

was a perfect match for the quiet Harrington. Between them their traits and expertise melded into what would be a best selling novel today. It's early culmination took form during the "Borger Boom", and it wasn't long until the industry knew that the two young go-getters were making their mark. Their roots began four years earlier when Harrington walked into Hagy's office with an armload of maps, ready to go to work. Harrington was followed by Stanley Marsh, who had been with Sun Oil. Later they brought Joy Wagner on board, who oversaw the operation of the drilling rigs.



Upper left to right: Don Harrington, Margaret Johnson, Lawrence Hagy, Sybil Harrington, Hap Johnson and Ann Scott Hagy (circa 1938)



Left to right: Sybil Harrington, Ann Hagy and Don Harrington

The partnership became a model throughout the industry and its been said the three men never had a written agreement – only handshakes among three friends. With that, Hagy, Harrington and Marsh was born. It proved to be a combination of expertise that long-time residents say has never been, and probably never will be, duplicated. The group accounted for some of the largest oil and gas leasing and drilling operations in this part of the country.

Landmen are a special breed and companies rely on them for guidance in continuing programs to acquire

favorable leases upon which to drill. It's been said it takes 10 years of experience to make a good landman. Harrington became one in less than two years. By then, his mark was indelible on the industry that would come to know his expertise and vision as criteria for success.

Those who knew him often remarked about his ability to negotiate. As a landman, he was responsible for securing leases. He saw a need for a more understandable and simplified lease. So, he wrote one in pencil (on a legal-size yellow pad) without benefit of legal counsel and it became recognized as the standard for the industry. Today it is known as Standard Form 88 and still used by many companies.

Thomas Thompson's "Memoir; February 1971" recalled the association of the three: "Hagy raised the money to back the ventures and was in charge of drilling operations. Harrington put together a block of good leases and bargained with the big boys, the Majors. Marsh talked to

the little fellows. He would put on some old clothes, throw a little extra mud on the car and spend the day trading with landowners. He always came back to Amarillo with the leases."

The partnership eventually split up amicably in the late 1930s...just as it had begun in 1927, with a handshake. Harrington wanted to build a \$1 billion natural gas pipeline (an even more formidable figure in those days!) to the Northeast. Hagy thought the risk was too great and wanted to bow out with the money he already had, leaving the group shortly before World War II. The partnership was over, but its impact would remain for years. After Harrington's death in 1974, and prior to his own death in 1993, Hagy often recounted the "wheeling and dealing" of Hagy, Harrington and Marsh. It's doubtful any threesome will ever again have such an impact on an industry . . . or an area.



Upper left to right: Don Harrington, Margaret Johnson, Lawrence Hagy, Sybil Harrington, Ann Hagy and Hap Johnson (1939)

Richard D. Palmer, retired President of the Harrington Foundation, worked for Harrington following World War II. "Don was 10 years ahead of everybody, whether oil and gas, or other possibilities," Palmer said. "He saw the future of natural gas, and had that rare ability to see not only the present, but the future. Even though it was selling for five cents MCF he regarded natural gas production as one of the most interesting and lucrative phases of the petroleum industry. In a sense he wasn't interested in oil."