



Joseph C. Maxwell 1975

Joseph c. Maxwel of Fort Worth was born in Kentucky and, like many others, gained his first oil experience through the Prairie Oil and Gas Company in Kansas. He began as a landman, and, in time, began acquiring leases on his own account.

He was in the Ranger boom and probably took one of those characteristic beatings when it collapsed. He was among the earliest of he West Texas operators, taking leases in Howard County in 1921 after the Westbrook field was found.

He and his brother David were in south Texas when word of the Santa Rita discovery reached them in 1923. It triggered a life-long interest in West Texas' oil potential. He almost managed to acquire the McElroy Ranch leases. The word "almost" is often an epitaph for oil careers but no so for Joseph Maxwell, for in 1926 he was a key figure in the discovery of the great Church-Fields-University portion of the now-called McElroy Field. His leases, mineral interests, and royalty interests were extensive in the area.

His success, no longer an "almost" thing, led him into Crane, Ward, and Winkler counties, and Lea County, New Mexico. He became one of the outstanding independent producers of the southwest. In 1951 he was involved with the discovery of the 5-pay West Dollarhide Field.

Joe Maxwell was, in addition, one of the founders of the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association and, from his home in Fort Worth, gave silently but generously to many worthy causes. A list of his civic activities is long and distinctive.

As with many others, he was not deterred by difficulty. He had big dreams for himself and for the petroleum industry; and he gave them form and substance through dedicated work.