

## **George Bruce** **1900 - 1990**



Mr. Bruce fell in love with the oil industry as a youngster traveling with his father, a judge in western Colorado who invested in the oil business. In 1912, he was fascinated that a geologist his father hired was paid \$250 a day. George received his Bachelor's degree in economics from Stanford University in 1923, but it was his early geology and engineering courses at Colorado College that turned him toward geology in the El Dorado oil patch in the 1920s.

He began his career as a petroleum engineer for Cities Service in the El Dorado field. Mr. Bruce was one of the first to study underground formations in exploring for oil. From his study, he helped organize the Kansas Geological Society and managed its library, the Kansas Well Log Bureau. He also was instrumental in the formation of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

His background included petroleum engineer, Cities Service Oil Co., 1923-1925; manager, Kansas Well Log Bureau, 1925-26; independent producer, 1926-29; Western Kansas Oil and Refining Co., 1929-1939. In 1939, Mr. Bruce started his company Aladdin Petroleum. It was one of the first small domestic producers in

the nation to look overseas for profits. They established drilling projects in Australia and Turkey in the 1960s. Until he was hospitalized, Mr. Bruce would go into his offices in the Petroleum Building six days a week.

Donald Schnacke, the executive vice president of the Kansas Independent Oil and Gas Association at the time of George's passing, said KIOGA members knew Mr. Bruce as a man "everybody could turn to... who never quit thinking of the well-being of the oil and gas industry." Mr. Bruce helped form the association in 1938 and served on the Board of Directors the following year, and was the president from 1953-1954.

SOURCES:

"Oil Pioneer, 85, Isn't Stopping" by Forrest S. Gossett. The Wichita Eagle-Beacon. May 19, 1986.

The Wichita Eagle, August 25, 1990.

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