

# FRANK F. PHILLIPS

1873-1950

*Pioneer Legend*

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Frank Phillips was born on November 28, 1873 in Scotia, Nebraska where his parents had a farm; the family moved in 1874 to a small farm in rural southwest Iowa. Frank had ten siblings.

At an early age, Frank had a deep love for the "wild west" and he was worried that he was going to miss it, so to his parents chagrin, he left home at the age of 16 and traveled west through Colorado, Wyoming, Nevada and California, earning his way by cutting hair at the gold and silver mines along the way. He returned home to Creston, Iowa and did what he knew best, opened a barber shop and soon he owned three barber shops in town.

John Gibson, the President of the bank in Creston was a good customer and Gibson had a young, attractive daughter by the name of Jane who quickly caught Frank's eye... soon she became Mrs. Frank Phillips as they married on February 18, 1897. They had one son, John Gibson Phillips, and later two foster daughters, sisters whom they named Mary Francis and Sara Jane Phillips.

Shortly after Phillips married Jane Gibson, her father asked Phillips to join him in the banking business. In 1903, Frank heard stories about oil near a place called Bartlesville in Indian Territory. The area was rich in oil and what proved to be an oil industry boom was just getting started. After Phillips and Gibson made two trips to Bartlesville to see this first hand, Phillips and his younger brother L. E. Phillips organized the Anchor Oil & Gas Company.

Anchor opened an office in Bartlesville in 1905, secured a driller and drilled its first wildcat well, the Holland No. 1. The men struck oil on June 23, 1905. The brothers' second and third wells were dry holes, and they had enough



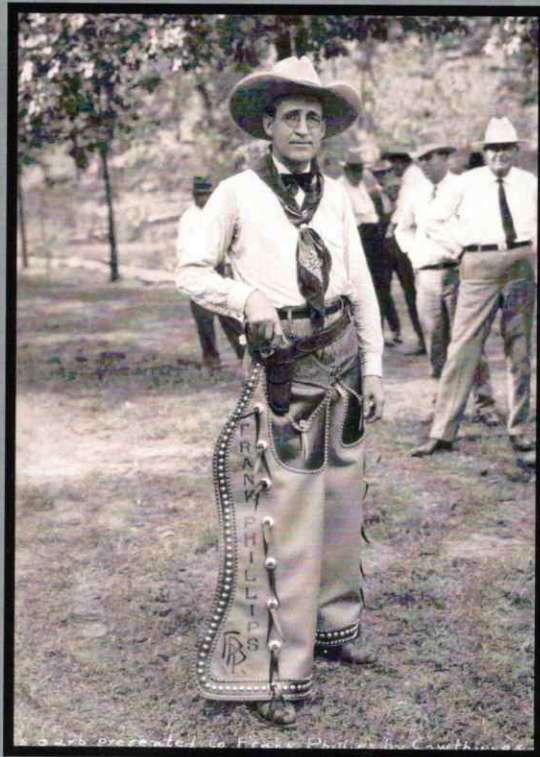


money to drill a fourth well, the Anna Anderson Number One. The Anna Anderson, completed September 6, 1905, was a gusher, and the first of 80 consecutive producing wells drilled by the Phillips brothers.

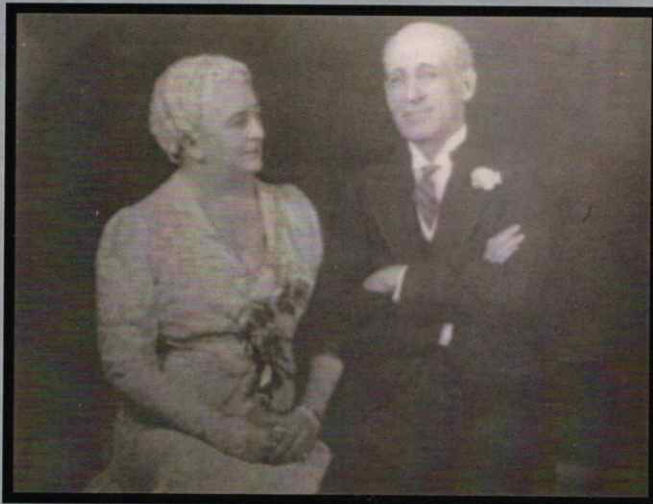
With the price of oil quickly increasing from 40 cents a barrel to more than \$1 a barrel, the brothers decided to consolidate their holdings in a single company, Phillips Petroleum Company which they incorporated on June 13, 1917. The new company had 27 employees and assets of \$3 million. At the time of his death, it had 17,000 employees and assets of \$625 million.

Phillips once said to employees, to whom he was known as "Uncle Frank": "Work hard and demonstrate loyalty, and I'm a great guy to work for. Do neither, and there is no one worse."

Frank Phillips led the company as its president and then as its first chairman of the board, a position he held until he retired at the age of 76



in 1949, a year before his death. Jane Phillips, his wife of 50 years, died in 1948. He was buried beside his wife in the Phillips Family Mausoleum at Woolaroc, Phillips' ranch and country home in Osage County, Oklahoma, southwest of Bartlesville.



It is with great pleasure that the Directors of the Oklahoma Geological Foundation present Frank F. Phillips as a Pioneer Legend Award recipient for 2018.