In 1948 at the age of 14, Dave began his lifelong commitment to the oil industry. His first job was dressing tools on a spudder after school and during the summer to pay for a bicycle that he desired to have. At the age of 15 he began hauling water to drilling rigs after working with his father on the rig a full shift. Like most working young men in that generation, he was working to purchase a new car. At the age of 16, he married his wife, JoAnne Harrison. From that time forward, he devoted his life to family and the oil industry. During the early years of their marriage Dave worked on the drilling rigs as a roughneck and driller. In 1961, Dave entered into a partnership to form A-K Tubing and Casing in Great Bend, Ks. After that venture, he gained employment with O.A. Sutton in Great Bend. During his employment with Sutton, he was transferred to Rosalia, Ks. to continue his work as a pumper and roustabout. In 1973, Dave began working for Hogoboom as a truck driver and then became a truck pusher. His knowledge base was large enough that he was able to help many people throughout the years. He knew everything from down hole information to the final part of connecting the lead line to the tank battery. But Dave was not a man who desired praise or recognition for the work that he did; he let his work do the talking for him.