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Karl Hoblitzelle Dead in Dallas; Theater Executive and Banker

**A Leader in Civic Activities—
His Foundation Was Named
as Conduit for the C.I.A.**

By 1933, Mr. Hoblitzelle had created the Interstate Circuit Inc., and in six years he had become a member of the board of directors of 18 other organizations. They included the Dallas Chamber of Commerce, the Art Association, Historical Society, Community Trust

A Director of Utility

He had been a director of the Republic National Gas Company and Southwestern Life Insurance Company, and served as president of the Texas Research Foundation and board chairman of the Southwestern Medical Foundation.

In addition, he had been a regent of the Texas Technological College in Lubbock and a director of Southern Methodist University. His own formal education ended with high school.

He received in 1952 the national good citizenship award of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, Adrian Hoblitzelle of Philadelphia, one of his forbears, carried a musket in the Revolutionary War.

In 1947, Mr. Hoblitzelle financed an 800-acre experimental farm near Mercedes, about 45 miles from Brownsville, to grow tropical fruit. It marketed papayas and avocados.

In July, 1961, he served as a member of an interracial committee to bring about the peaceful integration of schools in Dallas.

His mother, the late Ida A. Knapp Hoblitzelle, was the daughter of Col. George Knapp, founder and publisher of the St. Louis Republican, later The St. Louis Globe Democrat.

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DALLAS, March 9 (AP)—Karl Hoblitzelle, theater executive, banker and a civic and political leader, died in his sleep at his home here yesterday. He was 87 years old.

He established the Hoblitzelle Foundation, which was recently named as one of the organizations through which the Central Intelligence Agency funneled money to various groups.

He leaves a sister, Mrs. J. S. Tritle of St. Louis. His wife, the former Esther Thomas of Louisville, Ky., died in 1943.

Philanthropist-Businessman

For more than half a century, Karl St. John Hoblitzelle was a leader in the financial, cultural, political and educational affairs of Dallas.

He was president of Interstate Theatres Inc., a multi-state chain that grew out of a business he and a brother started with \$2,500 in savings and, of Texas Consolidated Theatres Inc. He was board chairman emeritus of the Republic National Bank of Dallas, one of nation's largest. He also headed Hoblitzelle Properties Inc., which had vast real-estate holdings in the Dallas area.

He was born in St. Louis, where he began his business career in 1904 as a clerk in the headquarters of the St. Louis World's Fair. As a boy he had worked in a soap factory to help support his family, which included 12 brothers and sisters.

Organized Theater Chain

His taste of show business at the fair conditioned his appetite. He set out immediately to organize a theatrical circuit and chose the Southwest as the region with the greatest future. For 10 years he lived in Chicago, making the now defunct Orpheum Circuit home office his headquarters.

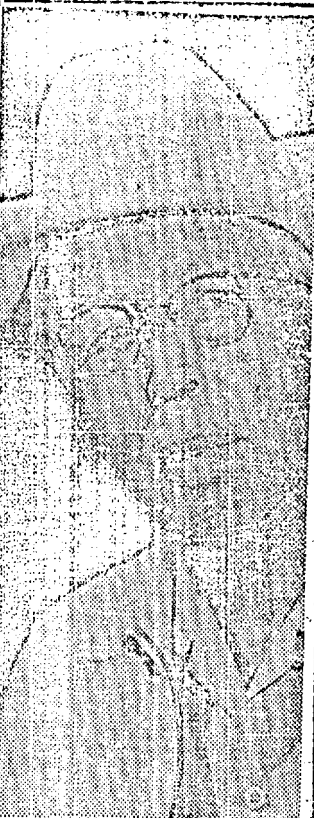
In 1915, he moved his office to Dallas. Mr. Hoblitzelle often used the name Majestic for the key theaters in most cities. The name was derived from the old Majestic in Chicago, which was to theaters of 1900-1910 what the Radio City Music Hall is to present-day movie houses.

The managers of the theaters in the various cities took active roles in civic life and the theaters took part in many philanthropic functions.

Symphony Society and the Civic Federation of which he was president.

He set up the Hoblitzelle Foundation in 1942 to channel cash grants to educational, scientific, literary and charitable agencies.

From 1960 through 1965, the Hoblitzelle Foundation, according to information supplied to the Internal Revenue Service on contributions received and con-



Associated Press

Karl St. John Hoblitzelle

tributions made, acted as a conduit for funds supplied by the Central Intelligence Agency.

In the five years beginning in 1961, the foundation gave a total of \$430,700 to the Congress for Cultural Freedom in Paris. It gave the International Cooperative Development Fund \$50,000 in 1960 and \$25,000 in 1965.

In Texas civic affairs, Mr. Hoblitzelle, was chairman of the Texas Commission for the 1939-40 New York World's Fair, and in World War I, headed the amusement division of the Red Cross.