

Mayland and Mary (St. Clair) Abbe

Mayland Abbe was the first baby born in Cochran Memorial Hospital. He was born August 2, 1947, and is the eldest of four children of Berta and Mitchell Abbe.

Mary St. Clair Abbe grew up in Morton. She was born May 4, 1947, the third of four children of Lois and James St. Clair.

Mayland moved to Plainview and came back to Morton in the eighth grade, where they met. They both enjoyed choir very much, and a highlight was the choir trip to Corpus Christi as seniors.

In the 60's, gas was 29 cents per gallon, and the movies were 75 cents; so the Rose Theater was very popular. Kids could legally drive at age 14, and Mayland in his '63 "409" Chevy was the terror of the drag.

Their senior year was spent in the new high school building. Morton had previously been segregated, but the class of '65 had the first black student to graduate. There were 60 graduates, the largest class ever to graduate.

Mayland then went to South Plains and Mary went to Texas Tech, where she graduated in 1969, with a B. S. in Elementary Education. They married June 14, 1969, in Morton. Mayland graduated in 1972 with a B. S. in Business from Lubbock Christian College. Mary also received her M. A. of Elementary Ed. from Tech in 1972.

Their first child, Matthew Lynn, was born in Lubbock September 8, 1972. His sister, Mindy Leigh, was born in Lubbock on May 31, 1974.

Mayland was employed by General Electric Credit Corporation and moved to Abilene. In 1976, they moved to Morton and Mayland became the manager of the Levelland Savings and Loan.

Mayland has been involved in many civic duties. In 1977 he served as the Cochran County chairman for the American Cancer Society. He has been president of both the Morton Lions Club and the Morton Area Chamber of Commerce. He has been an officer for the Morton Country Club, and on the board of directors of the Morton Industrial Foundation; as well as having served four years on the Morton City Council. He is currently employed as Vice President and Branch Manager of Briercroft Savings in Levelland.

Mary began teaching in the Morton I.S.D. in 1977, and is currently employed there. She has served as president of the Emlea Smith Junior Study Club, and served on the Morton Area Federated Council. She was presented the "Teacher of the Year" award in 1981. Mary is a member of the Morton Classroom Teacher's Association, and of Delta Kappa Gamma.

The entire family are active participants of the Morton Indian activities. Matt has enjoyed 4-H, football, basketball, tennis, golf, and track. Mindy has enjoyed the Little Dribbler's basketball, 4-H, piano, and the flute.

All of the family are members of the Eastside Church of Christ. Because of Mayland's musical interest, he is a song leader; and he also teaches the junior high Sunday School class.

Submitted by Mary and Mayland Abbe

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