



William D. Noel 1983

The unique and trusting partnership between these two men, never sealed by anything more than liking and handshakes, created enormous good for the city of Odessa and the Basin at large.

Bill Noel, after early wildcatting, bought into Earl Rodman's supply company, and the two of them began a successful career in oil exploration over the southwest. There followed a truly astonishing series of ventures.

The partners went into the gasoline plant business as Odessa Natural Gasoline Company. From this expanding enterprise the two of them launched the petrochemical complex in southeastern Odessa that created hundreds of jobs and pumped needed substance into the city's economic lifelines. It took some eight years to bring the first notion through the firming-up process that finally put the complex under construction in 1956. The plants made the Basin a factor in the petrochemical business.

Rodman and Noel branched into banking, ranching and a multitude of other enterprises, great and small. They spurred the area's symphony and a score or more of other civic organizations and have smoothed the living in West Texas.

Sometimes separately but more often together, these two changed the lives of many for the better. Earl Rodman is no longer with us, but the two of them – in the best of meanings – still are.