



Floyd C Dodson 1975

Floyd C. Dodson of San Angelo, Texas, was one of the true geological pioneers of the Permian Basin. He was, at the same time, a man of such high character and possessed of so much courage that he was liked as much as he was respected.

As a boy, living near Eden, Texas, he suffered the loss of one arm in a hunting accident. It never deterred him. His career in geology and his participation in sports were carried forward vigorously thereafter.

He attended the University of Texas at Austin and in 1920 earned his degree in geology. This was three years before the Santa Rita No.1, and very few wells had been drilled in the whole of the Permian Basin. Nonetheless he studied geology of Regan and adjoining counties and believed in the oil and gas potentiality of the area. He met Rupert Ricker, an attorney who had acquired a large number of exploration permits on the University of Texas lands, and confirmed Ricker's belief in the geologic theory of Dr. Johann Udden relative to such lands, and it was here that the Santa Rita No. 1 well was drilled a very few years later.

He joined with Rupert Ricker as a partner and they established offices in San Angelo. Their firm became one of the largest and most active in the Basin, representing 10 large companies and doing studies in 14 Basin counties. Their recommendations had profound effects on the later rapid development of the Basin's petroleum resources.

Floyd was a trainer of geologists. He hired young geology graduates from the University of Texas to do field mapping, a number of whom developed into well known, some famous, members of the profession.

He died in January, 1949, at the too-early age of 53.

The museum's files contain many letters from his associates. All speak of him, his professional talents, his character and other attributes with warmth and high regard. His is a lasting memorial in the hearts and minds of men.