Mac Boring, Jr. trained for the oil business at a very young age. His father, Mac Boring, Sr., was a landman with Gulf Oil Company, and Mac, Jr. would often accompany him on his many trips into the field. To no one’s surprise, he studied petroleum engineering at the University of Oklahoma and worked every summer in the West Texas oilfields, learning the business from the ground up. In 1938, after graduation, Boring was hired as a production superintendent for a drilling company in Tulsa. He then served in the Navy during World War II. In 1945, he founded the Dixilyn Drilling Company with his father as a partner. Within ten years the company had expanded operations from Texas to Louisiana, Mississippi and New Mexico. In 1956, Dixilyn made its first move into off-shore exploration, placing drilling rigs on permanent self-contained platforms. The next year they began construction of a mobile platform with innovative jack-up legs. With their off-shore expertise established, Dixilyn expanded operations into the North Sea and the waters off Nigeria. Dixilyn became the first publicly held firm headquartered in Odessa to be listed on the American Stock Exchange.