

1964

J. Howard Pew

Class of 1900



J. Howard Pew, chairman of Sun Oil Company's board of directors, served as its president for 35 years and led both his company and the oil industry during years that spanned two World Wars and the Great Depression.

Pew was named vice president of the company in 1906 and upon the death of his father, Joseph N. Pew Sr., in 1912, he became president. Pew served as president until 1947. One of Pew's earliest contributions to the success of Sun Oil was the development of a process for producing quality lubricants from asphaltic crude oil. In his 35 years as president, Sun Oil Company grew more than twentyfold. In 1963, he was elected chairman of the board of directors.

Pew was a member of the American Petroleum Institute since it was organized after World War I. He was vice-president in charge of the refining division of the A.P.I. from 1938 to 1946, and a director from 1919 to 1947.

Pew was a Grove City College trustee for 60 years; 40 of those as the board's president. Under his board's guidance, Pew led the College from spanning a few buildings and educating a handful of students, to a multi-million-dollar plant covering 150 acres and serving the interests of nearly 2,000 students.

Pew also was a director of Glenmede Trust Company; a member of the Board of Trustees of Jefferson Medical College and Medical Center in Philadelphia; and president of the United Presbyterian Foundation.

He received the Gold Medal for Distinguished Achievement of the American Petroleum Institute in 1949. A year later, Pew was awarded the Vermilye Medal by The Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, for his achievements in management. In 1958 he was presented the Pennsylvania Society's Gold Medal for distinguished achievement in humanitarian and civic fields.

He passed away Nov. 27, 1971.

Additional Degree: Honorary Doctor of Laws, Grove City College

Additional education: Massachusetts Institute of Technology