

George W. Hinkle

1886 - 1965



George was born January 4, 1885 in Delavan, Illinois and was reared in rural Butler County. Hinkle began working in the oil business in 1906 in Oklahoma. He was 20 then. Two years later, he bought his own drilling tools and went into business for himself. He was a leading drilling contractor in 1910. His first drilling rig cost \$2,500.00 and was a cable tool Star Machine. In 1938, Mr. Hinkle formed the Hinkle Oil Company with his son, Jack, to explore for and produce oil.

At one time he had as many as 14 drilling rigs operating at the same time.

Hinkle also was in the cattle business until 1958, keeping as many as 800 head on his 800-acre farm. He also kept numerous pets on the farm, ranging from peacocks to buffalo.

A trotting and horse racing enthusiast, he maintained Woodlawn Stables. He had upwards of a dozen horses stabled there.

Hinkle's trotters and pacers raced in events in many parts of the country. Hinkle also promoted horse racing in Kansas.

A greater Wichita was one of his goals. He was president of Union Development Co., a corporation set up to rehabilitate downtown Wichita in general and Main Street in particular. Union Center was one of the corporation's projects.

Hinkle was director of Kansas Independent Oil and Gas Association (KIOGA) and of the Independent Petroleum Association of America.

He was a member of Metropolitan Baptist Church, Petroleum Club, Knife and Fork Club and Farm and Ranch Club.

SOURCE: The Wichita Eagle and Beacon. July 4, 1965.