



### **Cyril “Cy” Wagner 1999**

On April Fool’s Day, 1962, two men pooled their financial resources, which came to not much more than \$0, and formed a partnership that has lasted 37 years and evolved into one of the most successful independent oil and gas companies in the country. Through their talent and sheer determination, Cy Wagner and Jack Brown have transformed a one-rig company into the multi-faceted corporation known as Wagner & Brown, Ltd.

Jack E. Brown was born August 16, 1925, in Brownsville, and graduated from high school in San Antonio. As a young boy, he started his career selling magazine subscriptions, then advanced to working as a newspaper carrier for The San Antonio Express-News. He served with the U.S. Army during World War II, and after graduating from Texas A&M University with degrees in petroleum and mechanical engineering, he started a job with Drilling & Exploration Co. His resume includes positions with Bridwell Oil Co., in Alice and with Texaco in Venezuela. When he returned to the States, Brown came to Midland and signed on with J. E. Jones Drilling Co., where he was to meet Cy Wagner.

Cyril Wagner, Jr., was born February 15, 1934 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and grew up there. He graduated with a degree in geology from the University of Oklahoma and went to Midland for his first job with Amerado Petroleum, where he worked as scout and geologist and developed his talents as an oil finder. Later, he joined J E Jones Drilling and met Jack Brown.

With Wagner as the geologist on wells, and Brown as the engineer, the duo found they worked well together. Wagner eventually suggested the two become independents along with Deane Stoltz as landman. They started with a “popcorn drilling rig” built by Brown and the company deepened wells in the Clearfork, going down to the Spraberry Trent. Then Wagner saw a chance in the New Mexico Bagley Field to re-enter wells and put them in production. Led by Brown’s problem-solving engineering, the company developed the Burro Pipeline and completed 60 wells. Eventually, Stoltz left to run another company, leaving Wagner & Brown to pursue other endeavors. They successfully developed the highlight Field and Muddy Play in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming, and the largest drilling program ever of the Conger (Penn.) Field in Sterling and Glasscock Counties. Wagner & Brown, Ltd. is the operator of more than 600 wells in the area that have produced more than 11 million barrels of oil and 265 billion cubic feet of gas. Wagner and Brown have been recognized by their peers for their accomplishments, and received the Top Han Award from the Permian Basin petroleum Association. The duo has made significant contributions to their respective universities

and to the numerous philanthropic and educational endeavors in the Permian Basin. Texas A&M University is the home of the Jack E. Brown Chair in Engineering. Wagner has received the University of Oklahoma's Distinguished Service Award, and OU established the Lissa and Cy Wagner Professorship in Geology and Geophysics. It has been said that these two men "epitomize the entrepreneurial spirit, dedication, and perseverance that are hallmarks of truly great industry leaders."