Oil Billionaire
H.L. Hunt, 85,
Dies in Dallas

DALLAS — (AP) — Oil billionaire H. L. Hunt, considered one of the world's wealthiest men, died at 11:50 a.m. Friday, a Baylor Medical Center spokesman said. He was 85.

Hunt had been in failing health for months. He entered a Dallas hospital in late September for treatment of what his personal secretary, Paula Lindsay, called a flu virus.

Hunt's wealth, earned primarily through his vast oil empire, ranked him with J. Paul Getty and Howard Hughes.

Hunt was the head of an industrial empire that included petroleum, canned foods, pecans, asphalt and drug items among other products.

He started his fortune in the East Texas oil strikes and pyramided it successfully although he had only a fifth-grade education.

Hunt remained alert and active until about September and was at his office six days a week. He was able to appear on television question-and-answer programs until recently.

He remained secretive throughout his life about his fortune, which some have placed as high as $2 billion.

Hunt once was quoted as saying that if a man knew how rich he was he wasn't very rich.

Two of Hunt's sons, Herbert and Bunker Hunt, are seeking control of Great Western United Corp. of Denver. Their tender offer for 910,000 shares of the common stock of GWU is being contested by management of the Denver company.

The Hunt brothers already control a substantial amount of GWU stock. If their tender offer is successful, they will own a majority interest in the company.