A prominent geologist and gas industry executive, Fenton Harrison Finn, died on October 21, 1978, in Casablanca, Morocco. "Finny," as he was known to his friends and colleagues, and his wife Jean were on a six-week Mediterranean cruise; while at sea, he became ill and was taken ashore and hospitalized at Casablanca. After surgery, recovery seemed apparent, but subsequent complications resulted in his death. He is survived by his wife Jeanette (Folmar) and several nieces and nephews.

Fenton was born June 27, 1904, in Ridgway, Elk County, Pennsylvania. In this beautiful Allegheny Plateau country he experienced the rigors of the out-of-doors as well as the love for nature and all that it implies. It seemed almost providential that this same general area later became the scene of many of Finny's successes as a geologist, explorationist, and gas finder. He was graduated in 1928 from Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie-Mellon University) in Pittsburgh with a Bachelor of Science degree in mining engineering and geology. Later, in 1942 he received his professional degree of Engineer of Mines. At Carnegie Tech he came under the tutelage of Charles R. Fettke, who further inspired him toward a career in geology. Also at Carnegie Tech he met and married Jean Folmar to whom he was dedicated for the rest of his life. Together they enjoyed the beauties of nature which Jean often sketched or painted—including drilling rigs and scenes around gas "booms."

Fenton started his career as a field geologist with the Columbia Gas and Electric Company (now Columbia Gas System), mapping areas in southern New York State and northern Pennsylvania. In 1932 Finny joined the New York State Natural Gas Corporation and The Peoples Natural Gas Company (both Standard Oil Company subsidiaries at that time) as geologist and engineer. Many of the structures which he mapped in the early days of his career have since become major gas producing fields and are now underground gas storage facilities. After the gas utility subsidiaries of Standard Oil Company were organized into the Consolidated Natural Gas System in 1942, Finn worked as system geologist for Consolidated and was named its chief in 1945. It was primarily in this capacity that his expertise as a geologist and as a keen observer and interpreter of field problems resulted in the discovery of many new gas fields throughout the Appalachian area.

Finn was also a pioneer in the development of gas storage reservoirs. His leadership in this field is well known in the gas industry and because of his efforts, Consolidated is a leader in total gas storage capacity and deliverability. He organized the Underground Gas Storage Committee of the American Gas Association and was its chairman for a two-year period.

Finn became vice-president of New York State Natural Gas Company in 1951 and was its president from 1953 to 1960. He was also a director of Consolidated from 1953 to 1960. After his retirement in 1960 he continued actively as a geological consultant, which included
working for the Consolidated System as a consultant on problems of gas production and storage.

During his career he received many awards. He was elected to Tau Beta Pi, the honorary engineering scholastic society, and in 1960 received the Alumni Merit award from Carnegie Institute of Technology. In 1957 Finn received the American Gas Association’s Award of Merit. He was a member of the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, and a Fellow of the Geological Society of America. He was also a member of American Petroleum Institute, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Pittsburgh Geological Society, and the Engineering Society of Western Pennsylvania, and was included in *Who’s Who in America, 1951–1961*.

Finny was a dedicated geologist, a devoted husband, and a determined individualist. All of these factors have left their marks in the society—personal, business, and professional—of which he was a part. He touched the lives of many people and ushered them into productive scientific and executive positions. He will be missed by all who knew him.

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