

Dee Drilling Company was founded by brothers J. Roy Dee and John G. Dee in 1939 in Mattoon, Illinois. At that time it was known as Illinois Mid-Continent Company. Over the next few years, in an effort to stay at the center of drilling activity, the organization moved first to Fairfield and then on to Mt. Carmel into its first office, what was then the Wabash Hotel, in 1942. In 1948, an oil yard was set up at 530 West Third Street, which remains in use today. At this time, the brothers Dee were engaged in the discovery and production of crude petroleum, mostly in the Illinois Basin.

In 1949, Dee-Watson Drilling Company was organized to drill wells for Illinois Mid-Continent Company. They drilled many sites, a memorable one being the Burkett well in Gibson County, Indiana. They hit a gas pocket and a fire started. The rig was completely destroyed, but fortunately, there were no serious injuries. Red Adair was called to extinguish the fire, but it was extinguished shortly before he arrived. They later replaced the rig and continued drilling operations until J. T. Watson was bought out in 1957 and the organization became known as Dee Drilling Company.

In 1951, Illinois Mid-Continent Company moved into the upper floor of the new Brubeck Building on West Ninth Street in Mt. Carmel. They shared the upper floor with Mr. Brubeck, while the downstairs was shared by Schlumberger and the Pappas Brothers. In 1964, Dee Drilling Company moved to its current location at 431 Market Street, site of the former American National Bank built in 1919.

"J. Roy" Dee, one of the original founders of Dee Drilling Company, was very active in politics and community affairs. He served two terms as Mayor of Mt. Carmel and was instrumental in preserving Beall Woods as a state forest. He founded the Wabash Valley Association, which at one time had more than 8,000 members. The Association raised the

political support necessary to construct the reservoirs and levees, which control flooding along the Wabash River. An annual college scholarship is funded by the Association in "J. Roy" Dee's honor and awarded to a prospective water management student. J. Roy Dee also brought Fibber McGee and Molly, notable radio personalities and company investors, to Fairfield for a tri-state oilfield celebration at the Harry Short Lease. In 1965, he was able to obtain six steer, courtesy of President Lyndon B. Johnson's ranch, for Mt. Carmel's Sesquicentennial celebration and barbecue. J. Roy Dee died of cancer in St. Petersburg, Florida, April 10, 1966.

Upon J. Roy's death, J. "Roy" Dee, Jr. became President of Dee Drilling Company. Roy was the only child of Page and J. Roy Dee. He began working on a rotary rig at the tender age of 11 or 12. He attended college at the University of Alabama, and married his wife, Mary Ann Fanning, there. After several years in the Florida banking industry, Roy returned to Mt. Carmel with his growing family. The oil boom was on and Roy took a rotary rig to Ohio to operate. Despite using an older rig, he out drilled more modern rigs by using advanced techniques in hydraulics. He was later written up for this accomplishment in "Hughes Rigway", a quarterly national magazine. As the boom ended, Roy sold the rig in New York and returned to Illinois to look for oil, drill wells, and operate the company's production, besides raising 12 children and serving on St. Mary's School Board. Currently, Roy spends most of his time in Alabama working at Dee River Ranch.

In 1978, Roy's oldest son, "J." Roy Dee III graduated with a degree in Finance from the University of Florida, married his wife, Debbie, and returned to Mt. Carmel to work for Dee Drilling Company. In his early years at Dee Drilling, J. worked as tank truck driver, roustabout, pumper, and was the first operator of a double drum when Dee Drilling became active in service

work in 1983. It was this same year that a second yard on West Seventh Street was added and J. became President of the company.

In 1992, Deecane, Inc., an oilfield rental and fishing tool company, was started to serve the needs of the industry in the Illinois Basin. Currently, Deecane is one of only a few tool rental companies in the Basin.

Currently J. is serving as President of the Independent Oil Producers Association, Tri-State. He served as President of the Illinois Oil and Gas Association from March, 1997, to March, 1999, and now serves on the Executive Board. In 1998, J. became a member of the newly formed Illinois Petroleum Resource Board, which is an oil marketing and restoration group appointed by our Governor. J. continues the tradition of community involvement by serving as Past President of the Mt. Carmel Chamber of Commerce, three terms on the Area Industrial Development Committee and Past President, two terms as Parish Council President at St. Mary's Church, member of the Diocesan Finance Council, and also as a director at Old National Bank.

Currently Dee Drilling Company operates several oil properties in Illinois and Indiana and produces approximately 240,000 barrels of oil per year. Depending on the time of year, 35-45 people are usually employed.

Our goal is to increase our reserves at least 10 percent per year for the next five years by acquiring additional properties, using good management techniques and carrying out conservative drilling projects. Having been in business for nearly 70 years, we have the infrastructure in place, the equipment, and quality people to achieve this goal.

We are proud of Dee Drilling's heritage and hope to continue serving the oil industry in the coming years with the same hard work and foresight displayed by our founders.