



**John J. Redfern, Jr.**  
**1912 - 1986**  
**Inducted 1987**

John Redfern, Jr. was born in New Jersey but later would refer to himself as “a native Texan from New Jersey.” After graduating from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with a degree in civil engineering, he went to work as a sales engineer for a heating and plumbing company in Albany, NY. In 1936, with the economy still in the grip of the Depression, he was stunned by a news article. It reported that 25 million barrels of oil were being produced each day in the United States, bringing \$1 per barrel...with one-eighth of that amount going to the people who owned royalty interests. With that, he moved to Oklahoma to try his luck in the oil business, then moved to Midland, Texas to sink his roots. He started out purchasing royalties and minerals. When a deal was too large for his budget, he functioned as broker. In 1946, he formed a partnership with Harvey Herd that lasted until 1961, when John bought interest in Flag Oil Corp. He later developed his own firms, Redfern Oil and Redfern Development, and merged them with Flag Oil to form Flag-Redfern Oil. This became one of the Permian Basin’s most successful independent oil companies.

