

THE LIFE STORY

OF

GOVERNOR E. W. MARLAND

THE CAREER OF GOVERNOR MARLAND

Rolling prairies dotted by hills, fenceless plains with grazing herds and an abundance of wild life of all descriptions formed the scene thirty years ago when E. W. Marland, now governor, came to Oklahoma to assume an outstanding leadership in the development of a new empire.

The howling of coyotes broke the midnight stillness and council fires of the Indians had not died away on mountainsides. Fertile farms tilled by pioneers produced a variety of foods sufficient for millions. Pasture lands had not then felt the blight of the plow, and roving livestock enhanced the picturesque valleys.

Oklahoma was a new state. Another frontier had been conquered and a prosperous, contended people had established homes, built schools and churches and formed the nucleus of a new commonwealth. Agriculture flourished in a land of plenty. Ranchers tended their herds, and a steadily widening diversity of industry and business heralded prosperity and riches as the forty-sixth star of the union appeared upon the flag.

Liquid gold in the form of petroleum had been discovered and in a dozen areas a feverish race for riches brought thousands into the nation's newest state --- a last frontier of American opportunity.

It was in December of 1908 when Governor Marland appeared upon the scene to begin another chapter in one of the most amazing and romantic careers in the history of the nation, and leaving behind him the memory of success and failures seldom possible to an individual in a lifetime.

He had been a millionaire when 33 years old -- and was broke and without a job when only 34 years old, after the panic of 1907. He had tasted riches and he had known the bitterness of poverty. Cherished dreams had crumbled. Earthly possessions had been swept away, and years of work went into the limbo of memory as he planned to start again when most men would quit.

The preface must tell the story of earlier success and failure. He was the man of destiny for Oklahoma, and in later years has attained to a place in the leaderships of finance, public charities, social reconstruction and public service never before equalled by any individual.

It is essential to state at the beginning of this narrative that the rush of years was to find him the czar of a gigantic \$100,000,000 corporation, the outstanding philanthropist, and finally dedicating his life to the most constructive program of social service ever attempted in any state in which he has served as representative in Congress, and for nearly four years as the governor of Oklahoma.

Marland was young then. He had watched a million dollars worth of property swept away into the hands of money lenders. He had seen the study of law, surveying, geology and engineering apparently wasted after the panic of 1907, but with high hopes, intense confidence, a very few dollars in his pockets he came to Oklahoma to test his knowledge of the infant petroleum industry that had not yet gained a foothold in a land devoted to agriculture and stock raising.

A volume might be written around his earlier career. How he made and lost a million dollars; his birth in Pittsburg, Pa.: early education in public school, and college and his entrance into the business and professional world -- but all that is another story. This pertains to his career in Oklahoma; his achievements and purpose and of the invaluable assistance he has given countless thousands of persons who have been crushed beneath the burdens of a ruthless economic system.

He, too, felt the full weight of so-called economic measures, and within twenty years had earned and lost a personal fortune in oil of \$30,000,000, and had seen the dreams of a lifetime wiped away in the wake of international bankers grasping for control of the world-wide production and distribution of petroleum products he had perfected.

It is a pleasing comment of those who know Governor Marland best that he never is bitter nor vindictive. Marland never blames the other man, and in success or defeat, that has been his policy. Fine indications of this principle are found in his administration as governor of Oklahoma during which time the ideals of service never have been sacrificed. It is his solo aspiration in declining years to extend still further a helping hand to those tossed here and there by a responsible society for the aged, the lame, the halt and the blind.

He has done that as an individual and has literally given millions of dollars from his personal fortune for the welfare of others. As a public official he seeks, probably more than all things else, to convince the nation that responsibility exists that requires keen insight, careful planning and a sound program for the restoration of the millions of people now in the abyss of despair.

In his early years Marland was a student of law. He was graduated when only 19 years old from the University of Michigan and prepared for a career in that profession. He entered the office of a long-time friend of his family for the nominal sum of \$10 a week. It was destiny that he did not long continue the practice of law, but rather turned his mind to the formations of the earth, to rock and soil and to the mineral treasures buried beneath the surface. It was destiny.

A millionaire when 33 - - - broke when 34.

WEALTH IS SWEEP AWAY

Most men would have quit and forgotten the struggles in the coal, oil and gas fields of Pennsylvania, West Virginia and eastern Ohio in which E. W. Marland has astonished veterans of the industry and found oil and gas when they said none was there. During that time he developed a distributing system that was the envy of major companies. He had oil and he had natural gas, and better still, he had a market for the treasurers and several thriving cities made contracts for an adequate supply. The future seemed roseate.

Then came the crash. Banks were closed, business was suspended, shops and stores closed their doors. It was the panic of 1907, and a million dollar fortune was wiped away.

And then Marland came to Oklahoma -- and that's the story.

Within a few years he had sealed the heights. He amassed a tremendous personal fortune, directed more than 10,000 employees and was the dominant executive of the Marland Oil Company of Oklahoma, a corporation investing more than \$100,000,000 in the discovery, production, manufacture and distribution of petroleum products.

