



### **Robert W. Patterson 1975**

Robert W. Patterson scouted the Permian Basin as few did, so long and so well. He was also a landman, staff coordinator, and, finally, a banker, public relations officer and supporter of civic affairs. In all of these pursuits, he earned and kept the respect of innumerable people.

He came to Midland in October, 1926, when Gulf Oil first established its district office here. His task was to report on oil developments in the many thousands of square miles which encompassed the Basin. He had to know about leasing, prices paid for leases, and the logging records of wells being drilled and of formations encountered.

Somehow, in rickety Fords and noisy Dodges, Bob Patterson covered his country. He bounced over endless miles of poor roads, some of them driven at night. He stepped around rattlesnakes and knew how to count, through field glasses, the strings of pipe in a “tight hole” to learn at what depth a wildcat was drilling.

No man was better known, better liked, and more respected among the oil fraternity in the Basin. At a time when scouting combined a need to gather intelligence and to make competitors like it, he was among the best of a great group.

Some people think of corporations as huge masses of capital and people. People who knew Bob Patterson thought of Gulf Oil in quite a different way. He was “Mr. Gulf” and through him the company he represented was given a better, more personal, and higher reputation.

He retired from Gulf in 1959, and from Commercial Bank and Trust Company in 1964. His death occurred in 1964, leaving lasting memories of a good man and true.