

Elmer R Price

Elmer Price was Port of Toledo Commission President at the time of his death in 1977. He was committed to the successful continuation of Port activities devoting 12 years as a Port Commissioner. Mr Price recognized the important role that the Port played in the development of the City of Toledo and surrounding areas so put his journalistic abilities to work researching and recording the history of the Port for future generations. Elmer learned that at its first meeting the goal of the Toledo group was to obtain a ship channel on the river from Toledo to the sea. The channel was dredged in 1910 but not again until 1957. The 1957 dredge spoils were deposited on a Port-owned site that became the Toledo Airport. Dredging the channel has been an ongoing objective that continues today.

Elmer Price was born in West Virginia moving to Ohio as a child and working his way through Ohio University earning a degree in journalism. Upon his return from Army service, he married Margaret Selby and went to work for the Pittsburgh Press. Elmer had journeyed to the West Coast and dreamed of returning so when, in 1947, he was offered a job in advertising for Carnation Milk in Seattle, he made the move.

In 1950 Elmer moved to Toledo where he purchased the Lincoln Leader and seven years later built what continues to be known as the Leader Building at the north end of Main Street. In 1959 he was the first to introduce the offset printing press west of the Mississippi River earning him an entry in "Who's Who in America". The Leader building now was able to print the Lincoln Leader, the Newport News-Times, the Amity and the McMinnville papers.

Not only was Mr Price a journalistic entrepreneur but he also purchased the Feed & Seed, which remains as the oldest continuous family business in Toledo, and the Magic Mirror that is currently located on Main Street. Elmer was active in community as a member of numerous civic organizations, clubs and boards.

Elmer Price took a year to research and write the history of the Port of Toledo but he was also an active community member, journalist, photographer, renown world-traveler, speaker and an unforgettable asset to Toledo.