

Robert L. Parker
1923 - 2016
Inducted 2007

Bob Parker was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1923. In 1944, he graduated from the University of Texas with a degree in petroleum engineering. After serving as an Army quartermaster officer in Germany during World War II, he bought the Parker Drilling Company from his father in 1954 and began his career in the oil and natural gas industry. By the mid-1960s he had successfully created a niche for his company in the deep drilling market, setting a world depth record with a 28,500 foot well in Pecos County. Parker's inventive company also developed innovative helicopter-transportable rigs and patented the Heli-Hoist. The firm also patented the TBA and AT-2000E series of rigs. Parker Drilling pioneered arctic drilling and later developed environmentally-sensitive rigs. In 1991, Parker Drilling was also the first western company to be extended a contract to work in the Soviet Union.

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