



**Charles E. Beyer**  
**1885-1975**  
**Inducted 1973**

Charles Beyer was born February 12, 1885 in St. Louis, Missouri, one of six children. After high school graduation, Beyer served three years with the 11<sup>th</sup> Cavalry during the occupation of Cuba. He headed to the Mexican oil fields from 1907 to 1918 to learn the oil business. He joined the Benedum-Trees firm in Mexico as an assistant superintendent of the land department of the Penn-Mex Fuel Company in 1914. He then became superintendent of the company's land department and traveled to Cuba, Puerto Rico and Guatemala.

Beyer enrolled at the University of California, Los Angeles to study geology and Spanish, but his college career was interrupted in 1925 by Levi Smith asking him to go to Texon. Beyer returned to California, however, to serve as Vice-President and General Manager of the Santa Barbara Oil Company. He returned to Texon in 1929 to assist his friend and president of Big Lake Oil Company, Levi Smith. In 1932, he became Vice-President and General Manager for Big Lake Oil Company, another Benedum-Trees company formed in 1923.

Texon had been founded as the operations center of the Big Lake Oil Company. The company formed in 1923 by Benedum-Trees when they acquired 16 sections of land that proved to be the heart of West Texas' major oil pool. Texon was the first West Texas company oil town, serving as a model of its kind. Beyer, as general manager shared its development and progress with Levi Smith. Beyer worked to make the frontier town livable, often acting as chief law enforcement officer and other times garbage collector.

Charles Beyer mixed character and compassion with good business sense earning a reputation of trust and respect.

