



William D. Kennedy 2005

December 7, 1919 – June 11, 2002

Along with his business partner and friend, C. Fred Chambers, William D. Kennedy formed C&K Petroleum, Inc., an independent active in West Texas, Rockies, South Texas, Gulf Coast and Offshore GOM. At the end of 1980, C&K drilled 87 wells, 39 explorative wells and 48 development wells and reported proved reserves of 48 billion cubic feet of gas and 5 million barrels of oil.

William Duncan Kennedy was born Dec. 7, 1919, in Dallas and graduated from the University of Texas with a business degree. Upon graduation he served in the U.S. Navy.

In 1959, the Chambers & Kennedy opened an exploration office in Houston, which soon became the company's headquarters. C&K Petroleum, Inc. was active in all the Permian Basin's major plays and also drilled wells in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Gulf Coast, Mid-Continent, Rocky Mountains and Western Canada. Their activity led to many field discoveries, including the Hamon and Toro gas fields and the Mestena Grande Field.

In 1966, Chambers and Kennedy formed a Canadian corporation with J.M.C. Ritchie of New York. The company named Ritchie Oil C&K was headquartered in Alberta, Canada. They also formed C&K Nederland Company to acquire and operate an oil and gas concession from the Dutch government. In August 1970, the two men exchanged their partnership assets for common stock in C&K Petroleum, Inc., and the company went public one year later. It was listed on the American Stock Exchange in November 1972 and sold to Alaska Interstate in October 1980.

After the sale of C&K Petroleum, Inc., Kennedy remained active in the oil industry with his son, Duncan. It was said that "he never saw a deal he didn't like." He appreciated new technologies and often provided seed money for new ventures. He explored for oil and gas in all the major U.S. basins as well as in Australia and Russia. In his final months, Kennedy actively participated in a deep horizontal Montoya well in Ward County and worked hard to put together and promote a deep gas discovery in Loving County, which has been named the Bill Kennedy Field.

His civic and professional memberships included All American Wildcatters Association, Permian Basin Petroleum Association, Texas Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association and St. Ann's Catholic Church.

Kennedy was known for his moderation, honesty and unassuming approach in dealing with other people. Until the day before he died on June 11, 2002, it was said he sold deals, made deals and drilled deals.