MEMORIALS

ALBERT LORENZO BALLOU, JR. 
(1917–1962)

Albert L. Ballou, Jr., graduate geologist, geophysicist, and associate member of the Association since 1944, died in Tulsa, Oklahoma, December 4, 1962, after a courageous seven-year fight against cancer. He was on the job until Saturday, November 24, 1962, when he entered the hospital. He died with the dignity and courage which so characterized him. His untimely death recalls the Lamentation of Ecclesiastes: “For man also knoweth not his time, as the fishes are taken in an evil net and as the birds are caught in the snare, so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them.”

Al was born in Muskogee, Oklahoma, January 17, 1917, and attended primary and secondary schools in Muskogee. He was an outstanding football player during his high-school years, and was acclaimed All State center in 1936, his senior year. He enrolled at the University of Arkansas in 1937, but a football injury forced him to withdraw. He entered the University of Oklahoma in the fall of 1938, graduating in 1942, with a Bachelor of Science degree in geology.

He joined Seismograph Service Corporation as a computer shortly thereafter, and commenced a highly successful career. He was supervisor for Seismograph Service Company in Mexico from May, 1950, to April, 1952, when he became a partner in Manhart, Millison, and Beebe, petroleum exploration consultants, and Ballou-Wright Drilling Company. When the former partnership was dissolved in 1955, he formed a partnership, Rupnik and Ballou, with John J. Rupnik, in Tulsa. In 1959, he organized Petro Exploration Company, geophysical contractors, of which he was president at the time of his death. The company had offices in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Wichita and Great Bend, Kansas.

Al earned an enviable reputation as an authority on field problems and seismic interpretation in western Kansas. He early recognized the need for sound, precise geological background, and precision in his field operations and interpretation. With the writer, he co-authored one of the earliest published papers on this type of work, “A Case History of the Smallwood Pool, Stafford County, Kansas,” Geophysical Case Histories, Vol. II, 1956, p. 310–327, describing this adventure in microseisms and showing the necessity for the complete partnership of geology and geophysics in these exacting surveys.

Al was a member of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists, Geophysical Society of Tulsa, and the Tulsa, Oklahoma City, and Kansas Geological Societies. He was also a member of the Petroleum Club, Oaks Country Club, and Trinity Methodist Church, all of Tulsa, and was a 32d degree Mason.

He was united in marriage on July 31, 1943, at Chickasha, Oklahoma, to Rachel E. Ritter, who survives him. Raye was Al’s closest associate and confidant in all their business enterprises.

Words are inadequate to express the depth of Al’s character, his complete dependability and rigorous honesty, his technical proficiency, and the esteem in which he was held by his associates. Yet these phrases give no picture of his subtle