



**Robert Orville Anderson**  
**1917 – 2007**  
**Inducted 1983**

When Robert O. Anderson was a boy, his father was an officer with the First National Bank of Chicago and was the first banker to lend money against the value of the oil in the ground. Robert loved his father's stories about oil-patch wildcatters and became active in the oil industry right out of college in 1939. Two years later, his father helped Robert and his brothers buy the Malco refineries in Artesia, New Mexico. During the next 15 years, Anderson bought other refineries throughout the Southwest. Their success would become Anderson's financial "safety net" because he had an incredible run of bad luck as a wildcatter – drilling 200 dry holes! But when his luck changed in 1957, he made up for lost time, hitting big in the Empire Abo Field. In 1963 he merged his company with Atlantic Refining Company and two years later he was CEO. In 1966, a merger with Richfield Oil created ARCO, which discovered the Prudhoe Bay oil field in Alaska.