Friends and former associates of James Hiram “Spot” Tandy were saddened by the news of his death, December 4, 1962, in the hospital at Vinita, Oklahoma. Death resulted from heart failure following a severe attack of pneumonia. Spot had suffered for many years from a mild heart weakness, but he continued active in the management of his business until hospitalized during his last brief illness. He is survived by his widow, Esca; an adopted daughter, Willa; a grandson “Butch”; and a sister, Mrs. M. F. Birdwell of Nestor, California.

James Hiram Tandy was born October 29, 1892, on a ranch near Hilton, in Taylor County, Texas, the son of William and Martha Tandy. His father died while Spot was quite young and he was forced to rely largely on his own resources while still in his early teens. Spot’s formal academic education was frequently interrupted and rather incomplete. From 1909 through 1911, he attended Hargrove College in Ardmore, Oklahoma. He took a special course in geology at Bonn University in Germany, while serving with the American Expeditionary Force during World War I. Spot served with the Rainbow Division as a Corporal in the 29th Engineers.

Spot’s native aptitude, energy, and self-reliance did much to compensate for his lack of formal academic training. He became an expert in the use of the transit and alidade. While still a youth, he was employed by the Katy Railroad on an engineering party. Later he joined the United States Geological Survey and spent two years in primary traverse and topographic mapping.

His first contact with the rapidly expanding oil industry came in 1915, when he went to work on a field elevation party, for the Gypsy Oil Company in the Tulsa district. Exploratory techniques were still in the early stages of development. The search for drillable structures was increasing at a rapid rate. Oil companies were sending out surface mapping parties by the score. Subsurface studies were still in their infancy. No elevation or well log services were available. The only assembled information of this type was in the jealously guarded files of a few of the major companies. There were no geophysical instruments, and no electronic measuring or recording devices. Correct surface structural interpretation was dependent on the accuracy of elevations and correlations, and the judgment of the geologist. Subsurface mapping at the time entailed the problem of locating and running elevations on hundreds of old abandoned wells and dry holes scattered over a wide area, and the additional challenge of obtaining from any possible source—drillers, scouts, fellow-geologists or company files—formation tops or drillers logs on all of these holes.

Spot Tandy’s earlier experiences and his own personal aptitudes enabled him to fit in uniquely with this type of exploration. He was fast and accurate with transit and alidade and was familiar with all of the time-saving short-cuts in field practice. He was tireless and persistent in the search for an old obscure abandoned well or dry hole, and equally diligent in scouting for logs and formation tops on these holes. He had no embarrassment in asking for information at any level—driller, scout, scientist, banker, or executive.

After the two-year interruption of World War I, while he was serving with the American Expeditionary Force in Europe, Spot returned to Tulsa and resumed work in the oil industry. Over a period of ten to twelve years he was employed.