

Wilbur Cunningham Windsor

1891-1958

Wilbur Cunningham Windsor was born at the farm home of his parents (Horace George and Anne Cunningham Windsor) January 14, 1891. This farm near Boonville, Missouri had been in the family 120 years.

After completing courses at the Crab Orchard rural school in his farm home district he attended Kemper Military School from 1906-1910. During Mr. Windsor's last year at Kemper, he was given the highest honor accorded by the military department. He was ranking cadet of the school. For several years a likeness of Wilbur C. Windsor in cadet uniform was used extensively in Kemper advertising. He attended the University of Missouri - Columbia from 1910-1913. After completing college Wilbur C. Windsor worked a year without pay in a bank at Pilot Grove, in his home county, to learn the business.

He married Gertrude M. Buckley in 1916. She was the daughter of a late district attorney of Eastern Oklahoma. They had two children, Wilbur C. Jr. and Gertrude Anne (Mrs. Mann Richardson).

He then went into banking in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, later resigning to enter officers' training camp at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, in 1917. He served as a first lieutenant in World War I with the 335th infantry, 84th division. He was discharged in April of 1919.

He then served an apprenticeship in oil development under Col. A. E. Humphrey. Then he became an independent operator; first with headquarters in Dallas, then at Tyler, in Eastern Texas.

He purchased and expanded the Cooper County farm of his late father, Horace Windsor, from 320 acres to some 1,900 and developed a herd of Herefords headed by a young English bull which he bought while in the British Isles and later flew to Kansas City, Missouri. W. C. Windsor divided his time between his many oil and civic interests and the enterprise in his home county, he also bred fine saddle horses.

As chairman of the Texas prison board (1947) for five years, Wilbur C. Windsor modernized its 29 institutions. Wilbur C. became chairman of banks in Boonville and Tyler and of Kemper Military School, a member of the boards of Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, and of Austin College in Sherman, Texas. He was a leader in activities for Boy Scouts, chambers of commerce, a fair association, the Presbyterian church, and was director of the Independent Petroleum Association of America.

He bought 1,200 acres along the Trinity River in Dallas, Texas which was later developed into Brook Hollow industrial park, as an answer to factory slums.

In the Church, he was a faithful Elder, Chairman of the Building Committee, Chairman of the Pulpit Committee and a wise counselor. When asked what his personal creed was he referred to a poem that he wrote while serving on the Austin College Board. He called it *Everlasting*.

No splendor can endure the ravages of time,
It matters not how costly nor how fine.
No man can keep the influence of his power
Beyond the limit of his destined hour;
Unless through word or deed he plants the seed
For coming streams of human life in need.
No life or soul has e'er been made secure
Outside God's perfect plan which will endure.