



Robert W. Russell 1969

Robert Warwick Russell, who is with us here tonight, represents the great supplier branch of the oil industry as well as the American tradition of craftsmanship.

He was born August 7, 1885, at Parker's Landing, Pennsylvania, the son of a Scotsman who opened his own machine shop in Parker's Landing in 1879. At the age of 13 Bob left school to learn his father's trade. At a later time in Burgettstown, Pennsylvania, the Russells helped build the first gas engine to power a drilling rig successfully. Soon they were manufacturing them. Still another shop was opened in 1905 in West Virginia.

In 1935 Bob Russell opened a machine shop in Monahans, Texas. He and his people labored over steam equipment, and pounded away during the night hours welding stems for drilling contractors. Twenty-four hours a day they worked to keep the often worn but always badly needed drilling equipment in operation.

In 1966, after more than 80 years of service to the oil and gas industry by three generations of the family, the Russells sold their Monahans shop and Bob retired. He represents at its best the tradition of hard work and of dedicated devotion to his craft and his colleagues that have made the supplier portion of the industry so valuable a part of it.