



Mac O. Boring, Jr.
1915-1999
Inducted 1995

Mac Boring, Jr was born in 1915 in Shreveport, Louisiana. The Boring family was transferred to Fort Worth and Mac, jr. attended school there. As a youth, Boring frequently travelled with his father, a landman with Gulf Drilling Company. He gained knowledge of the industry by witnessing early oil field events and spending hours with his father and other pioneer Gulf oil men – O.C. “Kip” Harper, H.B. “Babe” Fuqua and Robert Patterson. After graduating from high school in 1933, Boring enrolled at the University of Oklahoma. He worked every summer during college in the West Texas oilfields, learning the business from the ground up. Boring graduated with his B.S. in Petroleum Engineering in 1937.

Boring’s leadership and drive to succeed were quickly recognized and a year out of college, he was hired as a production superintendent for MBK Drilling Company in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was transferred to Odessa and under Boring’s tenure, the company developed most of the Foster Pool west of Odessa. He established his home in Odessa in 1938 and married Angel Van Horn in 1940. Boring joined the U.S. Navy from 1942-1944, serving in the Pacific theatre during WW II.

In November 1945, Boring founded the Dixilyn Drilling Company with his father as a partner and began business with one National 75 rig. Within ten years, the company had expanded operations from Texas to Louisiana, Mississippi and New Mexico. In 1956, Dixilyn made its first move into off-shore exploration, placing drilling rigs on permanent self-contained platforms.

In 1957, Dixilyn made a bold move and began construction of an innovative jack-up design, mobile offshore rig. At a cost of \$45 million, the *Julie Ann* was a floating, self-contained platform with jack-up legs. Very successful and constantly in demand, the *Julie Ann* quickly established Dixilyn’s offshore expertise. In 1965, the company launched a second mobile, jack-up rig that could work in 250 feet of water. When jacked to its full height, a 24-story building could fit beneath the platform. The company continued to expand its off-shore activities, building pentagon-type, semi-submersible drilling platforms and moving into waters off the Nigerian coast and in the North Sea. Dixilyn became the first publically held firm headquartered in Odessa to be listed on the American Stock Exchange.

Under Mac Boring, Dixilyn's success reached far beyond the Permian Basin, but its headquarters and payroll remained in West Texas. His leadership and oilfield expertise created an ocean-going enterprise with roots in the desert.