



Carlton E. Beal
1914 – 1994
Inducted 1997

For Carlton E. Beal, oil ran in the family. His father was a geologist credited with discovering some of California's greatest oil fields. Beal graduated from Stanford University in 1936 with a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering. Then he earned his master's degree in Petroleum Engineering from M.I.T. in 1938. For a time, he worked for West Coast oil companies. In 1941 while working for the Richmond Company, he was placed on loan to the Petroleum Administration for World War II. After the war, Beal became an associate professor of petroleum engineering at the University of Southern California. That's when he first heard about a student, Allen "Moose" Trobaugh, who seemed to know as much about drilling as his instructors. In 1954, with the Spraberry Trend already booming, Beal moved his family to Midland, recruited Trobaugh to join him, and the two founded Beal, Trobaugh and Associates (BTA). They drilled more than 1500 wells and investors were attracted to the success of their low-risk drilling operations – a result of strong basic geology and geological analysis.