LEWIS MARTIN  
(1920-1973)  

Lewis Martin died November 24, 1973, in Presbyterian Hospital, San Francisco, following a short but courageous battle against cancer. Final memorial services were held November 27 in Walnut Creek, California.

Lew Martin was born in New York City August 15, 1920, the son of Luis Martin and Francisca Perez de Martin. He grew up in New York and obtained his early education in public schools of that system. Shortly after graduation from Benjamin Franklin High School, Lew enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and subsequently spent six years in the service of his country. As with many young men of his time, Lew, on return to civilian life, set his sights on a serious academic career and California as the place to pursue it. He was graduated with a B.S. in Geology from the University of Southern California in 1949 and earned his M.S. the following year.

Jobs in geology were far from plentiful for inexperienced young graduates in 1950, but Lew landed one with the Hydrographic Office of the U.S. Navy Department as a shipboard scientist, and thus began his professional career pioneering in oceanography, a discipline which subsequently has become increasingly important to the basic precepts of our science.

In 1953 Lew left the Navy Department and joined Dominion Oil of Trinidad, a move which set the cornerstone for a lifetime dedication to international exploration and a permanent association with the Standard Oil of California family of companies. He stayed two years in Trinidad where he participated in the early attempts to unravel the geology of that complex area, and during this time he decided to complete his formal education and, in his own words, "find a wife."

In 1955 he was granted an educational leave of absence and successfully accomplished both objectives. At Stanford University he completed the course work toward a Ph.D. and still found time to court Lois Deicke, a talented Stanford graduate who proved to be the ideal partner and shared with him the pleasures and adventures of travel and the challenge of overseas living. Lew and Lois were married in Lombard, Illinois, in June 1957.

After satisfying the academic requirements at Stanford, Lew rejoined Socal and took his bride to Barranquilla, Colombia, where he spent a short term as micropaleontologist for Richmond Petroleum Company. Their first child, Lisa, was born in Barranquilla. In November 1959 Lew was offered...