



Erle P. Halliburton
1892 - 1957
Inducted 1983

Born on a farm in Tennessee, Erle Halliburton's father died when he was twelve years old, leaving his mother and five siblings with no money. So, at age 14, Erle went to work at various jobs. In 1910, he joined the Navy and served for five years, taking courses in engineering and hydraulics along the way. After leaving the Navy, Halliburton took a job in California with Perkins Oil Well Cementing Company. But his ideas for how to improve the company and the process were not welcome and he was fired. It was time to start his own business. He headed east to the oil fields around Burkburnett, Texas to cement wells using methods he'd learned at Perkins, along with his own ideas and techniques. He invented a jet mixer to keep cement from hardening before it was pumped into wells and, later, would manufacture them. He cemented more than 500 wells in the first 18 months and by the end of 1920 he owned three cementing wagons. Halliburton patented his cementing process and, in 1924, formed Halliburton Oil Well Cementing Company. By then he had crews working in Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico. By 1930, he had nine cementing units working in the Permian Basin. At the time of his death in 1957, Erle P. Halliburton's company had grown to become one of the largest oil field service organizations in the world.