

Edgar H. "Ed" Adair 1899 - 1964



Mr. Adair was an oil producer and investor who opened the Paulson pool in Northwest Butler County Kansas. He owned and operated the E.H. Adair Oil Company.

Mr. Adair attended Friends University in 1916-17. In August of 1917, during the First World War, he enlisted as a seaman, 2nd class, in the U.S. Naval Reserve. He went through training and steam-engine school at the Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, N.J. for nine months. He participated in a training trip to France and was discharged in 1918 with rank of ensign.

For several years, Mr. Adair worked for feed-grain departments and companies. In 1927, he entered as a partner in the Adair-Hunter Grain Co., Wichita. In 1929 he joined in partnership with Paul M. Morton to form the Adair-Morton Grain Co., with headquarters in Wichita. The company expanded in 1933, buying oil and gas leases and drilling wells in Butler, Cowley, and Stafford counties. The company was dissolved in 1944, with Adair purchasing his partner's interest and later organized the Adair Grain Co., Wichita, in partnership with O. E. Bedell.

In 1945, Adair founded the E. H. Adair Oil Co., Wichita, of which he was owner and manager until his death. The company was engaged in drilling wells and selling the production and in purchasing oil and gas royalties. It was involved with a number of significant oil pools. In 1948 Adair discovered the Towanda Pool in Butler County, Kans., comprising twenty-seven wells which had produced 3,500,000 barrels of oil by 1964. Adair was also instrumental in discovering the Gladys Pool in Sedgwick County, which produced 10,000,000 barrels of oil. He also discovered the Browning Field in Greenwood County, and the Paulson Pool in Butler County, which combined produced 2,600,000 barrels of oil.

In 1950, Adair diversified his interests to include the raising of Black Angus cattle in Chautauqua and Sedgwick counties and real estate holdings in downtown Wichita. Mr. Adair was involved in various philanthropic undertakings. After his death, his widow donated funds for a football stadium at Friends University, which was dedicated in 1970 as the Adair-Austin Stadium in honor of Adair, his son, and his wife's two sons by her previous marriage. He was a member of the Independent Petroleum Association of America, Kansas Independent Oil and Gas Association, and the Petroleum, Wichita, and Wichita Country clubs of Wichita. His religious affiliation was with the Plymouth Congregational Church, Wichita. Politically he was a Republican. For recreation he enjoyed hunting, fishing, and traveling. He was married in Las Vegas, Nev., in 1952, to Burneta (Young) Austin, daughter of Frank LeRoy and Bessie (Baldock) Young of Kingman, Kansas, and widow of John Gamble Austin, and by this marriage had a son, Edgar Harvey (died in childhood), and an adopted son, John David Austin. Edgar H. Adair died in Wichita, Kansas, March 15, 1964.

Sources: Find a Grace, The National Cyclopedia of American Biography
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