



**Horace M. Bayer**  
**1900 – 1975**  
**Inducted 1985**

Horace Bayer was born and raised in Wisconsin, but his college years were spent in Oklahoma in the School of Geology at Oklahoma University. In 1924, with his B.S. degree in hand, he went to work as a surface geologist for the Gulf Oil Corporation, launching a career with Gulf that would span nearly four decades. After just three years, which he spent mapping the McElroy Field, Bayer was promoted to zone geologist and transferred to Midland. He held that position from 1927 to 1944, when he was transferred to Gulf's Fort Worth division as Chief Geologist. Bayer's division produced more than one-third of Gulf's national oil and gas production, with the Permian Basin as the largest contributor. The first Ellenberger discovery in the Delaware Basin was a Gulf well that Bayer had mapped years earlier. Bayer retired from Gulf in 1960 but his wildcat wells can still be seen on production maps, dotting the course of the Rio Grande.