

Contents

Introduction by Bobby Weaver	ix
Prologue	1
1. Breaking In	4
2. From Weevil to Top Hand	17
3. My First Boom: Nigger Creek/Mexia	29
4. The Bruner Boom in Luling	38
5. The Free State	46
6. The East Texas Depression	55
7. Fading Depression, Fading Boom	68
8. Hard Rock Drilling in Hobbs and Oklahoma City; Leaving East Texas	82
9. Cayuga and Mabank, Then on to Illinois and a New World	95
10. West Texas—S-H-K and Big Lake	108
11. Back to Odessa, Still Drilling	124
12. Pushing Tools: Starting, Then Becoming the Loner	145
13. Kermit and New Mexico: The Exodus from Odessa	164
14. The Tulk Field	179
15. Andrews and the Maguetex	191
16. Back to New Mexico: Wildcat at Clovis	203
17. Wildcat at Grandfalls, Then on to Lovington, Sweetwater, and Lovington Again	219

18. Winding Up	242
Epilogue	247
Glossary	249
Index	253

Illustrations

Maps

1. Places mentioned in this book	7
2. East Texas, Central Texas, and Gulf Coast	8
3. West Texas and Southeastern New Mexico	9

Figures

1. Wooden double derrick	12
2. Rotary rig with steel derrick	13

<i>Photographs</i>	130
--------------------	-----