

Charles L. Rowan 1979

The Rowan brothers – Arch and Charles – were products of East Texas. They were raised to young manhood at Alvin, Texas, roughnecked for Humble Oil, and learned the sweet scent of oil at Mexia. In 1923, when the Powell field boomed near Corsicana, the brothers formed Rowan Drilling Company.

Rowan Drilling became one of the largest drilling firms in the oil business, pioneering in technology and outlook. In the Permian Basin it was one of the early ones, especially in the Wink and Big Lake areas. Accompanying this rapidly expanding drilling enterprise was Rowan Oil Company, a sister company formed in 1948 that moved with speed and imagination into the Basin and many other parts of the southwest. Its assets later became a major part of the Texas Pacific Coal and Oil Company.

Rowan Drilling has been transformed into Rowan Enterprises, Inc., of Houston, where it is now one of the major international drilling companies.

Not only were Arch and Charles Rowan free enterprisers of a classic kind, they were beloved leaders in their adopted city of Fort Worth, givers of time and money to good causes, stimulating to know, and setting examples for their colleagues in and out of their business. We recognize them as much for the kind of people they were as for their business achievements.

Charles L. Rowan died in 1961 at the age of 70. Arch H. Rowan died in 1975 when 80 years old. Their accomplishments in the drilling and wildcatting areas were remarkable. Just as much so were their respective characters and basic goodness to others.