

## **From Raider to Trader**

Most of the following information was provided from the internet and a source known as Wikipedia. Information regarding the sale of the Estate's ranch are opinions of Jackie Keenan.

T. Boone Pickens father was a lawyer and worked as an oil and mineral land man. His mother worked in an abstract title office and that was how they met. T. Boone Pickens grew up in the environment of rural American settings and was in a position to see first hand how estates could be hijacked.

Pickens later cited his boyhood job as an early introduction to "expanding quickly by acquisition," a business practice he favored later in life.

He made much of his wealth as a corporate raider, buying companies' shares and threatening to take them over, then turning a profit when the company's investors bought back the shares at a higher price.

Pickens founded the company that became Mesa Petroleum Co. in 1956 and made a fortune attempting hostile takeovers of companies such as Phillips Petroleum Co. and Cities Service Co. in the 1980s.

BP Capital -- like other hedge funds, a loosely regulated pool of assets from wealthy investors -- bets on rising and falling prices of natural gas, heating oil and gasoline, said Pickens. BP Capital has been profitable every year since 1999, when it made \$900,000, he said.

He was active in the Republican Party in Potter County. Pickens organized a campaign in the mid-1980s against the *Amarillo Globe-News* newspaper, for what he claimed was inaccurate reporting about his deals and Mesa. Although the newspaper owner, Morris Communications, replaced its publisher twice during the conflict, Pickens' attempts to have the paper change its editorial policy failed. Shortly thereafter, in 1989, Pickens and Mesa moved to a suburb of Dallas

In 1997 Pickens founded BP Capital Management —initials stand for "Boone Pickens". He holds a 46% interest in the company which runs two hedge funds, Capital Commodity and Capital Equity, both of which invest primarily in traditional energy companies such as oil, natural gas, and nuclear power corporations like Halliburton, Schlumberger, and Shaw Group.

Since 2005, Pickens has been married to Madeleine Pickens, the widow of Allen E. Paulson who founded Gulfstream Aerospace. They live in the Preston Hollow neighborhood of north Dallas and own a ranch along the Canadian River in the Texas Panhandle

In 2006, Pickens earned \$990 million from his equity in the two funds and \$120 million from his share of the 20% fees applied to fund profits. In 2007, Pickens earned \$2.7 billion, as BP Capital Equity Fund grew by 24% after fees, and the then \$590 million Capital Commodity fund grew 40%, thanks to, among others, large positions in the stocks of Suncor Energy, ExxonMobil and Occidental Petroleum.

Pickens began buying up subsurface water rights in Texas. *CBS News* reported in 2006 that Pickens' company, Mesa Water, bought ground water rights for 200,000 acres in Roberts County, Texas for \$75 million, estimating the investment will be worth \$1 billion. "I know what people say—water's a lot like air. Do you charge for air? 'Course not; you shouldn't charge for water,' says Pickens. 'Well, OK, watch what happens. You won't have any water.'

In December 2008, the Texas Legislative Conference honored Pickens as its "Texan of the Year" introduced by Governor Rick Perry. Pickens has been touted as the real GIANT of Texas after Texas Monthly did a story portraying in the same pose as James Dean in the Movie Giant. The house, portrayed in the movie Giant was the prototype for the movie and is now the property of the Ida Baldwin Denison Testamentary Trust, located in Stonewall County, Old Glory, TX. The ranch land that was a part of the inheritance of Bob Denison and his trust which became the focus of a dispute that was defended by attorneys paid for by Title Insurance companies.

In March 2004 Pickens bought 6200 acres of Denison estate land at a forced bank sale, (refer to website for further details) and under questionable circumstances, the land was conveyed to Mr. Pickens by John Denison. Bob Denison filed an appeal prior to the sale to Pickens (which under *normal* circumstances should have stopped the sale). Bob Denison won his appeal in 2005 which was challenged with the overall decision in Denison's favor by March 2006 so Pickens quickly tossed the hot potato to another, who tossed it to another, who tossed it to another all under the umbrella of Alamo Title Insurance, issuing title policies to buyers and lenders. The first buyer, Walker, said he wanted to use a different title company and was told Pickens said "that was non-negotiable".

In May 2010, a Governor Rick Perry appointee, Judge Stephen Ables ruled in favor of Pickens and the other down wind buyers and awarded them attorney fees to be paid by Bob Denison and his trust. The attorney fees were Alamo Title's attorney fees under the guise of property owner's reimbursement for attorney fees. Judge Ables had stated in Court he did not want to hear about the fraud.

In September 2010 Pickens donated \$200,000 to Rick Perry's campaign.

On October 5, 2010 a sheriff's sale was ordered and then cancelled due to filing errors after Bob Denison and his trust were defeated and made to pay Alamo Title's attorney fees.

On November 2, 2010 The Stonewall County Sheriff held a sale of the bulk of the remaining assets of the estate in order to satisfy Justice Stephen Ables judgment. Out of 8000 acres Bob Denison's trust was able to salvage 265 Acres, property that holds the original Stonewall County Courthouse which was the inspiration for the house in the movie Giant.

Since 1980, Pickens has made over \$5 million in political donations. He was a financial supporter of President George W. Bush and contributed heavily to both his Texas and national political campaigns. In 2004, Pickens contributed to Republican 527 groups, including a \$2 million contribution to the Swift Vets and POWs for Truth which ran an advertising campaign asserting that Bush's rival, John Kerry, and \$2.5 million to the Progress for America advocacy group. In 2005, Pickens was among 53 entities that contributed the maximum of \$250,000 to Bush's second inauguration.

In June 2007, Pickens announced the intention to build the world's largest wind farm by installing large wind turbines in parts of four Texas counties.

**On July 8, 2008**, Pickens announced a major energy policy proposal, called the Pickens Plan based in Sweetwater, TX. Judge Weldon Kirk of Sweetwater was the judge in the lawsuit at this precise time when there was some serious activities occurring in Stonewall County Court.

**On July 8, 2009**, The Wall Street Journal reported that T. Boone Pickens postponed plans to build his Texas wind farm. He said the project was stopped partly because existing transmission line capacity wasn't available. His company had planned to build new lines, but couldn't get financing.

Swift Boat Veterans characterized itself as a non-partisan group both in the legal sense and in spirit, yet several prominent individuals who assisted SBVT also have had close ties to the Republican Party. According to information released by the IRS on February 22, 2005, more than half of the group's reported contributions came from just three sources, all prominent **Texas** Republican donors: Houston builder **Bob J. Perry**, a longtime supporter of George W. Bush, donated \$4.45 million, **Harold Simmons'** Contrans donated \$3 million, and **T. Boone Pickens, Jr.** donated \$2 million.

On August 20, 2004 the Kerry campaign filed a complaint with the FEC (Case #5525) alleging that SBVT and 20 additional named respondents had conducted campaign activity that "has been coordinated with the Bush campaign and the Republican Party from the outset." Under federal election law, SBVT, as a nonpartisan 527 group, was barred from coordinating with any political campaign. The complaint, citing the "ties" noted above, claimed a "web of connections to the Bush family, high-profile Texas political figures, and President Bush's chief political aide, **Karl Rove**".

The FEC did, however, find *for* the joint complainants (Case #5511) in that the SBVT failed to register and file disclosure reports as a federal political committee, and accepted contributions in violation of federal limits and source prohibitions. SBVT was assessed a fine of \$299,500.