



### **Jim Camp, M.D. 1973**

Dr. Jim Camp of Pecos, Texas, poured 63 years of his life into the practice of medicine. He took healing to the distant ranch and later added the rhythms of the drilling rig as an accompaniment to his work. His service spanned the horse-and-buggy and jet eras, and covered both calomel and penicillin. Wherever men worked, and wherever their women and children waited for them, Dr. Jim was known.

He was born in Tennessee and attended the University of Tennessee's College of Medicine. In 1900 he came to Pecos. When his buggy couldn't make so long a trip, he would swing aboard the T & P to visit a patient. He was the first to remove an appendix in the Trans-Pecos region. He literally pioneered medicine in a huge area where miles were many and people few.

The advent of the oil boom brought thousands piling into Dr. Jim's home base. He took it in stride. He was calm, reassuring, and deliberate. When Sid Richardson told him he wanted good medical care for his people, Dr. Jim took them on even though Sid didn't have the money to pay him. He was that kind of man.

Dr. Jim certainly saved hundreds and probably thousands of lives. More importantly, perhaps, people knew that aid was there if they needed it.

He helped create the modern Pecos school system while on the school board. He served his church and was a dedicated Mason, was a charter member of the Rotary Club in Pecos, and made a successful effort to form the Six county Medical Society for Reeves, Ward, Winkler, Loving, Culberson and Hudspeth counties. In 1950 the Texas Medical Society named him "Doctor of the Year."

Dr. Camp died in 1964. His medical colleagues have since paid him the great tribute of reconstructing his office in the museum at Pecos.

The world of Dr. Jim Camp was a bigger world than the petroleum industry even though the oil people benefited hugely from his life and works. He was great in the same way Shakespeare once defined greatness, in these words: "he was gentle – and the elements so mixed up in him that nature might stand up and say to all the world –this was a man."