



Charles L. Rowan
1892-1961
Inducted 1979

Charles Rowan and his brother, Arch, were products of East Texas, raised in the city of Alvin. Together, the enterprising duo roughnecked for Humble Oil and developed a love for the oil business in Mexia. In 1923, when the Powell field created a boom near Corsicana, they formed Rowan Drilling Company. Ultimately, their company would become one of the largest drilling firms in the industry. The brothers and their company were pioneers in both technology and outlook. Rowan Drilling was one of the earliest companies in the Permian Basin, especially in the Wink and Big Lake areas. In 1948, to accompany their rapidly expanding drilling enterprise, the brothers formed a sister company: Rowan Oil Company. The new company expanded across the Permian Basin and into other parts of the southwest, its assets later becoming a major part of the Texas Pacific Coal and Oil Company. Today, Rowan Drilling is part of Rowan Companies, Inc., and operates worldwide with a fleet of offshore drilling jack-up rigs and deep water drillships.