



Claud E. Aikman
1886 – 1991
Inducted 1993

In 1886, what is now Oklahoma was called Indian Territory. After serving with the Army Signal Corps in France during World War I, Aikman earned a degree in geology from the University of Oklahoma. In 1930, with two partners, he formed Cardinal Oil Company, which operated more than 150 wells. The same three partners formed Cooper Gas Company in 1939 and drilled hundreds of wildcat wells, chiefly along the eastern shelf of the Permian Basin, discovering significant reserves. In Washington D.C., Aikman successfully presented the case for equitable oil pricing for West Texas producers and helped defeat serious proposals to nationalize the U.S. oil industry. In later years he was a noted world traveler and columnist.