Charles Newton Gould was a professor of geology at the University of Oklahoma. He was commissioned by Theodore Roosevelt to trace water sources in the Canadian River drainage area in the early 1900’s for use by the United States Geological Survey. While surveying Potter and Hutchinson counties, Gould noted a structure that would later produce vast quantities of oil and gas. This observation remained buried in his reports until 1916.

M. C. Nobles, an Amarillo business man, brought this information to light by a chance question. Gould was employed by Nobles to prepare a geological report on prospective oil land in Oklahoma and asked Gould if he knew of any oil prospects in the Texas Panhandle. Gould reviewed his files and answered yes. Gould was then employed by Nobles and several associates to map the structure and suggest a location for a test well. This well was the forerunner of one of the greatest oil and gas fields ever discovered. It was located east of the John Ray Butte on the Masterson ranch in northern Potter County. It was designated Amarillo Oil Company No. 1 Masterson.

Three years later, oil was discovered by the Gulf Oil Company on the Burnett ranch in Carson County east of the completed gas wells. The first well was completed May 2, 1921 and produced 175 barrels per day. Pushing north, Gulf drilled the first well in Hutchinson County north of the Canadian River on the Dial Ranch. It was completed for 135 barrels. Gould’s discovery thus prompted additional development of the two pools in the area that later became known as the Borger Field.

Gould later served as a regional geologist for the National Park Service.