



Ralph F. Lowe 1973

Ralph F. Lowe of Midland had a storybook career, right out of Alice in Oil-Land. Many have called him a business genius, but nothing in his early life would have called forth such a prophesy.

He was born in Lewis County, Missouri, and attended Westminster College at Fulton. He worked briefly for a hotel in Casper, Wyoming, joined Oil Well Supply, and began picking up a little knowledge of the oil business in Augusta, Kansas, and in Oklahoma. In 1927 he was working at Wink, Texas as a machinist. He became a shop foreman, and the successfully operated a service station here in Midland. He became a marketing consignee.

At that point all the threads began to weave together. He had picked up knowledge of machinery and of oil field costs, knew how to sell, and had made friends in the oil business. In 1940 he contracted to drill his first well on the Seth Campbell Lease in Winkler County. In 1941 he bought his own cable tool rig. By 1943 he had drilled 25 wells in Winkler.

From then on the quality of Ralph Lowe's business judgment and great energy showed itself. He was heavily involved in the great Fullerton play. He found extensions of the Denton and Gladiola fields in Lea County. His enterprise brought him a large participation in the Andrews county developments of the 1950's. He had major roles in the Coynosa Field in Pecos County and in the Indian Basin field of Eddy County. He took out from the Permian Basin to drill successfully in Wyoming and elsewhere.

From 1940 until his death in 1965 he participated in no less than 500 wells in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and New Mexico. It was a phenomenal performance.

It took an exceptional man to build such a record. Ralph Lowe was quick to see opportunities and quick to seize them. He was courageous and industrious. Beyond these qualities, he was intensely loyal to his many friends, always fair, and impulsively generous. His word had the binding nature of a signed contract. His horizons were never limited and he left his stamp and memory on the Basin's oil history as few men have.