Miles of tank cars bearing the insignia of his company moved from Oklahoma into all parts of the country. His tank ships sailed the seven seas. He was dominant in business, in wealth, civic affairs and as an individual in charities and community welfare.

He gave with a free hand, distributing millions of dollars into the hands of those in need. He builded schools, churches, orphanages and was the outstanding friend of art and culture. Wealth was a vehicle that made possible a program for human betterment that extended into many sections of the nation.

Geology still was an unknown term in the petroleum world, when armed with nothing more than a letter of credit that would make possible an initial venture as a "wildcatter" in search of oil, he became a guest at the 101 Ranch of the Miller brothers in Kay county, and began an intensive study of rock and soil formations throughout the tribal lands of the Poncas.

He was the first man to use a definite theory of geology in the discovery of oil, and utilizing with it his knowledge of finance, surveying, engineering and law, he began the organization that was to make him the amazing leader of business and in public service.

It is significant that he found oil. He found gas too, and soon was plumbing the depths of the earth bringing forth treasures to enrich all with whom he came in contact, either with dollars or through a myriad of contributions to art, music, charities, schools or community enterprises. He used wealth to insure a richer, better life for himself and countless thousands not gifted with the genius for making money. Marland's proudest boast was that every dollar he made he took from the ground and made the world richer in doing so.

Before attempting any analysis of the years of public service by Marland, first as a millionaire citizen, later as representative in Congress, at the present as governor of Oklahoma, it is essential that an outline be made of his ideas, ideals and principles which have meant so much to people of Oklahoma.

Few documents compare with his announcement four years ago that he would retire from Congress and would seek the nomination for governor. It is an idealistic picture of Oklahoma which must be described before any further reference to Marland as a citizen or a power in finance.

Upon that memorable occasion in an address broadcast throughout the land, and included in the Congressional Record, Marland chose for his subject, "Our Oklahoma."

He voiced a vivid impression of Oklahoma touching the past and the present, and gave a prediction of the necessities for the future. He told of his impression when he came to Oklahoma and found it a land of plenty. At that time buffalo grazed upon the plains, prairie chickens in clouds rose from its grasses, and in every draw along its stream nested coveys of quail. There were deer and wild turkeys. It was a veritable paradise for the hunter, and fertile soil rewarded abundantly to the pioneers who were building an empire.

The climate was temperate.

Next he painted a picture of Oklahoma as he found it in 1934 when he planned to retire from Congress to accept the opportunity to become governor at a smaller salary but with a broader scope of public service. In Congress he had been vigilant in his support of the Roosevelt administration for economic recovery, he had been able to perpetuate his ideas of conservation of natural resources, had done much to insure the elimination of what he termed "Insane Competition." In which it was his belief petroleum products were being produced and sold at prices that meant ruin.

An outstanding achievement during his term in Congress was the beginning of a nation wide movement to provide pensions, assistance to the distresses and opportunities for the blind and underprivileged children. His championship of these movements have since resulted in a wide-spread plan to insure adequate care for citizens buffeted by circumstances.

Oklahoma as he saw it at that time was a deplorable picture. He called attention to the fact that with a population of less than two and a half million people the state produces food enough for ten million people, and cotton enough to clothe twenty million people.

He told the people that it would be necessary to spend money. He said that he expected to inaugurate a program that would provide food, clothing and shelter for all of those in Oklahoma who have been forced by depression, by droughts, and by circumstances beyond their control into a condition that necessitated assistance from their state and national governments. He declared that children should have the opportunity to acquire an education, and that when he becomes governor he would provide food, clothing, and school books for the underprivileged children of the state.

Marland became governor.

AN IDEAL OF SERVICE

As the governor of Oklahoma E. W. Marland has fulfilled the various pledges he had made. He launched a relief program that has attracted the attention of the entire nation. Thousands have been nourished and sheltered, industries have been opened to the under-privileged; assistance for the aged and for the distressed has been made on veritable fact in Oklahoma as other states of the nation study the plan put into affect as a result of a deep and abiding ideal that the welfare of a whole people is a major problem is the social structure of today.

When Governor Marland was inaugurated he gave a picture of what he thought would be the picture of Oklahoma of tomorrow. As governor he has done much to make that picture true. He made a careful analysis of business and industrial conditions and said that he found less excuse for poverty in Oklahoma than any other state in the Union. His administration as the chief executive indicates beyond dispute the business genius that would be able to bring order out of chaos, and enable citizens to again gain an economic foot-hold.

At the present time Governor Marland seeks the Democratic nomination for the United States Senate. He has declared to the public that his aspiration is based entirely upon the thought that in the National Congress he will be able to carry on the projects which he believes eventually will mean economic independence where thousands now depend upon relief for subsistence.

In any description of Governor Marland as a man, it is necessary to review his early life. It is a strange contrast in his characteristics to remember that he was not a son of the soil. His parents were comparatively wealthy, and he had the advantages of chose associates, was educated in public schools and universities. A natural conclusion would be his lack of sympathy for the plight of others in less fortunate circumstances. He had the same type of early surroundings as F. D. Roosevelt.

