



Joseph B. McShane, Jr.

1929 - 2017

Inducted 2017

When young Joseph B. McShane needed some career advice, his father was ready: “Go to college and become an engineer.” Joe headed to the University of Texas where he graduated in 1952 with a petroleum engineering degree. The methods used to maximize the production of an oil field, called “secondary recovery,” fascinated Joe. That interest led to employment with Forest Oil and then Signal Oil to work on projects that relied on high-pressure water injection to recover additional oil. By 1959, Signal wanted to transfer Joe to California but he declined the offer and left the company to become an independent oil man. He entered into partnerships with two other engineers to form Wood, McShane & Thams and they quickly developed a reputation for acquiring and developing properties that the big oil companies thought were no longer profitable. As he continued to help modernize secondary recovery, Joe was also a pioneer in drilling coal bed methane wells into coal formations in the Raton Basin, as well as an early adopter of 3-D seismic technology to drill deep exploration wells. Frequently honored by his peers, Joe also contributed to the petroleum industry through his participation in many professional groups and associations.

