

William D. Noel
1914 - 1987
Inducted 1983

Bill Noel was born in Fort Worth and raised by his grandparents. He worked his way through the University of Texas and graduated in 1935 with a degree in business administration. Having worked as a roustabout for Gulf Oil Co. during college, he was fortunate to be hired back during the Depression years. In 1940 he formed Trebol Oil Company with two friends and began drilling. Noel worked the rigs, pumped the wells, kept the books, and did the geology and engineering. The company drilled 52 wells without hitting a dry hole. In 1941, Noel met Earl Rodman and bought into his supply company, thus beginning a long and lucrative partnership. The duo found success with a series of other ventures, including their productive foray into the gasoline plant business and the subsequent formation of Odessa Natural Gasoline Company. From this expanding enterprise, the pair launched a petrochemical complex in southeastern Odessa that created hundreds of jobs and pumped needed substance into the city's economy.

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