John E. Mabee spent much of his younger years farming and ranching in Missouri, Idaho and Oklahoma. Mabee and his bride, Lottie E. Boren, were instrumental in the founding of Randlett, Oklahoma. In 1919 Mabee took a 20-acre lease near Burkburnett. His first two oil wells were gushers.

In 1920 he became a drilling contractor in Walters, Oklahoma, and grew to be one of the largest independent oil well drilling contractors in the Southwest.


Guy R. Mabee left the farm at Lockwood, Missouri during the Great Depression. Being mechanically inclined, he began working for his Uncle John. Guy purchased John Mabee’s company; it still operates as a production company with its main office Tulsa and a subsidiary in Midland.

Joseph Guy Mabee is the third generation Mabee oil man. He spent 15 years as a toolpusher – during the Snyder oil boom and the Spraberry boom.

Today Joe and his father, Guy, independently operate oil production companies in Midland.

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