



Joseph C. Maxwell
1884 - 1970
Inducted 1975

Joseph Maxwell was born in Kentucky and gained his first oil experience through the Prairie Oil and Gas Company in Kansas. He began as a landman and, in time, began acquiring leases on his own account. He was among the earliest of the West Texas operators, taking leases in Howard County in 1921 after the Westbrook Field was found. Joseph was in South Texas when word of the Santa Rita discovery reached him, triggering his life-long interest in West Texas' oil potential. In 1926, Joseph was a key figure in the discovery of the great Church-Fields-University portion of what is now called McElroy Field. His success led him into Crane, Ward, and Winkler counties in Texas and Lea County in New Mexico. In 1951, he was involved with the discovery of the five-pay West Dollarhide Field. Ultimately, Joseph Maxwell became one of the outstanding independent producers of the Southwest, and was one of the founders of the Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association.

