



Morgan J. Davis 1973

Morgan J. Davis of Houston comes to us in three roles, all played brilliantly. He has been an outstanding geologist. He headed one of the world's great oil companies. And he has been a tremendous civic asset to his community.

He was born in Anson, Texas, attended Texas Christian University and was graduated from The University of Texas in 1925 with a degree in geology. Almost at once he joined Humble Oil and Refining Company at Roswell, New Mexico, working there as a geologist for four years. He then was dispatched to Java and Sumatra where he led geological exploration work in these East Indies islands. He was returned to Roswell in 1934 as district geologist, remained for two years, and then moved to the Gulf Coast as division geologist.

In successive years Morgan Davis moved into management of Humble's Exploration Department, was made vice president and then executive vice president, and – finally – was named Humble's president in 1957. Here he headed what was labeled the southwestern affiliate of Standard of New Jersey. It actually was the well-spring from which Jersey Standard drew its world-wide exploration and producing organization. It was a major marketer, refiner, and carrier as well.

In 1960 the Humble name was carried over to the new national company that took over all of Jersey's domestic interests. Morgan Davis was named its president. He retired in 1963 as its chairman and chief executive officer.

Wallace Pratt and others who know geological talent think of Morgan Davis as a superb geologist, gifted with ESP. His work at Roswell and later in the management of Humble's exploration work were factors in the company's assuming a major position in the Basin. Many more of his friends know him as an incisive and fine executive.

His civic activities in Houston and in the nation range over an enormous spread of interests including charitable work, oceanography, philosophy, geography, and – last, but not least – history. It can be said that Morgan Davis not only is a student and lover of history, but in America's industrial story he has helped make it.