



Charles E. Beyer
1885 – 1975
Inducted 1973

By the time Charles Beyer was 22, the St. Louis native had already served three years with the 11th Cavalry in the U.S. occupation of Cuba and was on his way to the oil fields of Mexico to learn the petroleum business. While there, he connected with the Benedum-Trees organization and began managing their holdings, first in Mexico and then in Cuba, Puerto Rico and Guatemala. Beyer returned to the U.S. to work briefly for the Big Lake Oil Company, another Benedum-Trees company, in Texon, a town they had created in 1923. After a short time as an executive with the Santa Barbara Oil Company, he returned to Texon and Big Lake Oil Company, ultimately rising to vice president and general manager. Together with Levi Smith, the president of the company, Beyer worked to make the company oil town livable for families, often acting as chief law enforcement officer and even the garbage collector. Charles Beyer was widely respected for his mix of good business sense with character and compassion.