

Information Sheet

R **Stubbins, John Russell, 1898-1982.**
436 **Autobiography, 1973.**
 One folder.

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This is "A Brief Resume of the Venezuelan Career of John R. Stubbins," an autobiographical sketch by a native of Paris, Missouri, and civil engineer who spent fifty-eight years in Venezuela. He was involved in oil exploration, mining, construction, and public works projects, and headed OTESCA, an engineering firm, 1930-1970.

John Russell Stubbins was born on 15 August 1898 near Paris in Monroe County, Missouri, to Harry and Mary Alice Bierly Stubbins. He was a 1916 graduate of Paris High School, and received a degree in civil engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana in 1921. His first professional position was with the Sun Oil Company in Venezuela. With a few brief exceptions, Stubbins spent the next fifty-eight years in Venezuela. He worked for various petroleum companies and engineering firms from 1922 to 1930 doing land surveys and designing production facilities, seaport improvements and worker housing. In 1930 he founded Oficina Tecnica Stubbins Cia. (OTESCA). The company, headquartered in Caracas, was involved in iron mining, water purification systems and general construction projects, and represented other firms doing business in Venezuela. OTESCA prospered and Stubbins was actively involved in the development of Venezuela in the mid-twentieth century. Stubbins sold a majority interest of OTESCA in 1965 and retired from active business life in 1970.

In his retirement, Stubbins pursued various hobbies and philanthropic ventures. Through the auspices of the John Russell Stubbins Foundation, scholarships to fund engineering education for Venezuelan students were established at the University of Illinois and the University of Missouri-Rolla. In 1980 he funded a children's home in Moberly, Missouri, now operated as a unit of the Presbyterian Home for Children. Stubbins moved to Key Biscayne, Florida, in 1977. He died of heart failure in Miami on 13 April 1982, and is buried in the Walnut Grove Cemetery at Paris, Missouri.

The brief autobiographical essay which Stubbins wrote in 1973 deals almost entirely with his professional life, beginning with his initial employment in Venezuela as a junior engineer with the Sun Oil Company, and concludes with his sale of OTESCA in 1970. His most important work is noted, as are the major political and economic trends which affected business in Venezuela. A page of the autobiography is also devoted to his philanthropic work through the John Russell Stubbins Foundation.

Stubbins sent a copy of his autobiography to the Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Rolla in 1981. Correspondence regarding his personal papers and his donations to the University of Missouri-Rolla, along with a copy of his obituary, may be found in the Information Folder.

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23 January 1990

John R. Stubbins

Gift

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