

James Donelson 1928 -



Mr. Donelson was born in Arkansas City, Kansas and grew up in Oklahoma. He moved to Kansas to begin his lifelong career in the oilfield where he started out as a roughneck in 1949. In 1954, he and George Miller formed a drill stem testing partnership, Miller-Donelson Testing. Donelson then formed Cowboy and Indian Core Drilling Company with partner James A. Morris in 1960. This company was credited with the discovery of the Couley and Hopkins Switch pools in Butler County, Kansas. Pursuing drilling, Donelson partnered with M. F. "Ted" Bear and Fred Nixon to form DNB Drilling Company. Cheyenne Drilling became a subsidiary of DNB Drilling in 1980. Donelson has a passion for good equipment, hard-working men and fast horses and has been blessed with all three.