



**Robert W. Patteson**  
**1898 - 1968**  
**Inducted 1975**

Bob Patteson came to Midland in 1926 when Gulf Oil first established its district office here. As a landman for Gulf, his task was to report on oil developments in the many thousands of square miles that encompassed the Permian Basin. He gathered and evaluated information on land leases, prices paid for leases, and the logging records of wells being drilled and the formations encountered. Bob could count the strings of pipe in a “tight hole” and, from this, determine how deep a wildcat well was being drilled. No one was better known or better liked within the Basin’s oil fraternity. At a time when scouting combined a need to gather intelligence and inspire competitors to get on board, he was among the best of a great group. Bob covered his territory thoroughly, often driving at night, and became known among his peers as “Mr. Gulf.” Because of him, Gulf Oil’s reputation soared. He retired from Gulf in 1959 and became a banker with Commercial Bank and Trust.