

Kenneth Milton Biography

Kenneth (Ken) Milton Davee was born in Los Angeles, California on May 1, 1908. His parents were Etta M. (Burner) and George W. Davee. He was raised in Galesburg, IL. Having been raised in Galesburg, Ken said he knew he did not want to be farmer, too much work.

He attended Knox College in Galesburg for his first two years of college and then transferred to the College of Commerce at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL, graduating in 1931 with a Bachelor of Science in Commerce.

After graduating college, Ken started the firm of Davee, Koehnlein and Keating Co. in 1936, specializing in market research. Ken took classes at the Graduate School of the College of Commerce (later Kellogg) from 1938 – 1940.

When World War II came along, Ken had to close his firm and join the navy, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Commander. Ken worked in market research while stationed in Washington, D.C. during the war where he met Adeline Barry. They were married after the war.

Post wartime, he re-opened Davee, Koehnlein and Keating Co. His wife joined the firm as a Vice President. The firm did market research in pharmaceuticals, gathering information about the use of them from local pharmacies and hospitals. He then took the information back to Chicago, where as an early user of computerization, he created a report that he sold, primarily, to drug manufacturing companies.

In 1969, Ken sold the company to IMS, a leading research company for pharmaceutical markets in the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Spain and Japan, who used the purchase of Davee, Koehnlein and Keating Co. to enter the U.S. market.

After selling the firm, Ken partnered with another individual to buy troubled companies in the medical field and turn them around for resale. The last firm they purchased they held for ten years, selling it a few months after Ken passed away in Chicago on August 13, 1998.

Ken and Adeline started The Davee Foundation in November, 1964. They made annual grants each year to various tax-exempt entities.

After Adeline passed away in April, 1987, Ken married Ruth Dunbar in December, 1988. Ruth was a mutual friend of both Adeline and Ken. After Ken's passing, Ruth ran the Foundation for 13 years until her death, at 99, in 2011.