

PROFILE OF MR. EVERS LEE ANDERSON

August 27, 1914-April 03, 1977

Mr. Evers Lee Anderson, known by East Austinite's by E.L. Anderson, lived in Austin, TX from 1932 until his death in 1977 at 806 ½ East 13th Street. He was born August 27, 1914 in LaGrange, TX and died April 03, 1977 in Austin, TX at age 62. He owned and operated E.L. Anderson Gulf Service Station at 1720 East 12th Street in Austin TX from 1952 to 1977.

Mr. Anderson was a self-made man, with only having a 10th grade education. He started his career in Austin by driving a cab in East Austin. While saving his money until he was able to open up an auto mechanic shop.

During the 1940's, Mr. Anderson was rewarded in owning and operating a Mobile Gas Station and Body Shop on Red River. After much success in operating this business, he then branched out and opened his first Gulf station on 12th Street. The location was 1306 East 12th Street.

During the next 3 decades Mr. Anderson became involved in the East Austin community as a volunteer ambulance driver for the only hospital that allowed African Americans admitted for hospitalization, Holy Cross Hospital which was located on old 19th Street and Cedar St. (now MLK Blvd). He was a financial contributor to old L.C. Anderson High School sponsoring the varsity football team and booster club. He was a member of the Mt. Carmel Masonic Grand Lodge 1704 East 12th Street Austin, TX.

In 1952, E. L. moved his Gulf Service Station to its final location at 1207 East 12th Street (known by locals as "The End"). Here, history provided for many locally owned black businesses including Yates Drug Store, Swan Lounge and Harlem Movie Theater right across the street from the gas station.

Mr. Anderson was a full service station, with 24 hour wrecker service. In the age of services that are no longer available, Anderson Gulf would bring gas for your car if you ran out, change your flat tire and jump your battery, if your car wouldn't start. When you pulled into the station, for gasoline, you had an attendant who pumped your gas, checked under the hood of your car for oil levels, antifreeze and windshield fluid and checked the pressure of your tires. Anderson Gulf offered a body shop and a used car lot. Mr. Anderson's hours of operation were 6:00am to 10:00pm every day of the week. If you didn't have the money to pay Mr. Anderson for gas or mechanical work provided on your car, he would allow you to pay in installments, based on just your word.

When you stopped by E.L Anderson Gulf Station, he knew who you were and would ask about your family and how you were doing in school. When Yates Drug Store closed their doors, Mr. Anderson felt compelled, to start offering candy, ice cream, chips and all sorts of items for the school age children walking from L.L. Campbell Elementary School.

Mr. Anderson was a member of Ebenezer Baptist Church located at 1010 East 10th Street Austin, TX from 1940 until his death in 1977. While a member, Mr. Anderson served on the Usher's Board, and donated his time and financial contributions to various auxiliaries within the church. Mr. Anderson was a self-made business man who enjoyed what he did for a living and loved the community in which he lived in.

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Well known East Austin Businessman And Civic Worker Succumbs... Will be missed on the "Fun"

Final Rites Set For Mr. E. L. Anderson

Final Rites—A lot has occurred over the last 30 or 40 years and Mr. E. L. Anderson was part of it all. Mr. Anderson was born and reared in LaGrange, Texas and began his adult life as his own man. He opened a mobile service station on Red River Street over 30 years ago and moved to his present location during the early 50's. His new service station became the E. L. Anderson Gulf Service Station and he could do it all from selling gasoline, to fixing flat tires, to a complete Motor over-haul. His was a full service business.

Anyone over the age of 29 should remember the area that used to be called the "End". This is the area that has east 12th and Chincon streets as its major focal point with Poquito street on the east and commercial street bordering on the west.

I remember as a youth attending Kealing Jr. High School when I used to walk down E. 12th street, there would be Mr. Anderson sitting in his favorite spot on the inside near the window looking out to see the people go by. And he saw them all.

He was on the "End" when the Harlem Theatre was our only movie house and he was there when it burned down. Mr. Anderson was there when Yeates Drug Store was a thriving business and he was there when it went under and closed.

There was an E. L. Anderson Gulf (See Anderson, pg. 3)

when all the other small clubs on E. 12th Street would spring up over night and be closed less than three months later.

When you got stuck on the road or needed an inspection sticker, you'd call Mr. Anderson. He was a good man who commanded respect from all and he gave it in return. You had to try to become his friend and he became yours. He would always give me a wave each time I went by or ask me how my dad was doing each time I stopped in to see him.

We'll miss him because he did so much for others and the "End" will never be the same without him.

Mr. Anderson resided at 806 1/2 East 13th Street.

We of the ARGUS extend our deepest sympathy to his family.

Prayer Poem

"Go forward Christian soldier,
 Not dream of peaceful rest,
 Till Satan's lust is vanquished
 And heaven is all possessed
 Full Christ himself shall
 To lay their armor by,
 And wear in splendor
 The crown of victory."



FINAL RITES were observed at Ebenezer Baptist Church for Mr. E. L. Anderson on Friday at 3pm. Mr. Anderson, age 62 died on last Sunday. Services were conducted by the King-Tears Ministry. Mr. Anderson owned and operated the E. L. Anderson Gulf Service Station.

