



Herbert C. "Bert" Irvin
1896 - 1977
Inducted 1972

Bert Irvin was born in Titusville, Pennsylvania, often called the "First Capital of Oil." His father had gone to work in the oil fields at an early age and followed oil discoveries to Ohio and Oklahoma. By 1910, Bert and a partner started their own company to drill for oil in Oklahoma. Later, as the oil tide started to move west of Fort Worth, Bert was drilling in the Breckenridge Field in Texas and, in 1920, he contracted to drill five miles west of Colorado City. By then his own sons, Bert and Bill, were part of the drilling operations. Bert and his sons worked on many of the exploratory wells drilled by Steve Owen and Sam Sloan, including the big well that opened up the Dora Roberts Ranch near Big Spring. Bert was involved in the Owen-Sloan well that found the Chalk Field in Howard County and on many others in Scurry County and other West Texas counties. In 1927, at the age of 31, Bert left the drilling business, returned to Oklahoma, and went to work for a savings and loan association.