



Herbert B. Fuqua 1973

H. B. Fuqua's election to our Hall stems from a distinguished career in oil joined later to a career in banking. In one way or another he managed, financed, or inspired no fewer than 15 field discoveries and 23 major extensions in the Permian Basin, and the true figures would be considerably larger.

"Baba" Fuqua was born in Indian Territory and was graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a geology degree. He was employed by Gulf Production Company at Wichita Falls in 1922, moved to San Angelo in 1923, and to Fort Worth in 1926. His later career with Gulf was in Houston, where he headed its southwestern operations.

Beginning in 1922 he shared in Gulf's geological studies of the Permian Basin and later took a dominant role in urging Gulf's leasing and drilling activities during the 1920's and 1930's. The tremendous place earned by Gulf in the Basin was in good part due to his vision and persistence.

In 1949 he resigned from Gulf to become board chairman and chief executive officer of Texas Pacific Coal and Oil Company in Fort Worth. The company had a tremendous discovery record during his tenure. While leading this fine company, he became a director of Fort Worth National Bank and was elected chairman of the bank's board in 1952. After Texas Pacific's assets were sold in 1963, he turned full attention to the banking business.

Under his prodding and with his inspiration, Fort Worth National aggressively sought to finance oil ventures. The bank made more and \$250 million in such loans during his active service as chairman, more than half of it to people in the Permian Basin. A great many fields and fortunes were found because his great bank took the larger view of this area's future.

Beyond this fine business career, Babe Fuqua has put the best of his talents and innumerable hours into serving community causes in Fort Worth.

Among many other contributions to his state and nation, he staunchly advocated conservation of oil and gas and protection of fresh water supplies from salt water pollution. Indeed, the list of his fine deeds is as long as the shadow of Babe Fuqua himself on the past, present, and future of the Permian Basin.