Mr. Sutcliffe started in the oilfields in 1927. He had a long career in the oil industry spanning some 38 years. He owned and operated Sutcliffe Pipe & Supply in Chanute, Kansas. He built Gypsy Spudder Drilling Machines. He built thirteen such machines between the years of 1945 and 1965. Mr. Sutcliffe was a member of Eastern Kansas Oil & Gas Association (EKOOGA).