



Wilbur A. Yeager, Sr. 1975

To some people, the word “pioneer” means covered wagons and Indian attacks. In the case of Wilbur Arthur Yeager, it means coming to Midland in 1926 when the down had 3,000 people and almost that many windmills.

“Yeag” was born in Alexandria, Missouri, attended the University of Missouri, and served as a flyer in what was to become the U.S. Air Force in World War I. Immediately after that war, he signed on with Prairie Oil and Gas in Oklahoma; he has been in the oil business ever since.

It cannot be said as a firm, fully proved fact, but there is reason to think that Arthur Yeager was Midland’s first oil man. San Angelo was still the capital of the small but growing Permian Basin oil industry at that time, but it was to Midland that he came, bag, baggage, and bride, for Patsy Yeager joined him here immediately after their Oklahoma marriage in November, 1926.

From Prairie Oil to Sinclair and then into the ranks of the independents – such was Arthur’s career history. His partner in the quest for oil has been James M. Armstrong, himself a distinguished geologist and engineer. Together, they have – over a tremendously long and productive career – helped shaped the Basin’s industry. Today, almost 50 years after his arrival in the Basin, Arthur Yeager still is active, still is among those seeking the new discovery, as he was in 1926.

In one way or another he has been associated with almost everything worthwhile that has happened in Midland during all those years. Everyone knows him or knows of him. He is a kind man with his priorities in order and his hat on straight.

He deserves the high regard in which all men hold him – and the congratulations we now offer.