



George R. Gibson, Ph.D. 2001

George Randall Gibson is honored with an international reputation as a very successful domestic and foreign geological consultant. Born in New York State in 1905, Gibson moved to Oklahoma with his family when he was a young boy. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in geology in 1930 and his Ph.D. in geology in 1934 from the University of Minnesota. Following graduation, Gibson played professional football and taught geology at Carlton College in Minnesota. In 1938 he left the academia world and began working as a geologist with Sacony-vacuum Oil Company in Egypt. This work was interrupted by the breakout of World War II.

In 1941 Gibson was hired by Magnolia Petroleum Company (later Mobil) and sent to Midland for two weeks. He never left. From 1943-48, Gibson worked as district geologist for the Richfield Oil Company (BP Arco), and then as exploration supervisor for Seaboard Oil Corporation (Texaco) until 1952. He then struck out on his own and for the past fifty years has worked as a geological consultant in such diverse areas as the Philippines, New Zealand, Turkey, Egypt, South Africa and Lesotho, as well as the Permian Basin and the Rocky Mountain states.

Gibson was named an Outstanding Alum at the University of Minnesota, where he and his wife, Orpha, endowed the George and Orpha Gibson Chair in Hydrology. Among the many professional awards he has received are the Permian Basin Petroleum Association's "Top Hand" Award, the AAPG's Monroe G. Cheney Science Award and the John Emory Adams Distinguished Service Award. He has authored numerous publications and been involved with many civic organizations. Gibson is also recognized by the National Football League as the oldest living professional football veteran.