Donald Desmond Utterback, a pioneering petroleum and sulphur geologist, died November 24, 1994, in Memphis, Tennessee. He was 90 years old. He was born in Edmore, Michigan, August 18, 1904. His wife Nan and daughter Beverly are deceased. Utterback is survived by his two grandchildren, Geoffrey Eldredge of Crestline, California, and Anne Smith of San Francisco, California; three great grandchildren; and a sister, Mrs. Francis U. Crain and her two sons, Michael Crain and Des Crain of Memphis, Tennessee.

Des attended the University of Illinois at Urbana. He received his B.S. in geology in 1930, his M.S. in geology in 1932, and his Ph.D. in geology and economics in 1936.

Des worked for the U.S. Geological Survey in 1929 as a topographic surveyor and for the Illinois Geological Survey in 1930–1933. During this time he was also a technical attendant at the World’s Fair in Chicago.

He was employed by Texaco from 1936–1946 (with four years out for the U.S. Army). From 1946 to 1948 he was employed at Houston Oil Company as district geologist in New Orleans.

From 1960 until his retirement in 1992, he worked as an independent consulting geologist in New Orleans.

He was a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and a Certified Petroleum Geologist and was president of the New Orleans Geological Society in 1947 and 1948. He was elected an Honorary Life Member of the Society in 1963.

Des was instrumental in forming the New Orleans SIPES chapter. He was the New Orleans chapter chairman, 1975–1976.

He also participated in other professional and honorary societies: GSA (Fellow), GCAGS, PGS, SEG, and SPE of AIME. He is listed in American Men of Science, Who’s Who in the South & Southwest, and the Dictionary of International Biography (London).

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