

# Memorial to Josie Winifred McGlamery

## 1887-1977

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When Miss Josie Winifred McGlamery died on April 2, 1977, Alabama lost an outstanding geologist. She was known professionally as Winifred McGlamery and to close friends and associates as Miss Winnie. Miss Winnie was born July 26, 1887, in Churchville, Augusta County, Virginia, near Staunton. Her body was returned to Churchville for burial, but Alabama had been her adopted home for forty-six years.

She attended the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill from 1915 to 1918 and majored in English. Then she transferred to Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland, where she received an A.B. degree in English in 1919. She began the study of geology at Johns Hopkins University where she was enrolled as a graduate student in geology from 1922

to 1925. While at Johns Hopkins, Miss McGlamery made the acquaintance of Walter B. Jones, a doctoral candidate who was destined to become State Geologist of Alabama in 1927. In the first year or two following her graduate studies at Johns Hopkins, she worked as a staff paleontologist in the American Museum of Natural History, and in Texas as a micropaleontologist with Humble Oil and Refining Company. From 1927 to 1928, she was a paleontologist in the University Museum at the University of Rochester in Rochester, New York.

Miss Winnie joined the staff of Dr. Walter B. Jones at the Geological Survey of Alabama in September 1931 and held the position of Paleontologist for thirty years. Miss McGlamery and Dr. Jones realized the significant contribution that could be made from the retention of drill-cutting samples and cores from oil test and water wells. The present Sample and Core Library of the Geological Survey of Alabama-State Oil and Gas Board was begun by them in the early 1930s. Laws for the preservation of these materials were not passed until the first commercial oil accumulations were discovered in 1945. The personal interest of Miss McGlamery and Dr. Jones was largely responsible for the records now available of the early exploration efforts.

The descriptions of the wildcat oil test wells and deeper water wells drilled in Alabama were begun by Miss McGlamery. She instituted the use of proper lithologic terms necessary to describe the formations in the subsurface. Descriptions advanced from the terms commonly used by drillers, such as "lime rock," "sand rock," "gumbo," and "mud" to accurate descriptive terms used by geologists to guide exploration. She described more than 1,000 wells, kept pace with the drilling activity, and left no backlog at the time of her retirement. The records of the wells she described remain in the files as mainly unpublished but readily available manuscripts that are still widely used.

Miss McGlamery traveled throughout the state as much as possible and made outstanding collections of fossils from the exposed stratigraphic units along the major rivers and from newly opened road cuts and outcrops. Many of the localities from

which she collected are now lost due to weathering processes or inundation by impoundments. The fossils she added to the paleontological collections of the Geological Survey of Alabama remain as invaluable reference materials. Miss Winnie also traveled throughout the country on geological excursions, and as late as 1975, she visited Prudhoe Bay on Alaska's famed North Slope. On these field trips she was a familiar sight, dressed in jodhpurs, large flower-print blouse, and knee-high boots.

Winnie McGlamery's principal contributions to the paleontology and stratigraphy of Alabama are the well descriptions and a splendid fossil collection, but she also was a co-author of three publications in cooperation with the noted micropaleontologist, J. A. Cushman. She was a frequent contributor to the *Alabama Academy of Science Journal* and to the field-trip guidebooks of the area geological societies.

Although she retired from the State Survey in late May of 1961, Miss Winnie did not sit out the rest of her days but remained quite active as a consultant and in the professional societies of which she was a member. Shy and soft-spoken, Miss Winnie was frequently seen walking about the city of Tuscaloosa and the campus of the University of Alabama. An avid walker, when asked if she would like to ride, she would give her standard reply, "No thank you! I'd rather walk." With her big hat and umbrella, she would make regular trips from her apartment across the campus to the library at the State Survey where she kept abreast of the latest literature.

Miss Winnie was a Fellow of the Geological Society of America and was a member of the Paleontological Society of America, American Association of Petroleum Geologists, American Malacological Union, Alabama Academy of Science, and Society of Economic Geologists. In recognition of her contributions to subsurface geology and paleontology, she was made an honorary member of the Mississippi Geological Society in 1969.

She is survived by two nephews, Mr. Harold T. Boone of Towson, Maryland, and Mr. John McGlamery of Hialeah, Florida.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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