



George B. McCamey
1882 - 1960
Inducted 1975

George McCamey was a native of Pennsylvania but grew up in West Virginia. At 16 he left school to pursue his fortune, working first for his uncle in Murpheytown, West Virginia, as an oil well cleaner. He then moved to Kansas and worked as a roustabout and tool-dresser. Later, following the scent of oil, he drilled and wildcatted in several states before settling in Texas. Here, he drilled in various parts of the state but focused mainly on Uptown County. Marland Oil had offered him 4,000 acres there for a farm-out, so he and partner J.P. Johnson drilled the M. L. Baker No. 1 four miles north of the Orient Rail Line in Upton County. To speed the transport of machinery and supplies, the railroad company agreed to install a switch near the well. A boxcar was placed at the switch to mark the spot. With the success of the M. L. Baker No. 1, a town began to spring up around the switch and the boxcar, which had become known as McCamey, and the town eventually took that name. George McCamey never lived in McCamey, Texas, but he attended the town's annual birthday celebration every year until his death.