



**John P. Butler**  
**1901 - 1997**  
**Inducted 1975**

John Butler was born in Mount Calm, Texas. He graduated from high school there and, at age 17, began his banking career at the First State Bank of Mount Calm. In 1927, he and his wife moved to Midland and Butler went to work at First National Bank as a teller, one of six employees. After the discovery of oil and gas in the Permian Basin and West Texas in 1926 and 1927, the need to finance exploration and production increased quickly. First National Bank began to expand their financial services to the oil and gas industry in the region, contributing substantially to the development of the industry here. In 1953, Butler was appointed bank president. While continuing with the bank's traditional interests in agriculture and ranching, Butler worked to further build their reputation in the region's oil, gas and mineral financial circles. Under Butler's leadership, First National Bank built one of the most effective oil and gas departments in Texas and New Mexico and was one of the few financial institutions of the time that would work with Permian Basin wildcatters.