



**Algur "Al" Hurtle Meadows** was born in Georgia in 1899, the third of seven children. Early in his career he served as an accountant with Standard Oil Company in Shreveport, Louisiana. In 1930, he and a partner founded General American Finance System. The depression led the partnership into ventures in Louisiana and in Texas. In 1936, a merger created General American Oil Company of Texas and under the direction of Meadows, GAO became one of the nation's largest independent oil companies. By 1943 GAO had 100 wells in West Texas. He created the Meadows Foundation in 1948 which has distributed \$450 million in grants since its inception.