

Samuel A. Sloan
1890-1929
Inducted 1972

Sam Sloan was raised in Altus, Oklahoma. After flying in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War I, he went into the oil business in Colorado City, Texas. His first well on the Landers Ranch was dry but reached a depth of 4,008 feet, which was quite deep for those days. In the early 1920s, Sam was involved in a series of significant wells, either partnering with others or going it alone, and making him one of the earliest and most active oil operators in the Permian Basin. His accomplishments included the discovery well in the Chalk Field in 1926 and a major well in the great Dora Roberts Field in 1926-27. He drilled one of the first wells in Loving County and a substantial number in Mitchell, Reeves, and Taylor counties. A significant amount of the money he made in these ventures went to help lay the groundwork for growth of the aviation industry in the southwest, including the establishment of the first airports in Midland and Fort Worth.

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