Memorial to Philip A. Chenoweth 1919–1994

ALLAN P. BENNISON
Tulsa, Oklahoma

The Tulsa scientific community suffered a grievous loss in the passing of Phil Chenoweth, an outstanding geological consultant and community leader. Although favorable comments about the deceased may sometimes be overstated in obituaries, there is no need for that in Phil's case. In spite of physical handicaps and advancing years, he not only maintained a heavy work load, but also headed up the Tulsa Science Foundation, dedicated to the establishment of a world-class museum of science and technology in the Tulsa area. His unrelenting drive for excellence in this and other enterprises apparently overwhelmed his already weakened heart, and he died, figuratively, with his boots on in the Western tradition, by working on the last day of his life, October 4, 1994.

Phil was born in Chicago in 1919, and served his country in World War II in North Africa and Italy with the Army Signal Corps. After his honorable discharge, he received a doctorate at Columbia University in New York City in 1949 while also employed by Sinclair Oil Corporation doing geological research on parts of the United States, Cuba, Ethiopia, Yemen, and Panama. He also found time for summer work for the New York Science Service. He spent two years as instructor of geology at Amherst College in Massachusetts. From 1951 to 1954 he was employed by Sinclair Oil and Gas Company as exploration geologist in Ardmore, Oklahoma, where he met an attractive young lady named Marilyn Myers. They were married on April 11, 1952. He continued his stratigraphic studies of southern Oklahoma and northern Texas until 1954, when he was hired by the University of Oklahoma as associate professor of geology. There, he directed graduate students in their petroleum research leading toward 22 masters' theses and one doctoral dissertation, and he was honored with an "Outstanding Teacher Award" in 1958.

In 1960 he returned to Sinclair Oil and Gas Company in Tulsa as staff exploration geologist, conducting regional exploration on a worldwide basis. He researched conversion of coal to oil and gas, wrote scientific papers, and trained many young, developing geologists.

In 1968 he decided to become a consulting geologist, and attracted many clients in both major and independent oil companies, exploration firms, utility companies, and government agencies. He also produced tectonic and geological maps for publication by PennWell and by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. He prepared guidebooks and geological articles for the Tulsa Geological Society. In addition to these diverse activities, he was active in his church and served the last three years of his life as the chairman of the Tulsa Science Foundation with its many educational programs.


Throughout his years in the energy business and academic world, Phil Chenoweth had

Geological Society of America Memorial, v. 26, July, 1995 19
made a host of friends among geoscientists, engineers, oil-related people, university professors, and mining geologists on a global basis, and these friendships and his considerable technical knowledge constituted a major intangible resource. He will be missed by many, especially his wife, Marilyn, two daughters, Kathryn Reese and Amy Chenoweth, and three grandchildren.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF P. A. CHENOWETH


1957 Sources of subsurface data: Ponca City, Oklahoma, Desk and Derrick Club, Petroleum Geology Short Course, p. 1–13.


----- An unusual type of ripple mark: Oklahoma Geology Notes, v. 19, no. 8, p. 154–156.


----- Is there oil and gas in the Ouachita Mountains?: Oklahoma Geology Notes, v. 19, no. 10, p. 199–208.

----- Recumbent folding in the Velma area: Oklahoma Geology Notes, v. 19, no. 10, p. 219–220.


----- Starfish impressions from the Hilltop shale: Oklahoma Geology Notes, v. 20, no. 2, p. 35–36.

----- Ouachita Mountains do have oil and gas potential: World Oil, v. 151, no. 2, p. 94–100.


1965 An exotic boulder in the Gunter sandstone, northeastern Oklahoma; Oklahoma Geology Notes, v. 25, no. 1, p. 3–5.


----- Caney River arch, a pre-Seminole uplift in northeastern Oklahoma: Oklahoma Geology Notes, v. 25, no. 11, p. 279–286.
MEMORIAL TO PHILIP A. CHENOWETH


1966
--- Type section of the Oologah limestone: Oklahoma Geology Notes, v. 26, no. 7, p. 193-208.

1967
--- Early Paleozoic overlap, northeast Oklahoma [abs.]: Geological Society of America Southwestern Section Meeting.
--- Early Paleozoic overlap, southern Mid-Continent [abs.]: American Association of Petroleum Geologists Regional Meeting, Wichita, Kansas.
--- Early Paleozoic overlap, southern Mid-Continent: Oklahoma Geology Notes, v. 27, no. 10, p. 179.

1968
--- Is the grass really greener in those distant pastures?: Oil and Gas Journal, v. 66, no. 45, p. 154-158.
--- (with Bennison, Allan) Geologic map of the Tulsa metropolitan area, in Tulsa’s physical environment: Tulsa Geological Society, v. 36, p. 84.

1969

1970
--- Geology of oil and gas occurrence in Pennsylvanian rocks, Mid-Continent region: Oklahoma Geology Notes, v. 30, no. 4, p. 85-86.

1971

1974
--- Bibliography of the petroleum geology of mainland China, partially annotated: Privately printed, 47 p.

1975


1983 Principal structural features of Oklahoma [map]: Tulsa, Oklahoma, PennWell.

--- Formation correlator of Texas and the Mid-Continent [chart]: Tulsa, Oklahoma, PennWell Publishing Co., two sheets.

1984 (with McBride, M. H.) Formation correlator of the Rocky Mountains and Western Overthrust Belt [chart]: Tulsa, Oklahoma, PennWell Publishing Co., two sheets.

--- (with McBride, M. H.) Formation correlator of the Appalachians and eastern interior states [chart]: Tulsa, Oklahoma, PennWell Publishing Co.

--- (with Bennison, Allan) Geological highway map of the northern Great Plains region: Tulsa, Oklahoma, American Association of Petroleum Geologists.


--- Principal structural features of Kansas [map]: Tulsa, Oklahoma, PennWell Publishing Co.

--- (with McBride, M. H.) Formation correlator of the Gulf Coast and Atlantic seaboard [chart]: Tulsa, Oklahoma, PennWell Publishing Co.


--- (with McBride, M. H.) Structural features of Louisiana [map]: Tulsa, Oklahoma, PennWell Publishing Co.


--- Anadarko Newsletter. Privately published, twelve issues.