MEMORIAL

JAMES FITZGERALD, JR.
(1903-1951)

James FitzGerald, Jr., independent geologist and operator of Midland, Texas, died in a Washington, D. C., hospital on August 29, 1951, following a prolonged illness.

FitzGerald was born, November 6, 1903, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the son of James and Ina FitzGerald. He was still a small boy when his parents moved to Tulsa, where he received his early education in Holy Family and Central High Schools. After two years of attending the University of Tulsa, he continued at the University of Oklahoma, where he received a degree in geology in 1924. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

The first few years of his professional career were spent in the field, where he did surface work in Kansas and Oklahoma with the White Eagle Oil and Gas Company and the Empire Oil and Refining Company. He joined the geological staff of the Skelly Oil Company in 1927 and continued to work both in the field and office until 1933 when he was assigned to the West Texas-New Mexico area as district geologist. After serving in this capacity four years he was transferred to the land and lease department as manager of the Permian Basin office. In 1939 FitzGerald was instrumental in the purchase of leases and the drilling of the discovery well in the South Lovington pool, Lea County, New Mexico. In recognition of this service he was commissioned an Honorary Colonel on the Governor’s Staff of New Mexico.

In 1943 Jim resigned from the Skelly Oil Company in order to branch out on his own as an independent operator. His broad background of experience and knowledge of the area, and the host of friends made through the years, served him well in this venture, and he was only beginning to enjoy the fruits of his endeavors at the time of his untimely death.

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