

William Coleman Connell (1926-1982)

Bill Connell was born in Clarksdale, Mississippi. He attended Culver Military Academy in Culver, Indiana, and the University of Mississippi. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity and, for many years, was associated with Phi Delta Theta at the national level. He served in the Army Air Corps in World War II and the Air Force in the Korean War. He farmed the Bough and Connell properties in the Mississippi Delta until 1966 when he engaged professionally in photography.

He pioneered modern outdoor informal portraiture in the late 1960s and was recognized as one of the top American photographers in this field. At the time of his death, his portraits hung in homes in forty-two states. His illustrative and commercial photography of the Mississippi Delta region and the estate of William Faulkner, the Nobel prize-winning writer, have been published in many national magazines and textbooks.

He died May 25, 1982 from complications with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Mary Ann Strong Connell, a nationally recognized employment and higher education attorney, and his four daughters, Elizabeth, Stella, Mary Ann and Jane.