

T. BOONE PICKENS

THE FIRST BILLION IS THE HARDEST

The man whose corporate takeover attempts and shareholder activism reshaped the oil industry in the 1980s, famed for his clairvoyance about energy prices and for repeatedly turning disaster into triumph, recounts his most awe-inspiring comeback, which saw him net over a billion dollars in his seventh decade and prove that we're all capable of second—and even third—acts. As an added bonus, he unveils what the future of energy is likely to look like, and how America must act to meet the energy challenge.

For years, Boone Pickens led one of the world's largest independent oil companies, along the way earning a *Time* magazine cover and ushering in a wave of shareholder reforms that today affects anyone investing in stocks. He was one of business's most revered figures until at age 68 an untimely bet on the price of natural gas caused his fortunes to spiral downward.

Entering his seventh decade at the helm of a small start-up company and mired in a prolonged divorce, Pickens lost nearly all his investing capital, and he fought deep depression. What followed was a near miracle as the "Oracle of Oil" executed a series of trading maneuvers that turned \$2.4 million into a \$5 billion profit. In *The First Billion Is the Hardest*, Pickens reveals the many lessons he's learned, including how to keep believing in who you are—even when others suspect you no longer "have it."

T. BOONE PICKENS is, at 80, one of the world's highest-paid hedge-fund managers. He lives with his wife, Madeleine, in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.



ISBN/EAN: 978-0-307-39577-1
\$26.95 hardcover (Canada: \$32.00)
On Sale 9/2/08