

One of ABQ's first councilors dies at 86

Cottrell lost run for mayor in early '80s

BY DAN MCKAY
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Marion Cottrell — a member of Albuquerque's first City Council and an early, enthusiastic supporter of preserving open space — died Tuesday. He was 86.

"My father cared deeply, very greatly about Albuquerque," Bruce Cottrell, a patent attorney for Los Alamos National Laboratory, said in an interview Tuesday.

That commitment to the city came before politics, perhaps to his detriment during an unsuccessful campaign for

mayor in 1981, when he irritated people on all sides of the political spectrum while trying to clean up East Central, the younger Cottrell said.

"He was the only person I know who could get the left-wing and the right-wing mad at him at the same time," he said.

The elder Cottrell, a Democrat, was a professor of civil engineering at the University of New Mexico. He grew up in the northern part of the state



COTTRELL:
Supported
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— Des Moines — and arrived in Albuquerque in the 1940s, when Carlisle Boulevard was still a dirt road.

Cottrell served as a city councilor from 1974-81. He was part of the first group to serve after voters adopted a new City Charter creating a government headed by a mayor as the chief executive and a council as the legislative body.

Before that, Albuquerque had a city commission that hired a manager.

Cottrell served on the Bernalillo County Commission from 1982-86.

With experience in both governments, he was a strong supporter of combining the city and county to streamline the bureaucracy and improve effi-

ciency. The idea still resurfaces from time to time, though it's never been approved by voters.

Cottrell is also credited as a leading advocate for open space and compact development within the city.

To that end, he found a way to keep serving, even after his career in elected office. He served as a member of the Bernalillo County Planning Commission — a panel that considers zoning changes and growth plans — a chief interest of Cottrell.

"I want the city to grow in a logical, aesthetic, meaningful way," Cottrell told the *Journal* in 2001.

Cottrell, Marion M.

Marion M. Cottrell, age 86, a resident of Albuquerque, passed away October 13, 2015. He was born September 12, 1929 in Capulin, NM, the son of Marion Madison and Florence A. Ratliff-Cottrell. After his graduation from Des Moines high school, he attended the University of New Mexico obtaining both a B.S. and M.S. in Civil Engineering. After additional studies at the University of California -Berkeley, Marion was a professor of Civil Engineering at UNM from 1960 till his retirement in 1994. At UNM he was actively involved with the Faculty Senate for many years. This interest in policy and politics later thrust him into local politics where he served as an Albuquerque City Councilor from District 9 from July 1974 till November 1981, serving as the president of the city council in 1980 and 1981. Following his two terms on the city council, he ran unsuccessfully for Mayor in 1981. Later, he served on the Bernalillo County Commission from Jan. 1, 1982 to Dec. 31, 1986 and then served on the Bernalillo County Planning Committee as well as other numerous committees.

Marion was preceded in death by his parents; his wife of 49



years, Barbara Cottrell; four sisters, Birdie Fern Cottrell of Raton, NM, Mrytice Singer of Sewickley, PA, Winnie Bryant, of Pasadena, TX, and Marilyn, his twin, who died in childbirth; two brothers, Willie Cottrell of Des Moines, NM and Paul Cottrell of North Port, FL.

He is survived by his sister, Pauline Blasingame and husband, Hicks, of El Paso, AR; brother, Howard Cottrell and wife, Paula of Albuquerque, NM; son, Bruce Cottrell and wife, Kim Meadows of Santa Fe, NM; daughter, Anne Garcia of Albuquerque, NM; grandsons, Nathan Garcia, and Phillip Garcia, and wife, Courtney; and great-grandson, Connor, all of Albuquerque, NM.

A Memorial Service will be Saturday, October 17, 2015, 2:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 314 Lead Ave SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the UNM Civil Engineering Scholarship Fund.

Please visit our online guestbook for Marion at www.FrenchFunerals.com
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