



Raiford Harold Burton
1907 - 1962
Inducted 1969

Raiford Harold Burton was born in Magnolia, Arkansas on October 7, 1907. He attended Magnolia High School and Southern State College and later did extension work at The University of Texas. After serving in the United States Navy, Burton went to work as a radio operator for Radio Corporation of America in July 1927.

While employed there, he became interested in the new field of geophysics and decided to pursue a geophysical career. He joined Geophysical Research Corporation as an observer in 1929. It wasn't long before he was party chief with Amerada Petroleum Corporation, heading crews throughout the United States. Burton also did pioneer geophysical work in the Permian Basin and Gulf Coast areas of Texas.

Burton's crew operated under the first permit issued by University of Texas Lands, earning high commendations for their work. While operating under Permit No. 1, Burton was instrumental in compiling rules and regulations for conducting geophysical explorations on University-owned lands that are still in existence today.

Burton left Amerada in 1946 and joined a partnership in a successful LP gas company operating in West Texas. Two years later, his dedication to geophysics led him to found Burton Geophysical Company in 1958, a solely-owned seismograph contracting company. Under Burton's leadership and hard work, the company was a success and made several important petroleum discoveries, including the Headlee Field near Midland-Odessa. The company was incorporated in 1950 and Burton was named president. The company expanded their exploration outside Texas to several other states, including New Mexico. Burton Geophysical Company, Inc. was widely recognized as a leader in both geophysical and production operations.

In 1958, Burton resigned as president of Burton Geophysical Company for health reasons and was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors. He continued to give his talent and wisdom to the company until his death in 1962. Burton was

recognized as a true scientist, highly trained in many phases of geophysical exploration and a leader in his profession. He was a member of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists and the Permian Basin Geophysical Society. He established the Mary Baker Burton Foundation, a charitable foundation dedicated to assist and encourage young scientists. The Raiford H. Burton Memorial SEG Scholarship also exemplifies his dedication to geophysics and young people in the profession.