



**Edith Whatley McKanna 1991**

1899 – 1986

Edith Whatley McKanna, of Fluvanna, Texas, served as liaison officer for the Civil Air Patrol to the U.S. Army Corps during World War II. Serving as Captain, she took those years to firm up her plans about West Texas oil. Upon her return to West Texas, she organized the Imperial Oil Company for eastern interests. She took an active role in management, securing leases and visiting drilling sites. She maintained her flying skills. "If the deal was hot, you had to get there," said Mrs. McKanna, the first Texas woman to solo her own plane.

She organized the Progressive Oil Company and was standing well ahead of other oil operators in the lease department when the Canyon Reef discovery well came in in late 1948.

McKanna was presented a scroll of distinction by Vice President Alben Barkley as one of The Southwest's Most Distinguished Women in the field of petroleum. She received the first annual McLaughlin Award for outstanding contributions to the oil industry, presented by the Diamond M Foundation, Snyder, Texas. McKanna was a charter member of the Ranch Headquarter Association, named to original Scurry County Historical Commission, and board member of the Scurry County Museum Association. She was also a board member of Western Texas College.