On July 3, 1951, at the Mercy Hospital in Bakersfield, California, the Pacific Section lost one of its most highly respected and affectionately regarded members.

With characteristic tenacity, Joseph Jefferson Bryan fought a long, painful battle over a period of months far beyond the expectations of his physicians. During this period he not only continued to meet his daily responsibilities, but actually redoubled his efforts to be of service.

Joe was born in Chillicothe, Missouri, August 15, 1905, the youngest of eight children of Alfonso and Mabel Jones Bryan. He was graduated from Chillicothe High School in 1924 and entered the University of Missouri in 1925, graduating in 1929 with a Bachelor's degree in geology and chemistry. He was a member of Delta Sigma Phi, Sigma Gamma Epsilon, and Sigma Xi. Joe was a conscientious student who retained an unusually large part of all he learned. Still he found time to engage actively in competitive sports, football being his favorite. The Missouri Tigers had no more ardent supporter than Joe Bryan.

After gaining experience as assistant geologist for the Treadwell-Yukon Mining Company, Bradley, Ontario, Joe took a teaching fellowship at his Alma Mater, receiving his Master's degree in geology in June, 1931. He interrupted work on his Doctorate to join the United States National Park Service as Ranger Naturalist in Grand Canyon, Arizona.

In 1935, Joe came to Bakersfield to work for the Tide Water Associated Oil Company. California was the state he was to know and love best, second only, perhaps, to his native Missouri. In 1937, on a joint exploration venture by the Tide Water Standard, and Union Oil companies, Joe undertook the first of several seasons of field work in Alaska. He enjoyed the work and the country, and gave vivid accounts of cold, wet, windy hikes through knee-deep grasses and across rocky wastelands. Especially impressive were his encounters with Kodiak bears weighing up to 1,500 pounds. Joe was a fine companion in the field where a man's true qualities become apparent. Here he formed many warm and lasting friendships. Among such field partners were O. F. Kotick, Miguel de Laveaga, J. C. Hazzard, and G. Dallas Hanna. Hanna has said, “it is hard to imagine a more lovable character in camp.” Kotick, John May, and W. D. Kleinpell sponsored Joe when he became a member of A.A.P.G. in 1941.

Joining the Union Oil Company in 1944 and advancing to the position of division geologist in 1946, Joe continued his geological studies of the San Joaquin Valley. His efforts bore fruit in the discovery or extension of the Cymric, Salt Creek, Helm, West...