

Many drilling companies leased oil and gas rights on thousands of Harrington acres in the Panhandle and Hugoton fields. At the same time, he actively drilled gas wells at a time when interstate pipelines were being constructed from these fields to various marketing areas. It was about this time they built the Cargray Gasoline Plant on the Carson and Gray County line.

Palmer remembered this plant well. "Don was an engineer and knew exactly what he wanted. He had picked out the least valuable acreage on which to build, and then went out and laid out the plant and supervised the construction. This facility became the single largest supplier of gasoline in the Panhandle area."

Upon the death of Stanley Marsh, Sr. in 1946 and the retirement of Hagy from the original partnership, Harrington, Stanley Marsh, Jr. and Joy Wagner formed Panama Corporation in 1948, consolidating various partnership holdings. Panama Corporation was later dissolved and some of its properties, plus approximately 134,000 acres of reserves in the Panhandle and Hugoton fields, were sold. There were 218 wells and two gasoline plants included in the sale for \$40 million cash, \$3.5 million in notes and a deferred production payment of \$75 million.

That proceeded one of the largest involvements ever undertaken by Stanley Marsh, Jr., Joy Wagner and Harrington. They acquired lease rentals for one dollar an acre on 70,000 acres in Texas County, Oklahoma. During the war years,

lease renewals were a welcome bonus for the drought stricken farmer. By 1950, the three sold out to Dorchester Company and received a record bonanza of \$40 million, retaining the deep production.

Out of that sale, considered by many to be one of the largest ever for this area, came many stories – giving authenticity to the remarkable talents of Harrington. According to



Sybil and Barbara Bush at the Metropolitan Opera's 1990-1991 season opening night.

Leon Hoyt, now deceased, but at that time Harrington's financial advisor, a strange set of events unfolded on the eve to that sale.

Hoyt and Harrington traveled to New York City, for consummation of the Dorchester sale. The meeting was held at a prestigious downtown Club. Hoyt described the room as most impressive, complete with a monstrous table around which the board of directors sat in large leather chairs. In front of each of the twenty attendees was the leather bound agreement prepared by the

Dorchester legal counsel.

"Don was cordial," Hoyt remembered. "He looked intently at the huge document in front of him. His eyes were mentally measuring the height. He said nothing...only eye-balling the mountain of paper in front of him. Finally, raising his ramrod straight frame out of the chair, he stood, placed his hand along side the document and indicated its depth as more than the length of his fingers and shook his head in disbelief."

"For a moment he stood there looking down at what must have been 200 pages in a bulging binder. Saying nothing, he placed his hand on the bulky document and slid it down the full length of the table. When it reached the other end, he said, 'Get this agreement down to a sensible number of pages and I'll sign it.' At that point he indicated we were leaving. The next morning Dorchester notified him they believed the revised agreement would meet his approval. It did."

For a man who shunned the public eye, he kept making explorations and sales that attracted attention. In 1956, Harrington, Marsh and Wagner negotiat-

ed another sale of properties consisting of 65 shallow gas wells and 87,000 acres in the Southwestern Panhandle region to El Paso Natural Gas, for \$3.2 million cash with \$21.7 million in notes.

Don and Sybil's legacy of philanthropy began during his lifetime. And later, with the formation of the Amarillo Area Foundation, the second Community Foundation in Texas, they had a further vehicle for their contributions. It was through the Area Foundation that the community experienced the amazing