



Richard S. Brooks
1910 – 1989
Inducted 2001

The career of Richard S. Brooks shows there is much more to the oil and gas business than geology and engineering. A 1937 graduate of the University of Texas Law School, Brooks served as an assistant attorney general and practiced law with his older brother before moving to Midland in 1941 to join a local law firm. His first important assignment was as legal counsel for Humble Oil Company. But Brooks also began assisting one of the firm's partners with a personal client, the Fasken family. The Faskens owned a vast amount of land in the Permian Basin but lived in California. Over the years, Brooks went from being general counsel for the family to general manager. When oil was discovered on the Fasken property, he recognized the land's potential and developed a plan that reduced both risk and taxes while maximizing revenues. His innovative management turned a land-rich but cash-poor entity into one of the biggest independent oil, gas, ranching and real estate operations in the Permian Basin.