Ted Collins, Jr. and Herbert E. Ware, Jr. both graduated from the University of Oklahoma: Collins in 1959 with a B.S. in Geological Engineering and Ware in 1954 with a B.S. and a M.S. in Geology. Together they have 95 years of experience in the petroleum industry. Collins and Ware each had brief careers with major oil companies before becoming partners in 1969 with American Quasar. Their partnership flourished at American Quasar, finding or developing several deep Delaware fields. They made a major discovery in the Rocky Mountains with the first well drilled in the deep Overthrust Belt of the Pineview field.

In 1982, Collins was named President of HNG Oil Company in Midland while Ware elected to go independent and manage their partnership’s interest. HNG Oil produced major discoveries in the Pitchfork Ranch in southeast New Mexico, Lobo Gas in South Texas and Canyon Sand in West Texas. During this period, the two men invested in numerous wells by independents across the Permian Basin and Rocky Mountain regions. They also started and owned nine different gas gathering systems and two processing plants in the Permian Basin.

In 1988, Collins and Ware reunited to form Collins & Ware, Inc. Within twelve years, the company grew into one with over 1 TCF of proven reserves, over 100 employees and assets of over $500 million. Operating over 500 wells in the Permian Basin, South Texas and Rocky Mountains, Collins & Ware was one of the first companies to utilize 3-D seismic as an exploration tool. This data allowed for new discoveries in the Mississippi Reef on the Eastern Shelf, the Fusselman/Ellenburger discoveries in the Midland Basin and Red River Baken in the Williston Basin. In 2000, Collins and Ware sold the company to Apache Corporation.

Founding partner Herb Ware passed away in 2001, leaving behind his legacy as a geologist and as a benefactor of the Midland community. Collins, still active in the oil and gas industry is involved in some of the top resource plays in the lower 48. Mr. Collins sits on the boards of Encore, Energy Transfer, Rising Star and Rubicon Oil and Gas, LLC. He was awarded the American Association of Professional Landmen 2006 Lifetime Achievement Award and is a member of the All-American Wildcatter.