



A LEGACY

The roots of Top Drilling Corporation began with Ira M. Haught at the end of the 19th century and through the turn of the 20th century when he and his brother Harvey began drilling shallow oil wells in Tyler County. These pioneers drilled an oil well using what is believed to be the first mobile drilling rig in the state of West Virginia. This mobile rig was mounted on a horse drawn carriage and powered by an upright steam boiler using wood and later coal as its power source. This drilling technology was used to drill very shallow oil wells along with standard rigs to drill other shallow formations for many decades. Standard rigs were drilling rigs that were originally built using the local resource of rough lumber by erecting a tall derrick over the well bore in order to achieve deeper depths. Iron derricks replaced the wood derricks as the iron age came around in the early and mid 20th century. Ira's son, Glen L. Haught, took over the drilling business from Ira in the 1930's and continued drilling wells using derrick technology until the 1950's when the "spudder" drilling rig was developed and revolutionized the drilling business once again. This rig was mobile and cut down drilling time tremendously allowing for more wells to be drilled in shorter periods of time. Warren R. and Eldon J. Haught took over the business in the 1960's and purchased six spudder drilling rigs which allowed them the capabilities of drilling up to a dozen wells each month. Warren continued building the drilling business through the 1970's when the rotary drilling rig became the next wave of the future in drilling. This rig was also mobile and had tremendous power and the ability to add a rotating drill bit working much like a handheld drill. This technology along with high-capacity compressors moving air or mud to circulate the drill cuttings back to the surface made for extreme efficiency in the drilling process. The Company was at this time able to drill more wells in a year than their forefathers drilled in their lifetimes. Warren took the opportunity to use this technology to drill hundreds of wells in a period of only a few years in the late 1970's. Warren continued operating Top Drilling Corporation along with his sons Barry and Ira through the 1990's drilling, servicing and tending to hundreds of additional wells during that time. Due to lower commodity pricing during portions of this time period, Top Drilling expanded into various different operations including core sampling for the state of West Virginia's coal companies, cleaning out and plugging abandoned and non-productive wells for the state of West Virginia's Office of Oil and Gas amongst various other non-conventional projects. In the early 2000's Warren trained yet another generation of aggressive Haught's into the oil and gas business when three brothers: Douglas, Brian and Bobby took their part in the history of Top Drilling Corporation. During this period, newer technology was being utilized and perfected which included the top head drive drilling rig that combined the technology of the rotary rig with the ability to drive weight into the wellbore much like a hammer drill. This made the drilling process even more efficient and allowed smaller rigs to achieve deeper depths of over 6,000 feet. With the growing demand of drilling new, deeper wells into formations known as the Marcellus and Oriskany, Top Drilling took the initiative and purchased multiple top head drive drilling rigs and new support equipment to assist producers in their quest to develop and produce deep wells from these new and exciting formations. During the 2000's Top Drilling Corporation drilled hundreds of additional deeper formation wells and continued to build its service company. Top Drilling also successfully drilled multiple shallow horizontal wells using its top head drive rigs which was yet another breakthrough in drilling technology. Although the conventional drilling industry has waned over the last decade, Top Drilling has expanded its service industry exponentially now maintaining and servicing over 1,500 conventional natural gas and oil wells in over twenty counties in the state of West Virginia. Offering all standard well services along with well production improvement ideas and techniques, Top Drilling is one of the strongest natural gas and oil production services companies in the state.