



THE AGE OF OIL

PEOPLE

RED ADAIR

Paul Red Adair was an American oil well firefighter born on June 18, 1915, in Houston, Texas. In 1938, he worked his first oil-related job with the Otis Pressure Control Company, and during World War II he served in the 139th Bomb Disposal Squadron. Paul, founded the Red Adair Company in 1959 and is credited with battling more than 2,000 land and offshore oil well fires, including the hundreds of wells set afire when the Iraqi army retreated from Kuwait during the Persian Gulf war in 1991.

Red Adair Company, Inc. which provided services to control oil well fires and blowouts. His company established modern-day effective Wild Well Control techniques. Adair's accomplishment gained notice, and in 1968 he became the Technical Advisor on the film *Hellfighters* starring John Wayne. During his career, he and his company completed over 1,000 jobs internationally including in 1991's Operation Desert Storm. Adair died on August 7, 2004, in Houston, Texas.

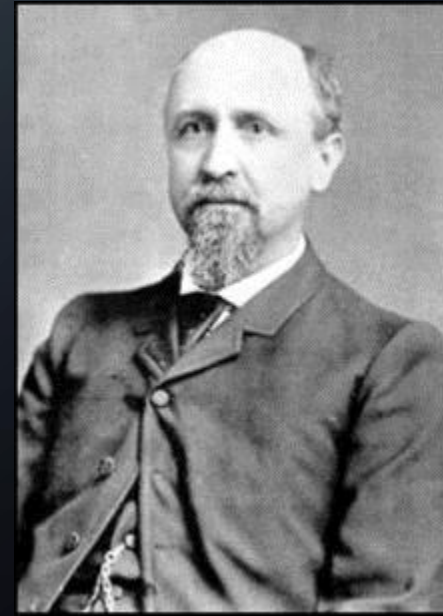
Mr. Adair joked in 1991 that he had "made a deal with the devil." He said: "He's going to give me an air-conditioned place when I go down there, if I go there, so I won't put all the fires out."



LAWRENCE SULLIVAN ROSS

Lawrence Sullivan (Sul) Ross, soldier, statesman, and university president. His family immigrated to Texas in 1839 and settled initially in Milam County, where young Sul had his first encounter with hostile Indians. Ross joined the Texas Rangers and took part in the unsuccessful campaign of Middleton Tate Johnson against hostile tribes in the spring and summer of 1860, initially as a first lieutenant and later as captain of the Waco Company. Despite the general public contempt for the results of the Johnson expedition, Ross won the approval and trust of Governor Sam Houston, who empowered him to raise a company of his own for service in the area of Young and surrounding counties.

Even more important, Ross's time in office was later considered one of exceptional good will and harmony. When he left the statehouse, he stepped immediately into the presidency of the seriously troubled Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas (now Texas A&M University), a position in which he rendered his greatest public services. Under his presidency the number of students grew, many new buildings were built, and public faith in the institution returned. Ross used started pumping oil of university property to help pay for Texas A&M's rapid growth. This ended up being the reason for the University's was able to prosper.



HOWARD HUGHES SR.

When the Spindletop Oilfield was brought in in 1901, Hughes recognized that event as the beginning of a great new industry and immediately established himself in the drilling and contracting business at Beaumont, Texas. For seven years he and Walter B. Sharp followed the oil industry from one field to another in Texas and Louisiana, experiencing the traditional ups and downs of the business in that period. In 1907 Hughes attempted to drill wells in two promising wildcat areas, Pierce Junction and Goose Creek, Texas, but in both localities he was unable to complete the wells because of the extremely hard rock encountered. Having recognized for some time the industry's sore need of a specially designed bit which would penetrate hard rock, Hughes, with his partner's approval, decided to take a vacation and concentrate on the designing of a rock bit.

Howard had evolved the basic design of the bit which later became world famous—a bit with cone-shaped revolving cutters studded with tough steel teeth, which, under a heavy weight of pipe, would roll on the rock at the bottom of the well, and grind and pulverize the rock, rather than scrape it. He filed his applications for patents on November 20, 1908, and on August 10, 1909, was granted two patents for rock drills, the basic patents for the Hughes Rock Bit, which, from the start, penetrated medium and hard rock with ten times the speed of any former bit and which continued to be used in rotary rock drilling throughout the world. In its initial tests, at Goose Creek the bit penetrated in eleven hours fourteen feet of the hard rock, which no previous equipment had been able to penetrate at all. By 1914 the drill bit was used in eleven states and thirteen foreign countries.

