



L. Decker Dawson 1997

Decker Dawson, founder and president of Dawson Geophysical Company, is a second generation petroleum pioneer. Decker was born in 1920 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He attended the University of Tulsa's Engineering School from 1937 – 1939 and graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1941 with a B.S. in Civil Engineering. Decker began his first geophysical work after graduation laying electrical devices that record sound waves induced by explosive charges. He worked his way up to crew chief for Magnolia Petroleum Company, now Mobil.

After serving in the U.S. Naval Reserve during WWII, Decker resumed his geophysical career. Instead of returning to Magnolia, he went to work for a small, new company, Republic Exploration, as Party Chief and Supervisor. He was in charge of the field crew, drilling holes and shooting dynamite into the hole. Decker left Republic Exploration to start Dawson Geophysical Company.

Dawson Geophysical Company was launched in 1952 and incorporated in 1957. The Midland office opened in 1960 and a second office opened in Denver, Colorado in 1980. The company operates on the edge of technology, gathering, processing and interpreting 3-D seismic data throughout West Texas and Eastern New Mexico. From a one crew operation, Dawson Geophysical has grown to a company employing over 300 people. Dawson's company is an excellent example of using the latest technological developments to their fullest potential.

Decker has been recognized as a leader in the geophysical field in numerous ways. He has served as President and Secretary-Treasurer of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists. He is a past president and honorary life member of the Permian Basin Geophysical Society. Also recognized internationally, Dawson is a past Chairman of the board and an honorary life member of the International Association of Geophysical Contractors and a member of the European Association of Exploration Geophysicists.

As the industry advances to the next era of technology, Dawson Geophysical continues to emerge as a leader. From the dynamite of the 40's to the 1990's state-of-the-art 3-D technology, the company works to develop and employ new and better methods of reserves. Today, with over 300 employees, Dawson continues to lead his company as it contributes to the advancement of the industry. His strong commitment to the company and its people may truly be the secret to the success of this company over the past 45 years.