



Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial



GLENN "MONK" WARD

August 24, 1917 - January 27, 1996
Stillwater High School Class of 1935

4th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony
October 2, 1999

Born on the family farm outside Seiling, Oklahoma, on the 27th day of August, 1917, Glenn Ward, as the youngest of eight children learned at an early age that the worthwhile things in life were attained only through diligence and hard work. The family moved

to the Stillwater area when Glenn was four to insure the children would be educated at Oklahoma A&M College.

Glenn entered Stillwater High School during the depression in 1931. Times were tough, but so was Glenn. Working before and after school to add to the family income, Glenn still found time to earn three letters playing football for Stillwater High School under legendary Coach Ralph "Ham" Hamilton. In later years Coach Hamilton would often brag that Monk Ward was one of the toughest kids he has ever coached. In 1948, Glenn, as spokesman for the City of Stillwater, presented Coach Hamilton with a Ninety-nine year lease from the City on the new high school football field to be known as Hamilton field.

After graduating from high school, Glenn married Marianna Otey, and attended Oklahoma A&M College and the University of Arizona. At the beginning of World War II, Glenn worked as a civilian aircraft hydraulics instructor at Shepard Airforce Base in Arizona, until he joined the United States Navy where he served with distinction for the remainder of the war. On the way to the South Pacific Theater, Glenn's plane was shot down, and he was one of the few survivors rescued after five days floating on a life raft.

Following the war, Glenn and Marianna returned to the Stillwater area to raise their family. After working in his father's Chevrolet dealership for a number of years, Glenn worked as an oil and gas lease broker the remainder of his life.

He was devoted to his family and to his community, and to Stillwater Pioneer Athletics. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church, VFW, Hanner-Sharp American Legion Post No. 129, Elks Club and Kiwanis Club, and a lifetime member of the Stillwater Pioneer Booster Club.

As a young athlete, Glenn learned that to play football successfully he had to work harder, and to play meaner and tougher than the other players. His 1935 Stillwater High School team was acknowledged as one of the best in the State of Oklahoma. Glenn instilled his love for the game of football in his son Stanley, always encouraging and demanding that Stan play to the best of his ability and to always put forth his best effort. Apparently the encouragement took as Stan was named to the Oklahoma All State Football Team in 1957.

Glenn "Monk" Ward was proud to be a Pioneer. He will be missed by his family, friends and the community, and he will always be remembered as epitomizing the old locker room slogan "When the going gets tough, the tough get going".

*Presenter
Keith Thomas
Stillwater High School, Class of 1957*