

## **Jack B. Hinkle**

### **1912 - 2003**



Jack was born to George and Eva J. Hinkle in Independence, KS. Later, the family moved to Wichita. After attending Wichita State University and St. Louis University, he became a partner with his father at the Hinkle Oil Company in 1936. His first big strike was two miles east and one mile north of Chase County, Kansas, in 1937. Because of that strike, Hinkle Oil Company purchased its first rotary rig (expanded version). Hinkle Oil Company became a leading independent oil producer with production in many counties in Western Kansas.

As a result of their success with Hinkle Oil Company, they began accumulating shares of stock in the Union National Bank. In 1956, Jack was elected chairman of the board of directors. He remained chairman until 1995, when the bank was sold to Commerce Bank. He was then designated chairman, Emeritus.

Jack loved life and auto racing. He entered cars in the Indianapolis "500" from 1951 to 1955, taking third place in 1951 and 1954. He became nationally known as a driver by winning scores of races across the country. He retired from racing in 1983 at the age of 71. He actively supported his church and was very involved in his community. He served many years on the Board of Governors at Wichita State

University, was involved in Midtown Community Resource Center, Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice, Wichita Chamber of Commerce and the Wichita Crime Commission, as well as many other worthy organizations. He was a past president of the Kansas Independent Oil and Gas Association. He was inducted into the Western Kansas Oilman's Hall of Fame in Great Bend.

SOURCE: Kansas City Star. February 9, 2003.