It will be remembered he had made and lost a million dollars before he was 34 years old, but throughout his life time there has been an evident ideal of human service that caused him to contribute millions of dollars for the betterment of the various communities into which his operations were extended.

In his early life he lived among the oil workers, eating his meals from dinner buckets, mingling with roustabouts and enduring all of the hardships encountered in the precarious adventures necessary in the petroleum industries.

In latter years as he sat in a magnificent office and surveyed a veritable empire which he dominated, and often saw mile after mile of tank cars carrying Marland Petroleum products into all parts of the world, he still possessed the same ideal of human service. A multi-millionaire, the directing executive on a \$100,000,000 corporation did not change his belief that society owes a definite obligation to provide proper care to all distressed citizens.

As an employer he paid high wages. Marland frequently has paid what he believes efficient service merits, and it is significant that a few among the thousands who have worked for him have failed to prove utterly loyal in the years since he entered public service.

A MAN OF COURAGE

It would seem that when a young man had earned and lost a million dollars he might be discouraged, but when you consider that E. W. Marland amassed another fortune of \$30,000,000 and saw that wiped away and still was not discouraged it proves the caliber of the man.

He seldom discusses the various maneuvers on the part of New York bankers that deprived him of his personal fortune and removed him from control of the Marland Oil Company. It is enough to know that he sat in the House of Morgan, mingled intimately with international bankers and with financiers who virtually controlled American business.

His first million went in the panic of 1907 and his tremendous fortune was swept away in the panic of 1929.

There is no evidence of bitterness. He proved his capacity not to blame the other man.

His entrance into public service came at an opportune time for Oklahoma. He was the first Democrat ever elected in the district he served as representative in Congress. His term extending from 1932 to 1934 was a triumph of constructive legislation. He went to Congress as a firm advocate of the recovery program proposed by President Roosevelt and with an intense desire to provide legislation that would stabilize the petroleum industry, provide assistance to the aged, the blind and to dependent children.

His record is beyond dispute. He was the author of the oil proration measures that literally meant life for the industry, and eliminated much of the disastrous competition that was sapping Oklahoma's natural resources and destroying one of the state's major industries. He also began the movement which has resulted in a definite plan to provide assistance for the aged.

One of his first acts when he became governor was to announce that he expected to spend money, and a lot of money, in a program that would restore the self-respect and independence of those whose possessions had been wiped away during the years of the depression.

How well he did this indicated by the three-point program providing hot school lunches, clothing and books to needy children and administered by the State Board of Public Welfare. He initiated the petition that enacted the Oklahoma laws for assistance to the aged, and has been consistent in his demands that the welfare of the people must be a first consideration.

His administration as governor will stand out in the history of Oklahoma as being the humanitarian regime that meant restoration of independence for thousands of citizens, and is entirely in keeping with the policies he followed for many years as a millionaire citizen.

ASPIRES TO BE SENATOR

A resume of his early life is indicative of much that Governor Marland has been able to accomplish in later life, and it is obvious that the characteristics formed in youth have carried him to the pinnacle of financial, business and statesmanship.

He was born in Pittsburg, Pa., and was christened Earnest Whitworth Marland. It seems fitting that his name was "Earnest", because the name suits his character. He is earnest, has an intense and deliberate force of action that shows no equivocation when formidable problems are encountered.

He says that he remembers little prior to the time he was six years old, and at that time he was entered in a private school. In that school there were no vacations, and no visits home, and for six years he received a strict early training that prepared him for entrance to public high school and later in schools of higher learning. He attended the University of Western Penn., and then entered the School of Law at the University of Michigan.

As has been said he was graduated when 19 years old, and began the practice of law.

The genius for assembling facts soon asserted itself, and soon he had resumed study that gave him the knowledge of surveying, engineering and geology that enabled him to probe the secrets of hidden treasure from the earth.

His discovery of petroleum by the science of geology revolutionized the methods of searching for pools of oil in Oklahoma.

Any appraisal of the difficulties faced by Marland in 1908 when he first appeared in Oklahoma would be impossible without comment on the courage and the initiative shown when he first began his survey of formations of rock and soil around the 101 ranch. He displayed that daring when he utilized the letter of credit that financed his first venture. The next few years found him displaying the same courage as a pioneer in the discovery, production, manufacture and distribution of petroleum products.

It is evident that he has always considered money merely as the means for carrying out a comprehensive program for the greatest good that could be accomplished. He is democratic, genial and without any traits that might break the strain of the intense life he has lived.

Since he became governor, Marland has given the same energy to public service that marked his direction of the tremendous corporation he previously controlled. Each and every plank of the platform he outlined before his election has been made a part of his administration. He is the hardest working man in the Capitol. Never leaving his office until every other employee has left the building.

The election of Governor Marland to the United States Senate will insure a continuation of the great humanitarian movement he has been able to inaugurate as chief executive of Oklahoma, and will mean the assurance of a happier and more abundant life for the thousands who have received assistance during the four years he has been governor.