



John R. "Johnny" Gray
1930 - 2001
Inducted 2011

In the 1950s, Johnny Gray worked as a drilling superintendent for C. H. Mahres Drilling. His work ethic as a driller helped cement his good reputation throughout the region. Soon after moving to Eddy County, New Mexico, Gray was hired by National Drilling Company as a company pumper. He then established Gray Pumping Service, which grew from a one-man operation to 30 employees pumping wells in three counties. In 1974, he partnered with Mack Chase to form Marbob, named after their wives, which offered pumping services and well servicing in Eddy County. Initially, Marbob purchased wells or leases with marginal production, reworked the wells, and produced them. As the company grew, they began their own drilling and development program. As the first to discover the productive capacity of the Yeso Trend in Southeast New Mexico, Chase and Gray were the pioneers of the field that would become the largest oil producer in New Mexico. By 1991, Marbob properties were producing about 3,000 barrels per day.