John was born July 31, 1922, in Gridley, Kansas, the son of George and anna (McCalister) Haas. On January 12, 1948, he and Dorothy Mae Kneisly were married at Tucumcari, New Mexico. He was raised on a farm south of Gridley. He moved to Chicago, where he finished High School and attended College. He enlisted in the Army Air Corp and served during World War II. Mr. Haas, in 1936, went on to work on a cable drilling rig. He became owner and operator of Haas Oil Company in Yates Center, Kansas.

At one time, he had Ford dealerships in Yates Center and Burlington. He lived in Yates Center until his wife died, then moved to Kansas City. He was a member of Phillips- Stukey-Shaffer Post #296, American Legion, and Hebron Lodge #314, A.F. & A.M. in Gridley. He was inducted into the Kansas Oil Hall of Fame in 1997.