



**William D. "Bill" Kleine**  
**1928 - 2010**  
**Inducted 2011**

Born in Missouri, Bill Kleine attended Missouri Valley College, graduating cum laude in 1949 with a degree in Business Administration. He then joined Phillips Petroleum Company, settling in Midland and working in the crude oil support division. In 1956, Kleine joined Western Oil Transportation Company, which later became The Permian Corporation, a crude oil marketing firm. Kleine developed a connection between purchasing oil in the field and building contacts within the oil refineries, alleviating the market concerns of Permian Basin independent oil companies. Under Kleine's leadership as vice-president of marketing, the small local company with 22 trucks grew into a global competitor. In the early 1960s, the Permian Corporation became the first Midland-based company to be listed on the New York Stock Exchange. When Kleine retired as president and CEO in 1989, The Permian Corporation was operating over 600 trucks and 6,000 miles of pipeline, employing 2,000 people, and doing business in 15 states.

