



**ISRI Gulf Coast Chapter proudly honors our
2009 Israel Proler Award Recipients**

for outstanding achievements and contributions to the recycling industry

**Paul L. Gregory
JT (Jake) Gregory
Lee Ronnel**



Paul L. Gregory

Paul Gregory was born July 29, 1906, in Arlington, Texas, to Dr. James M. and Mary Gregory. Paul began his career in the scrap metal business working in Coleman, Texas with E.H. Ray and Sons Salvage, which was owned by his father-in-law. He left Coleman to live in Ballinger, where he opened Gregory Salvage. His brother JT worked with him.



Around 1937 Paul and JT moved to Brady and operated Brady Salvage. He also operated Gregory Rendering at that time. In 1946 Paul moved to San Angelo and opened San Angelo Iron & Metal, where he remained active in the business until his death on March 4, 1996 at the age of 89. He also had a scrap yard in Del Rio, which remained open until after his death. Paul built a baler, a car crusher and an aluminum furnace to process metals purchased in West Texas.

Paul also contributed to many non-profit organizations. He was one of the first scrap brokers to open trade with Mexico and traveled extensively back and forth to increase business with other scrap dealers in Texas. During this time he sponsored children of Mexican clients attending schools in Texas. Paul developed the Paul Ann Park residential and light industrial land development subdivision in San Angelo. He and his wife Ann donated land and helped build the Paul Ann Baptist Church within Paul Ann Park.

He was also involved in raising Tennessee Walking Horses as well as several different breeds of hunting dogs, and operated Paul Ann Kennels. He enjoyed interacting with people and loved his work. He spent every fall in Colorado hunting with his brother JT, other family members and close friends.

Paul's sons James and Neil were also active in the scrap metal business throughout their lives. Grandsons Bobby, Jimmy and Ricky Gregory have continued in the scrap metal business and have established other successful businesses related to recycling, composting, solid waste services and demolition.

Paul was known for his love of life and his portly physique. You seldom saw him without an unlit cigar in his mouth or without a smile on his face.

JT (Jake) Gregory

Jake Gregory was born March 14, 1917 in Arlington, TX. As a teenager Jake developed a love for golf. He even spent time caddying for Ben Hogan, who later became a professional golfer. Between caddying and becoming acquainted with Bonnie and Clyde in Fort Worth, Jake's parents decided it was time for a change. At the age of 17, he went to live and work for his older brother Paul Gregory in Ballinger. During his time in Ballinger, JT developed a new love, a love for the world of scrap.



After working for his brother Paul and learning about the scrap business, JT and his wife Sybil Cox Gregory opened Ballinger Salvage in 1946. JT sold material to Pop Gachman in Fort Worth and thought very highly of him.

After 11 years of operating in Ballinger, JT expanded the business to Abilene and opened Pine Street Salvage in 1957. Keeping the business in the family, Pine Street Salvage has been operated since it's beginning by JT's daughter, Shelia Gregory Dankworth and son-in-law Daniel Dankworth. In 1969 JT purchased one of the first shredders from Mr. Alton Newell for the Abilene location, making Pine Street Salvage among the first scrap yards to have a Newell shredder in Texas.

In the early 70's, Mr. George Herman from Alcoa approached JT about recycling aluminum cans. JT gathered and recycled cans from Coors distribution centers from Amarillo and Lubbock to Del Rio to Paris, Denton and Palestine. In '76 JT expanded again to open Scrap Processing in Amarillo. Since the beginning Scrap Processing has been operated by JT's grandson Greg Dankworth.

JT was in the business before P.O. numbers, bill of ladens or contracts were used. With JT a handshake meant a done deal. He seldom bought new equipment, believing you either bought it used, built it from scratch, or repaired it with used parts. He believed in paying cash and never going into debt.

In October, 1984 JT passed away at the age of 67. He enjoyed life by working first, golfing, hunting, fly fishing in Colorado, drinking a cold Coors, and of course spending time with his family.

Lee Ronnel

Lee Ronnel was born in Shanghai, China and arrived in New York City shortly after the end on the Second World War. He attended public schools in Eastchester, New York before entering Carnegie Institute of Technology and graduating from New York University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Management. After receiving his United States Air Force commission, he flew with the Military Air Transport Service for several years before moving to Arkansas in 1964 with his wife Dale.



He entered the scrap metal business that same year as an employee of the A. Tenenbaum Company in Little Rock and was mentored by Gulf Coast Chapter President and later ISRI National Board Member William A. Bushman. Bill eventually introduced him to what turned out to be a multi-year service on the Gulf Coast Board of Directors. Lee left the A. Tenenbaum Company in 1979 to organize Metal Recycling Corporation where he currently serves along with his sons Michael (a past Gulf Coast Chapter President), and Steven, a ten year Washington veteran having served as advisor to Senator David Prior of Arkansas and later in the same capacity in the Clinton White House.

Lee is active in both civic and business organizations. His activities have included service as Chairman of the Arkansas Chapter of the National Association of Purchasing Management, as well as a member of its National Board of Directors. He has also served as Board Chairman of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, Board Chairman of the Jewish Federation of Arkansas, and as President of the Little Rock Racquet Club. He is currently Chair-elect of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Foundation Board, and serves on the Executive Committee of the University of Arkansas Foundation.

Lee and Dale continue living in Little Rock along with their two sons, their wives and three grandchildren. They often visit their daughter Karen, her husband and twin granddaughters in Phoenix.