



Houston Harte
1893 - 1972
Inducted 1970

Born in 1893, Houston Harte graduated from the University of Missouri School of Journalism in 1915 and began his career as a newspaperman, acquiring a paper in San Angelo, Texas. His first issue of the San Angelo-Standard-Times debuted in May of 1920 and the paper began regular oil reports shortly after the Santa Rita No. 1 struck oil in 1923. Harte assigned an oil reporter, the first in West Texas, and began to chronicle the story of oil in the Permian Basin. Harte's paper was the first to report on the Santa Rita No. 1 and on the Yates Field discovery. The paper also covered vacancy suits, tax policy regarding University of Texas lands and other industry-related topics. Known for its objectivity, the paper reported on both positive and negative drilling results. The advent of oil transformed the Permian Basin from frontier-like to industrialized and Houston Harte's newspaper documented that dramatic change. Ultimately, Harte built a publishing empire: Harte-Hanks Newspapers, Inc. had papers in thirteen Texas towns.

