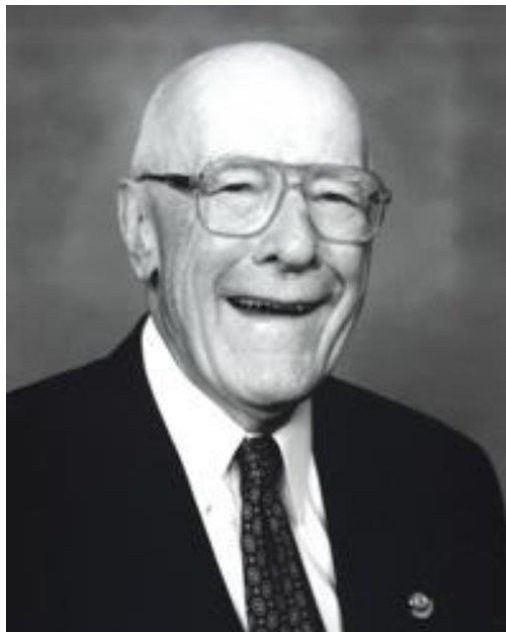


## **Thornton E. Anderson**

### **1923 - 2020**



Thornton was born September 2, 1923 in Hutchinson, Kansas, the second child of Lind M. and Helen B. Anderson. Thornton's early years were spent in Salina, Kansas with the family moving to Wichita in 1932. Thornton graduated from Wichita East High School and began undergraduate studies at Wichita University prior to being inducted into the United States Army Air Corp in 1943. Thornton's military service during WWII consisted of multiple advanced education programs and training at the University of Minnesota, Harvard and M.I.T., never seeing service overseas. Upon his discharge, Thornton returned to Wichita and earned his B.A. in Geology from Wichita University in 1947 and a M.S. in Geology from the University of Wisconsin in 1949.

Thornton began his career in the oil business in Midland, Texas in 1949. He worked for Skelly Oil Company, Petroleum, Inc. and Lion Oil Company respectively and eventually accepted a position back in Wichita in 1951. By 1955, he had become an independent geologist, and in 1962, joined Bob Watchous to form the High Plains Production Company. This company dissolved in 1969, and MR.

Anderson continued as an independent operator and producer until 1981 when his son Bill joined the company. In 1988, they formed Anderson Energy, Inc.

Thornton was a great oil finder and all-around businessman, once described by a peer as “the best all-around oilman I have ever known.” Thornton married Charmaine McKenzie in August of 1952. Together, they raised five children prior to divorcing in 1982. In January 1988, Thornton married Kathleen Seymour Froehlich. The years spent with Kath were filled with much laughter and joy. Thornton and Kath traveled the world and had many great adventures.

In addition to traveling, Thornton loved to fish, landing many trophies over the years. He also tried his hand at golf, never quite achieving the success with the game that he enjoyed with his fishing. He was an avid alum and supporter of Wichita State University, holding season basketball tickets for some 70 years! In his lifetime, Thornton received many professional and personal honors too numerous to list. Thornton’s generosity and charitable giving were always discreet, but he aided many organizations over the years. As Thornton was fond of saying: Live well! Laugh often! Love much!

SOURCES:

<https://www.downingandlahey.com/obituaries/Thornton-E-Anderson?obId=17631813>