



Thomas Remp Remp

Tom Remp was one of the international oil industry's outstanding personalities of the post-war era. He was hugely charismatic and well known for his 'old school' business practices, building lasting friendships on a foundation of trust and hand-shakes. Tom Remp was born in California to Thomas E. Remp Sr. and his wife Florence Meeker Remp. His early years were spent in the Kettleman Hills' oil fields of central California where his father was a driller on the first rotary rigs which were to revolutionize the industry after WWI. Tom Sr.'s own father, Charles, had himself emigrated from the oil fields of West Virginia around 1905 and was a driller on the original 'cable tool' wooden rigs that pre-dated rotary drilling in the period leading up to WWI. Tom's boyhood home was literally adjacent to a working wooden oil derrick where he and his brother, Jack, spent much of their time roaming the hills and driving home-made go-karts built by Tom Sr. Summers were idyllic. Tom Sr. built an innovative trailer with beds and a cooking area and would drop Florence and the boys in the heart of Yellowstone National Park - a very different and dramatic place in the mid-30's. The boys biked extensively and a 12-year old Tom made a number of challenging ascents of some of Yellowstone's most famous peaks. Tom had an early love of music which he kept all his life. He went to the University of Southern California as an undergraduate to study music and enlisted in the US Air Force when WWII broke out. He proved to be an outstanding pilot but, because of his age, missed war action for which he was forever disappointed. After the war, Tom returned to graduate from USC with a degree in music and took a job as a music teacher in the small central-California farming town of McFarland where his wife, Bobby Ruth, was also a teacher. Tom formed an award-winning marching band that travelled extensively to perform in parades and concerts. Music, however, was not to be his calling. In the mid 1950's, Tom invented an oil tool called the 'Rapid-Tector' which protected pipe threads as they are dragged up into the derrick. Money was desperately tight during this time and Tom worked part-time as a rough-neck. His son, Steve, remembers fondly that his parents were forced to raid his piggy bank of \$100 to keep the family afloat which was repaid some years later. Tom was eventually noticed by a small family-owned oil service company, Weatherford Oil Tool Inc. After several moves including Odessa and Houston, Tom was asked to move to West Germany to try and expand Weatherford's business in the oil fields of northern Germany

near the town of Celle. This was to be a daunting challenge with Tom arriving, family in tow, in the Hannover train station in 1959 knowing only a few words of German. Weatherford's business was at that time based on down-hole cementation tools and Tom's German audience proved sceptical and un-receptive. For several years it looked as though the Remp Family would be returning to Houston. Things took a dramatic turn for the better when Tom entered into a long-term and mutually beneficial relationship with Hillman Kelley to introduce their power tongs in the eastern hemisphere and then Hauk Industries for their innovative tubing tongs. This was a revolutionary development at that time and pays tribute to Tom's vision of improving rig productivity and safety. Weatherford then grew tremendously throughout Europe, the Middle and the Far East under Tom's leadership. Weatherford remained a small company in the US and it was a case of the tail wagging the dog. In a true American success story, Tom subsequently worked his way up to become President and a large Shareholder in Weatherford, moving the worldwide headquarters to Houston in the early 70's. Weatherford subsequently expanded in the Americas and emerged as one of the major US oil service companies, starting with the acquisition of Lamb Enterprises. Tom retired from Weatherford in the late 1970's and after a 2-year sabbatical formed Drilltec gmbh based initially in Germany. Drilltec referred back to Tom's earlier success with the Rapid-Tector and created an extensive line of composite plastic & steel thread protectors that saved the industry hundreds of millions of dollars by protecting increasingly expensive pipe threads. He was joined in this enterprise by his then-wife Liesl, as well as Fred and Egi Dreyfuss. Tom and Liesl worked in Houston when Drilltec opened a presence there and bought a Ranch on the Pedernales River in the Texas Hill Country. Over the next twenty years they made many improvements to this fabulous property which sits on a bluff above this evocative and scenic river. Liesl prided herself on a small herd of prized Texas longhorn cattle. They eventually moved back to Houston when Liesl became ill and she sadly died there. Tom lived his last years at his home in Houston, taking a great interest in his children Steve, Cindy and Deborah and also in his many grown grandchildren. He passed away peacefully in his sleep with his close family close by. He will be sorely missed by his Family and many Friends.