



Wallace E. Pratt
1885 - 1981
Inducted 1969

Born in Kansas in 1885, Pratt received a master's degree in geology from the University of Kansas. In 1909 he was hired by the U.S. Bureau of Mines in the Philippines and worked there for seven years. Once back in the U.S., Pratt joined Humble Oil and Refining Company as their chief and only geologist. He was responsible for building Humble's geological, land, and geophysical departments. Under Pratt's leadership, Humble acquired large holdings in Texas and New Mexico, including the Mexia-Powell and Talco fields, the Bronte Field in Coke County, lease ownership of the King Ranch, and leases in Crane, Andrews, and Ector Counties. Trusting Pratt's confidence in the future oil possibilities of West Texas, Humble constructed the first pipeline from the Permian Basin to the Gulf Coast. Later in his career, Pratt served as vice president of Humble's parent company, Standard of New Jersey. He and his wife donated their personal land and homes to form the nucleus of the Guadalupe Mountains National Park.

