



**Berte R. Haigh**  
**1890 - 1986**  
**Inducted 1972**

Born in California, Berte Haigh's parents had both died by the time he was 10, so he lived with his grandparents on their small farm. He left school after the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and started taking jobs that usually involved mechanical or automotive work. He served in France during World War I, and even there he was working on vehicles, keeping the trucks running in the motorized ammunition train. As a result of his military service, he was able to attend college and, at age 35, graduated from the Texas College of Mines (now the University of Texas at El Paso—UTEP) with a degree in mining engineering. Haigh was later recruited by the University of Texas System Lands Office as a staff geologist in San Angelo. He eventually became geologist-in-charge at the Midland office. During his time with the university, Haigh became an experienced surveyor, scout, engineer, geologist, landman, geophysicist, and petroleum executive. Because of his efforts, all university lands were opened to geophysical exploration. He also developed or assisted in the development of numerous oil and gas leasing techniques, and helped establish an open-door policy on leasing university land, one that was flexible enough to attract both major oil companies and independents. He loved his University of Texas Lands job so much, he returned to serve as a consultant even after he had retired.