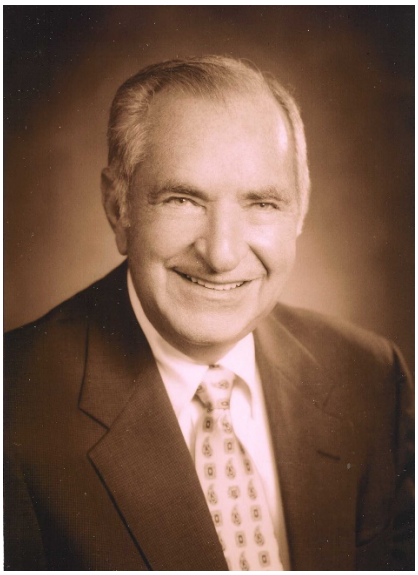


Thomas C. Brown
1927 – 2006
Inducted 2003

It was late in 1953, while working out of his Goodyear Tire and Rubber distributorship in Wichita Falls, Texas when Tom Brown's career would take a major turn. He was selling rubber products to Halliburton and also sold Smith drill bits on commission. One day he called on one particular drilling rig to sell more bits, met with the morning tour driller, Joe Roper, and an impressive drilling duo was born. Within a few years, Brown had found the funding for the purchase of a single trailer-mounted rig. Soon he was on his own as Tom Brown Drilling Company, with Roper supervising operations. By 1959, their rig count had grown to four. Ten years later, it was one of the first companies in the Permian Basin to be publicly traded. The company grew and expanded through the '70s and '80s, adding oil and gas exploration and production along with extending the reach of their services a far as the Rocky Mountains if Utah and Wyoming.

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