ROBERT BARNES McNEELY

(1902–1966)

Robert Barnes McNeely died in Wichita, Kansas, May 31, 1966, of a heart attack at the age of 64. He is survived by his wife, Joy; two sons, Robert W., Columbia, South Carolina, and John Barnes, a geology senior in Oklahoma University; two daughters, Mrs. C. E. Huggins, Dallas, Texas, and Mrs. James L. Youngers, Kansas City, Missouri; five grandchildren; and a brother, John S. McNeely, Dallas, Texas.

He was born in Tecumseh, Oklahoma, March 10, 1902. His mother was Emma Barnes McNeely and his father was Robert Lee McNeely who died in 1908 leaving their two boys fatherless.

Robert was graduated from Tecumseh High School in 1920. He attended Oklahoma University until 1923 when he joined the Marland Oil Company geological force. He received his B.S. degree in 1927. He worked in Oklahoma, Kansas, Tennessee, and western Canada in the summers of 1926 and 1927, the last year's assignment being with a pack-train party north of Edmonton. While in Russell, Kansas, the fall of 1928, he met Miss Joy Clodfelter and later, after he had left Marland for the Independent Oil and Gas Company, they were married at Salina, Kansas, October 5, 1929. He became district geologist in Kansas but a merger with the Phillips Petroleum Company terminated his employment in November, 1930. He was hired by Bruno Rixleben as geologist for Minnehoma Oil Company but within the month their exploration program was reduced and McNeely began his career as an independent.

From Chandler he moved to Oklahoma City and then to Wichita in 1932. He promoted several profitable prospects during the next few years and became a successful operator and consultant. His activities ranged from oil exploration in Kansas, Illinois, Oklahoma, and Rocky Mountain states to uranium in New Mexico. “Mac” was fascinated by the life and history of the Southwest and sometimes took his older son with him in this field work. Young Bob discovered a complete Plesiosaurus skeleton which is now in the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Over the years “Mac” read and researched much of the history of the region.

He was a member of the A.A.P.G., Kansas Geological Society, Wichita Petroleum Club, and the Presbyterian Church.

“Mac” had a keen mind and an excellent memory. The late A. J. Williams once told me, “He has a fast mind.” “Mac” knew Robert W. Ser-