

Jane Ross, Arkadelphia



A native of Arkadelphia, Jane Ross founded the Ross Foundation in 1967 with her mother, Ester Clark Ross. The Ross Foundation administers a philanthropic grants program and manages a diverse land base of more than 60,000 acres of timberland, mostly in Clark and Hot Spring counties, held for conservation purposes. The Foundation's philanthropic program benefits the people of Clark County through the revenue produced by these timberlands.

After graduating from Henderson State Teacher's College in 1942, Ross' love for photography led her to the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, N.Y. During World War II, she served in the Women's Army Corps in the Army Air Force as a photographic technician. She returned to Arkadelphia in 1948 to open a photography studio, which she operated until 1955.

After the death of her father, Ross assumed the responsibilities of managing the family lands. After the death of her mother in 1967, she became active in the everyday operations of the Ross Foundation as a trustee and chairman of the board. Ross continued her active involvement with the Ross Foundation as trustee and chairman for 32 years, until her death on July 9, 1999.

Ross's dedication to stewardship and conservation through the use of good forest management practices is unsurpassed. The Ross Foundation has focused on sustaining healthy and productive forestlands to help ensure long-term success.

In addition to the Ross Foundation, Ross served in numerous positions of civic and philanthropic responsibility. As she once said ... "clearly the benefits and the joy of giving extend to both the giver and the receiver."

Ross' life was marked by her wisdom, compassion and generosity. She dedicated her life to the betterment of Clark County through her benevolence, and the perpetual nature of the Ross Foundation is one of her greatest achievements.

She was inducted into the Arkansas Outdoor Hall of Fame in 1995.