

# The nation's No. 1 geologist!

THE SOONER TRADITION OF  
LEADERSHIP IN GEOLOGY IS  
CARRIED ON BY H. B. FUQUA

A young Texan just out of high school had decided that he wanted to become a geologist or oil man, but couldn't decide whether to go to the University of Texas or to Texas A. and M. college. He started inquiring among friends and men in the oil industry.

He had a friend working for the Gulf Oil Corporation so he asked him about it.

"If you are going to take geology or petroleum engineering, don't think of going anywhere but the University of Oklahoma," the friend replied.

The youth appealed to another friend, also working for the Gulf company, and got almost identically the same answer. In fact, he went to six men and they all told him the same thing. So he went to Oklahoma, and we suspect that, professionally speaking, he will live happily ever after.

This incident—an actual one—is duplicated a good many times. It is due very largely to the influence of one man—H. B. Fuqua, '19geol—the man who has just been elected president of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists in the annual convention held at Los Angeles. That makes him the No. 1 geologist of the nation this year, and he is a man eminently qualified to hold the position.

He is now chief geologist for the Gulf Corporation in the Fort Worth District.

Mr. Fuqua is a native Oklahoman, having been born at Duncan in 1895. He graduated from Duncan High School in 1914, and entered the University the same year. While in school he was a member of Kappa Alpha fraternity, and was a member of the Student Council.

After leaving school he was employed in the geological department of the Empire Oil & Refining Company, and in similar work for the Atlantic Refining Company. All of this work was done in the Mid-Continent field.

He joined the Gulf Oil Corporation in 1922 as a district geologist at Wichita Falls, Texas. In 1926 he was transferred to Fort Worth as assistant to Ben C. Belt ('10 O. U.), then chief geologist in the district. In 1929 Mr. Fuqua succeeded Mr. Belt as chief geologist and has held the position since then.

Mrs. Fuqua is also a Sooner graduate—the former Serena Taylor, '19. They were married in 1922.

Those are the skeleton facts about the

new No. 1 geologist, but they do not explain the real reason for his success.

He is known in the oil industry as an unusually good executive, the kind of official who has an uncanny ability to size up and handle men, and the knack of getting along well with executives of other oil companies. And that latter feat is no small one in this era of keen competition.

Invitations for him and Mrs. Fuqua to go east and make yacht tours with some of the best known executives in the oil industry are an indication of how popular he is personally as well as professionally.

But you don't hear about such things as yacht tours in talking to him.

"There is less egotism about him than in almost any really successful man I know," one friend said of him. "As a matter of fact, if you didn't know who he was, you could talk to him for an hour and he would never let on that he was an executive instead of roustabout or minor oil firm worker."

It is perhaps typical of him that he feels the hardest job he ever had was in cutting down the payroll when the depression hit. While many executives were concerned mainly about their own jobs or pressing financial troubles, Fuqua felt a

sense of personal responsibility every time he had to let a man go. And the Gulf Company was one of the first to start re-employing men as the upswing in business started.

As was shown in the incident at the first of this article, Fuqua is the type of Sooner graduate who keeps sending students to Norman. University officials say he probably has sent more Texas students to the University of Oklahoma than any other one man.

He has been influential in placing Sooner graduates in jobs in the oil industry, and has consistently made it a point to give Sooners a chance at any openings in his own organization.

He is a personal friend of Dr. V. E. Monnett, director of the University School of Geology, and in fact, a group picture made at the recent convention of petroleum geologists and published in the nationally distributed *Oil Weekly* shows Fuqua and the O. U. geology director sitting side by side.

Oklahoma's leadership in geology is shown strikingly by the long list of University alumni and faculty members who have served as officers of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists since 1920.

The list is as follows:

1920—A. W. McCoy, former faculty member, Vice-President; Dr. Charles E. Decker, present faculty member, Secretary.

1921-22-23-24—Dr. Decker continued as Secretary-Treasurer.

1925—E. DeGolyer, alumnus, served as President; Dr. Decker as Secretary.

1927—A. W. McCoy, former faculty member, was President; F. L. Aurin, alumnus, was Secretary.

1928—Luther H. White, alumnus, Vice-President.

1930—A. R. Dennison, alumnus, Vice-President.

1931—R. D. Reed, former faculty member, Vice-President.

1933—R. D. Reed, Editor.

1934-35—L. C. Snider, former faculty member, Editor.

1936—E. C. Moncrief, alumnus, Secretary.

1937—R. D. Reed, former faculty member, President; Charles H. Rowe, alumnus, Secretary.

1938—H. B. Fuqua, alumnus, President.



H. B. Fuqua