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Monday, 9 April 2012, pg. A-2.

COMMUNITY ICON LEON DELOZIER PASSES AWAY

COOKEVILLE — A man who is remembered as a wise and gracious community leader has passed away, leaving a legacy that spans many years and many successes.

Leon DeLozier passed away New Year's Day at the age of 94.

“He was certainly an icon of our community,” Cookeville Mayor Ricky Shelton said. “He was responsible for building the movie theaters in Cookeville that we enjoyed for many years, such as the historic Princess Theater, the Drive-In and the Varsity.”

Leon is not originally from Cookeville. He was born in Maryville July 26, 1920, and attended MTSU in Murfreesboro and received post-graduate education at UCLA.

He also volunteered his services in the U.S. Navy and came to Cookeville through his employment with Rockwood Amusement Company in Nashville as a theater operator. He was offered the opportunity to purchase the Princess Theater, and in 1961, he did just that, purchasing it from E.C. Reeves, the original owner.

Leon then went on to purchase the Drive-In, which was located on Highway 70 in west Cookeville. He later built the Varsity Twin and the Highland Twin, which operated a number of years in Cookeville.

This business savvy and knowledge of business and investments led him to be elected a board member and later chairman of the board of Citizens Bank (which is now Regions Bank).

“Leon DeLozier is the epitome of a true gentleman,” Jim Martin, who worked with him at then Citizens Bank, said. “He took his job serious, whatever it was, whether it was his own business or whether he was volunteering. He gave it his best.”

According to Martin, Leon believed good, available jobs promoted happy family values.

“He was an avid worker in the Chamber and did a lot to promote that,” Martin said. “When it was called upon to help the needy, Leon always put the money out, without question or hesitation, and never wanted his name associated with it. He just wanted to do the right thing and help people.”

Martin joined the team at Citizens Bank as executive vice president when Leon was director.

“He was a very good director,” Martin said. “When Leon spoke, everyone listened. And they listened to every word he said because Leon was a purveyor of good words of wisdom and he always had a good sense of business, a good sense of individuals...”

Martin recalled when he first came to Cookeville, Leon helped him get to know people.

“For about two months, maybe even longer, Leon religiously came in and if I didn’t have anything going on, he’d put me in his car and take me around and introduce me to people,” Martin said. “He knew that was important to me. He was kind of quiet, but was always there to help.”

Martin never hesitated to garner some wisdom from Leon.

“I have to say I took a lot of his advice because it was good,” Martin said.

He and his wife, Mary Jean, were involved in so much in the community, namely the Friends of the Depot.

“I’ve known him for most of my life,” Judy Duke, administrator of the Cookeville museums, said. “He and Mary Jean were very active in Friends of the Depot where he served as treasurer.”

Duke credits him for saving the depot.

“They both spent countless hours preserving the depot,” she said.

His work on the Friends of the Depot brought a rare Tennessee Central caboose that was



in a ditch in Muddy Pond to the Cookeville Depot and oversaw its restoration.

(Pictured: Leon and Mary Jean DeLozier are pictured in front of the Cookeville Depot in this 2012 photo)

Another organization he spearheaded was CityScape, a non-

profit organization dedicated to forging partnerships to preserve and revitalize downtown.

“He was the epitome of a ‘communitarian,’” Melinda Keifer, city of Cookeville economic and community development coordinator, said. “He had such huge leadership skills. He listened, but was strong-willed in doing what he thought was right.”

Keifer served as the director of CityScape while DeLozier was on the board.

“He helped create a partnership to get Dogwood Park started through his work in the Rotary Club,” she said. “He was a fine, fine man whom we should strive to be like.”

In June of 1998, he was awarded the Pride of Putnam County Award, chosen by the Leadership Putnam Alumni Association and the Herald-Citizen.

In addition to the Rotary Club, he was the president of the Putnam County Red Cross and the Cookeville-Putnam County Chamber of Commerce, director of Leadership Putnam, a

member of the Putnam County Housing Authority (which he served for nearly 50 years), and a member of the Lions Club.

“He told me the story of his early childhood with his parents during the Depression and he saw a lot of folks struggle,” Martin said. “He saw so many families who could not make it through the day. He was always very sympathetic to people. When people needed help, he was remembered those days. He believed in good business decisions, not a person that would make a quick monetary decision — he always thought it through. He was more selfish to himself than he was with others.”

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Sunday, 11 January 2015

Leon DeLozier

COOKEVILLE — A celebration of life service for Leon DeLozier will be held from 3-5 p.m. Sunday, June 14, at the Leslie Town Center at One West First St. in Cookeville.

Mr. DeLozier passed away Thursday, Jan. 1, 2015.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Sunday, 10 June 2015

*Read more about the people of Putnam Co., TN & surrounding areas at:
<http://www.ajlambert.com>