

Memorial to Harold W. Scott 1906–1998

Harold Scott, retired professor of geology, died October 30, 1998, in Urbana, Illinois.

Scott was born September 30, 1906, in Milford, Illinois, the son of Clark and Ruby Scott. He grew up on a farm near Watseka, Illinois, where he received his elementary education, in a one-room country school. He earned an A.B. in 1929 and his M.A. in 1932, both from the University of Illinois. He married Joann Grochowski in 1929 in Champaign, Illinois. Granted scholarship to the University of Chicago, he earned a Ph.D. there in 1935. He taught at the Montana School of Mines from 1933 to 1937 and worked during the summers for the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology.

Scott joined the faculty of the University of Illinois in 1937 and taught there for 30 years. During his tenure at Illinois, he was chair of the College Policy committee, chair of the Department Employment Committee, and a member of the Student Affairs Committee. Also during these years, he worked in the summers in Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Texas, Kentucky, and Illinois. He worked for H. L. and Bunker Hunt exploring for oil and negotiating leases in Libya, Egypt, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Pakistan, and islands in the Mediterranean. In 1949 he was an American Association of Petroleum Geologists Distinguished Lecturer.

Scott published several books, using the income from one of them to establish a student fellowship at the University of Illinois. He studied the origins of geological education and was co-author of two volumes of biographical essays on notable Americans.

Upon his retirement from the University of Illinois, Scott accepted a position as chair of the Department of Geology at Michigan State University, from which he retired in 1974. He continued to lecture and write, however, including articles and editorials for the *Chicago Tribune*. The relationship of oil to the welfare of people and the impact of population growth on society were two of his particular interests.

Scott was a fellow of the Geological Society of America and a member of the Paleontological Society and of the Bronze Circle of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences of the University of Illinois. In 1995 he was given the university's Geology Alumni Achievement Award. In the community, he served as president of the Kiwanis Club of Champaign, was active in the local Boy Scouts of America program, and established the Lincoln Circuit Trail in Vermilion County, Illinois.

Harold Scott is survived by a daughter, Joann Anderson, and two sons, Harold Scott and Robert Scott, six grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and a sister, Illo Foreman. His wife, Joann, preceded him in death.

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