

DeGolyer Library
Southern Methodist University

Announces a New Publication

Herb Robertson, *The ABCs of De: A Primer on Everette Lee DeGolyer, 1886-1956*
(2007). 195 pages; soft cover; \$15

Known to his friends and associates as “De” or “Mr. De,” Everette Lee DeGolyer was a larger-than-life figure whose career was marked by numerous accomplishments. From his birth in a sod hut on the plains of Kansas in 1886 until his death in Dallas, Texas, in 1956, Mr. DeGolyer achieved pre-eminence as a geologist, geophysicist, and leader of major corporations, including Amerada Petroleum, Geophysical Services Inc., and DeGolyer & McNaughton, a consulting firm. He helped to develop the Mexican oil fields near Tampico, and his discovery of Portrero del Llano #4 in 1910, was (and is) one of the largest single discoveries in the history of oil exploration. He served in the Petroleum Administration for War during World War II and was later a member of the Atomic Energy Commission. As a book collector and philanthropist, he amassed several major libraries and supported numerous educational activities at various universities and schools. In Dallas, with his wife, Nell, he built a beautiful home and garden on the shores of White Rock Lake, which is now the site of the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden.

The *ABCs of De* has 250 entries ranging from Dean Acheson to Jake Zeitlin, and 11 photographs of the Portrero del Llano #4 gusher, DeGolyer, Nell DeGolyer, and friends. The *ABCs of De* should appeal especially to geologists, oilmen, and business historians as well as those interested in the personal side of Mr. DeGolyer’s life, including visitors to his Dallas estate. *The ABCs* covers DeGolyer’s oil-finding exploits in Mexico and elsewhere; his founding of oil-industry and geophysical-prospecting corporations; his marriage to Nell Goodrich, their family, and the building of El Rancho Encinal on the eastern outskirts of Dallas, Texas, in 1940; his business associates; and his scientific and professional achievements. The entries are arranged in alphabetical order and are cross-referenced. While scholarly and historically accurate, the book also includes some warm and often humorous anecdotes.

The *ABCs of De* is an essential reference guide to the life and times of one of the major figures in the modern petroleum industry.

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