



John P Butler
1901 - 1997
Inducted 1975

John P Butler was born in Mount Calm, Texas on December 19, 1901, the son of Hardin Richard Butler and Sophronia Jane Butler. He graduated from high school in Mount Calm in 1918 and at the age of seventeen embarked upon his banking career at the First State Bank of Mount Calm, Texas.

On June 30, 1926, Butler married Alva Dey Wallace of Mount Calm in Littlefield, Texas. While visiting friends in Midland on a 4th of July holiday, Butler was offered a job at the First National Bank. Butler and his wife moved to Midland, Texas in 1927. He began his career at the age of 25 at First National Bank as a teller, one of six employees. Midland was only beginning its oil and gas business at that time, but Butler was soon promoted to assistant cashier, cashier and then to vice-president. In 1953 Butler was elected bank president and 10 years later, elected chairman of the board. In 1975, he was named honorary chairman.

With the discovery of oil and gas in the Permian Basin and West Texas in 1926 and 1927, First National Bank began to expand the bank's financial services to the oil and gas industry in the region, contributing substantially to the development of the industry in the Permian Basin. While continuing with the bank's traditional interests in agriculture and ranching, Butler worked to build the bank's reputation in the area's oil and gas financial circles. First National Bank became known for its leadership and development of the mineral resources of the Permian Basin. Under Butler's leadership, First National Bank built one of the most effective oil and gas departments in Texas and New Mexico.

Butler was not only a distinguished Permian Basin banker, oil and gas financial advisor, but also a civic and industrial leader who nurtured a career of distinguished public service and business achievement.

Butler was a past president of the Midland Chamber of Commerce and the Midland Lions Club. He was a past director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, Texas. He was a member of the Midland City Council and served as mayor pro tem. Butler served as the first chairman of the Board of Executors of

the Permian Basin Petroleum Museum, working diligently toward the development, planning and opening of the Museum.