## Terry L Phillips 1957 -



Terry L Phillips began his career in the oilfield as a teenager, working for his dad, Harold Phillips. Harold had pulling units and Terry began by tailing rods on Saturdays and during the summer.

He alternated between the oilfield and concrete & construction through the late 70s. In December 1981 he was working for his dad when he and his brother-in-law, John Wescott, bought the business from Harold and became partners. They had two pulling units, a Cooper single drum and a Cardwell double drum. Things went well until New Years Eve 1984 when an electrical fire burnt the shop and all its contents, including the Cooper single drum and 2 pickups. Working out of a rented shop and with one pulling unit, they rebuilt and replaced lost equipment. Their partnership lasted until December 1996. Terry has been the sole owner since that time.

During the 41 years of working the business, Terry saw many ups and downs in the oil patch. Most of the time, work was steady. But when the oil price dropped to \$8 a barrel, he had to lay off a crew. That was hard to do – he did not want anyone to lose their job. When the oil price rose over \$100 per barrel, business was booming. It was hard to keep up. Wells that had been shut down for years were on the list to be worked on. Everyone wanted their well to quickly become a producing well!

Terry knew everyone in the oilfield, and he generally got along well with all of them. He would pay attention to how the other oilfield trucks worked, such as tank trucks and acid trucks, and often gave them a helping hand. He was respected in the field and was often asked for his opinion on what could be done, or how it should be done. He was always willing to lend tools to other pulling units. Occasionally he has even lent an employee to help. Terry earned the respect of the producers and pumpers. He was always willing to be fair with them, taking responsibility for any mistakes that may have been made. He has worked with many other Hall of Famers through the years.

Terry's son, Tyrel, took over the business when Terry retired at the end of last year. Tyrel has worked with his dad full time since 2007, but of course he has put in many hours as a teen, just like Terry did with his own dad.

Three generations of Phillips men working the business!