



Paul Kayser 1973

Paul Kayser of Houston was born on a farm near Tyler and was graduated from Baylor University. He studied law through a correspondence course from the University of Texas, and practiced law in Houston through 1929.

In 1928 Paul Kayser saw something that very few men of his age saw. In those days natural gas was like the ugly sister of the best-looking girl in town. Nobody wanted her around, but she came along anyway. Paul Kayser saw what she might become given patient, loving care. He founded El Paso Natural Gas Company and, as its president, began the tedious job of finding markets for the gas nobody wanted.

There are three memorable things about this effort. When the conservation of gas was forced on the industry, El Paso provided markets and prevented massive shutdowns of wells. Secondly, its markets in California and Arizona managed their air pollution problems far better as a result of having this clean fuel available. And finally, it opened up new uses for gas as a raw material for chemicals in the Permian Basin.

It so happened, therefore, that Paul Kayser's vision was a case of seeing the need before it was there, and of moving forcefully and persistently to bring gas supplies and gas markets together.

Paul Kayser served continuously as the executive head of El Paso Natural Gas from 1928 until 1965 as board chairman and chief executive officer. His work and the company's work during this long tenure created jobs, income, and new enterprises in the Permian basin as well as major benefits for the nation at large.

The list of his leadership posts in the oil and gas industries is a long one. He has lent his managerial talents to the Texas Research League, the University of Texas Engineering Foundation, and numerous other volunteer efforts.

Paul Kayser is, therefore, a conservationist in the broader and better sense. He has helped conserve energy supplies, the talents and efforts of people around him, the prosperity of this area, and the future of this state and nation. And, in truth, he took the broom from Cinderella's hands and made her a belle at the Energy Ball.