



L. Decker Dawson
1920 - 2018
Inducted 1997

A second-generation petroleum pioneer, Decker Dawson was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He attended the University of Tulsa's engineering school, then graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1941 with a B.S. in civil engineering. After college, he took a job with Magnolia Petroleum Company, laying electrical devices that recorded sound waves induced by explosive charges. He worked his way up to crew chief. After military service during World War II, Decker resumed his geophysical career. But instead of returning to Magnolia, he went to work for a small, new company, Republic Exploration. There he was party chief and supervisor, in charge of managing the field crew, drilling holes, and shooting dynamite into the holes. In 1952, Decker left Republic to start his own firm, Dawson Geophysical Company. The company has always operated on the edge of technology, today gathering, processing, and interpreting 3-D seismic data throughout West and South Texas and to New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas, the Rocky Mountains and Alberta. In 2015, Dawson completed a merger with TGC Industries, emerging as a leading provider in North America of onshore seismic data acquisition services. Starting out as a one-crew operation, Dawson Geophysical has grown into one of the largest seismic companies in the U.S.