



Stanley Pittman Class of 2018

Stan graduated from Oroville High School (OHS) in 1938 and was a member of the cadets for three years and vice president of his senior class. Stan worked under faculty advisor, Mr. Stollar in an effort to bring back The Nugget Yearbook that had not been published in several years. They were successful and when Stan was a senior the Nugget was published once again.

Following his OHS graduation Stan entered the University of California at Berkeley (Cal) where he majored in Business Administration. He was at Cal for three years before serving in World War II. He then returned to Cal to earn his degree.

Stan served in the United States Navy 1942-46 and earned his wings as a Naval Aviator, assigned to the Navy V-4 Squadron. He served as a Navy pilot and was stationed in Arizona, Hawaii and the Pacific, flying a Bi-wing Stearman patrol plane.

After serving in WWII, Stan entered the real estate business in Oroville established by his father, where he worked as a broker and insurance salesman for the next 53 years. In addition to Oroville real estate sales, he developed, promoted and sold homes in Orange Heights, Palermo Road and Feather River Forest Homes Subdivision.

Stan's long and historic community service to Oroville and California began at age 32, when he was elected to the city council where he served for the next eight years. Following his two terms, he was elected as Butte County supervisor, where he served for two years and was then elected to a four-year term as a California State Senator from the sixth district, serving until 1966.

While serving as state senator, Stan won federal flood contributions of more than 60 million dollars for the Oroville Dam through a United States congressional appropriation. He appeared as the director of the Tri-County Committee for Flood Control before a U.S. Congressional Committee in Washington DC.

According to an article in the Oroville Mercury-Register in February 1964, a special State Senate subcommittee, at Stan's request, made an investigation tour of the Oroville Dam project as a preliminary step to a public hearing set for Sacramento. Following the tour, the subcommittee chairman had no comment except that he was impressed by the magnitude of the project.

Also appearing in the M-R in 1964, an article stated that Senator Pittman secured \$60,000 in funding to complete the transfer of Bidwell Mansion from college to state. The funding also included the first phase of restoration of the mansion with a new roof, porch decking, new wiring and alarm systems, and an interpretive center. One year later the entire mansion was wrapped like a package in huge air-tight tarpaulins and fumigated to destroy a wood-eating beetle. In 1966, the state of California officially dedicated Bidwell Mansion as a state historic monument.

Stan was the founder and seven-year president of the Feather River Project Association and was a member of the Governor's Water Conference Committees under both Goodwin Knight and Edmund G. (Pat) Brown. He also served on the Butte County Republican Central Committee, the 2nd Congressional District Republican Committee, and was former chairman of the State Chamber of Commerce Water Affairs Committee.

Oroville and Butte County were close to Stan's heart and he was active in many area organizations. He was a member of the Chico State College and then University Advisory Board, president of the Oroville Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the Butte-Glenn Heart Association, member of Rotary International Oroville, Fraternal Order of Eagles 196, Native Sons of the Golden West, American Legion and the Pentz Center Farm Bureau.

Other organizations where Stan was active included being a member of the League of California Cities, the Supervisor's Association Welfare, Highway and Water Committees. He was loyal to his alma mater UC Berkeley, being a long-time member of its alumni association.

In his column in the M-R on December 12, 1981, Mac McDonald wrote, *"Pittman, owner and operator of Pittman realty in Oroville, has one of the most successful track records of any Oroville-raised politician. He was a member of so many committees and state and local water organizations it would take a calculator to figure them all out."*

Stan passed away on November 10, 1999. He is survived by his son David, daughters Claire Andoe and Merri Pittman and four grandchildren.