



Edward A. Landreth 1972

Edward A. Landreth of Fort Worth was, on the one hand, an American free-enterpriser of the pure breed, and on the other was a servant of his community, of his industry, and of his fellow man. His death almost ten years ago removed one of the finest and best from the nation's oil industry, but it did not blot out a series of remarkable accomplishments.

He was born in Springfield, Illinois, in 1891, but spent most of his youth in Joplin, Missouri, where he entered a family-owned mine machinery company. In 1919 he came to that early college of petroleum knowledge known as the Breckenridge Field with the vague idea of selling mining machinery. Instead he fell in love with the oil business and built there one of the earliest gasoline plants. In 1924 he sold this and other holdings, but was back in the producing end by 1926 when he drilled 60 wells before selling out to Phillips Petroleum. In 1927 he began a long career of oil discovery in the Permian Basin, and the fields he was associated with reads like and Oil Field Hall of Fame itself: Hendricks, Taylor-Link, Penwell, Hobbs, and others. He was also active along the Gulf Coast. As with most of us he knew defeat at times, but it never beat him.

Ed Landreth was one of the key men who joined in urging oil and gas conservation in Texas. His role in this vital matter earned him the Distinguished Service Award from Texas Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association in 1954.

People in Fort Worth knew him as a generous giver and unstoppable fund-raiser. Harris Hospital, Texas Christian University, the First Methodist Church, and the Worth Scout Ranch at Palo Pinto were among the institutions that extended their outreach and service through his service.

Hines Baker, president of Humble Oil, once called Edward Landreth a man who "has had the character to withstand both disaster and outstanding success." Hardly a finer tribute could be paid, but a postscript might be added. All the energy he found beneath the earth could not match the energy with which he sought better and richer living for his neighbors.