

DONALD JANICEK

Former Bellaire Southwest Rotary Club President Don Janicek succumbed to a heart attack in late Oct 2002. He owned Don's Record Shop in Bellaire until 1998, which was a time capsule of "oldies," show tunes and oddities such as the Chipmunks Christmas Song by a trio of chirpy cartoon characters. Janicek also ran a record label, whose offerings included a variety of fight songs for the Houston Oilers football team. According to former BSWH Rotarian, singer and band leader Ezra Charles, "He was definitely a pioneer in the Houston music business and the person probably most responsible for trying to educate the public about music." Don was born in Columbus and grew up in the Houston Heights, starting work at a camera shop to earn money to buy a record player so he could listen to the 78s then being played at a neighborhood record ship. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and thereafter opened the Bellaire Camera and Record Shop. He also owned an advertising agency and loved to play Santa during the Christmas season. Survivors include daughters Alicia Ammons and Heidi Brown and sons James Keen III, William "Randy" Keen and David Janicek. Click for [Houston Chronicle Obituary](#).