



Tom C. Brown
1927 – 2006
Inducted 2003

Thomas Clark Brown was born in Bowling Green, Ohio on January 11, 1927. He graduated from high school in Akron Ohio and joined the Navy in June of 1944. The war ended in August of 1945 and he was discharged in February of 1946 while still a cadet. He attended Tulane University in 1947, leaving to work for Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company in Akron Ohio. He was transferred to Wichita Falls, Texas in 1949.

It was in Wichita Falls that Tom met his life-long friend, Joe Roper. Brown owned the Goodyear distributorship and sold Rubber goods to Halliburton. He also sold Smith bits on commission. He called on a Jack Grace Drilling Company rig in late 1953 trying to sell bits. The morning tour driller was Joe Roper.

In 1955, Bill Walker and Jack Near, owners of Walker-Near Manufacturing, backed Tom Brown and Doyle Scarber on the purchase of a trailer mounted drilling rig with a National T-12 drawworks, forming Brown and Scarber Drilling. Joe Roper was hired as the daylight driller. A year later, Brown bought out Scarber and Roper began supervision of operations. The company's name was changed to Tom Brown Drilling Company. By 1959, the company's rig fleet had grown to four.

The company continues to grow and in 1969, it became one of the first companies in the Permian Basin to be publicly traded. In 1971, the company's name became Tom Brown, Inc as it expanded to include oil and gas exploration and production. By the mid 1970's, Tom Brown had expanded into the Rocky Mountains, drilling the discovery well for the Muddy Ridge Field in Wyoming, extensive drilling the Modak Field. Tom Brown Inc was involved in the East Anchultz Field and their rig fleet had grown to twenty-five.

The 1980's were boom and bust years. Tom Brown, Inc. was restructured and the drilling operations were spun off to TMBR Drilling Company. Don Evans, later to become Secretary of Commerce with the George W. Bush administration, assumed management of both Tom Brown, Inc. and TMBR Drilling as president.

Tom Brown served as CEO of Tom Brown Inc. and Joe Roper served as CEO of TMBR Drilling.