

## **A.L. Abercrombie**

### **1914 - 2010**



Albert Leroy Abercrombie (A.L.) was born in Garden City, Kansas and moved to the Oklahoma Oil Fields when he was twelve years old. His first job was keeping house at a bunkhouse where he received 25 cents per day for this. During the depression, Albert worked dishwashing, mechanic, construction and harvesting jobs to make a living. He began his oilfield career as a “teaming contractor” where he used horses to haul equipment for Shell Oil Company and Big Chief Drilling Company.

In 1945, he moved to Russell, Kansas where he joined a childhood friend, Pierce Musgrove, to work as a sub-foreman for SOHIO Oil. By 1948, Abercrombie joined Musgrove Petroleum as part owner in Burch Drilling and associated with Duke & Wood Drilling. Between 1948 and 1953, he worked on and completed more wells than anyone in Kansas. He started his own oil production company, A.L. Abercrombie, Inc. in 1962 which later became Abercrombie Drilling & RTD, owning and operating ten rigs and 400 plus wells.

Through the years, Albert designed many things now used in the oil fields, but never applied for patents. He was inducted into the Oil & Gas Museum in Great Bend, was a member of the Kansas Oilmen's Hall of Fame, KIOGA, Oddfellows Lodge, the Fairmont Society, the Wichita Crime Commission, and College Hill Methodist Church. Being a child of the Great Depression, he also believed in cultivating the land and received great pleasure from farm interests in northwest Kansas.

He married Mildred Patridge of Great Bend in 1958, joining their two families and later moving to Wichita. There, they contributed anonymously to many causes and organizations in Wichita and Sedgwick Co. Two scholarships were established at Wichita State University by them; one for hard-working persons of good character, the other for children of their employees.