



Prentice F. Brown
1898 – 1974
Inducted 1983

Prentice F. Brown, known to most as “Brownie”, was a standout from the start. His high school grades earned him a scholarship to the Colorado School of Mines where he graduated with the highest honors in his class, receiving a degree in Mining Engineering. While working for a Denver consulting firm and their client, Honolulu Oil Company, Brown suggested that the Permian Basin would be an area to investigate. Accepting his proposal, the two companies moved Brown and the exploration staff to West Texas where he began a mapping project. Between 1933 and 1937, the discoveries that came from his research included some of the largest fields in the nation, not only in acreage, but also in reserves. Brown developed fundamental concepts about the geology of the area and applied geophysics to those concepts. He pioneered the application of geophysics and employed torsion balance gravity, gravity meter magnetometer and seismic methods to his concepts of subsurface geology. “Brownie’s” record of oil discovery was equaled by very few.