



Algur "Al" Hurtle Meadows
1899 - 1978
Inducted 2007

Al Meadows was born in Georgia in 1899, the third of seven children. After earning his diploma from Vidalia Collegiate Institute in 1915, he studied at Georgia and Alabama Business College and Mercer University, both in Macon, Georgia. Early in his career he served as an accountant with Standard Oil Company in Shreveport, Louisiana. During this period he earned a law degree from Centenary College and was admitted to the Louisiana state bar. In 1936, Meadows and two partners created General American Oil Company and moved their headquarters from Shreveport to Dallas. The company experienced a phenomenal expansion in operations, due to an ingenious method of acquiring oil-producing properties that Meadows developed. The plan involved three parties in the purchase transaction to minimize tax liability and the use of interest-bearing oil payments to meet a large percentage of the purchase price. Under Meadows' leadership, Great American Oil became one of the nation's largest independent oil companies. By 1959, Meadows' company had acquired 2,990 oil wells in fifteen states and Canada and was drilling for oil in Spain.