MEMORIALS

GREGORY W. MANNHARD
(1945-1979)

Gregory W. Mannhard died in Denver, Colorado, on February 17, 1979, of injuries sustained a week earlier in a skiing accident. He was 33 years old.

The third of seven children, Greg was born in El Paso, Texas, on December 9, 1945. His family then moved to St. Louis, Missouri, where he spent his childhood years.

In 1967 Greg graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in geology from St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Indiana. Shortly thereafter, he entered graduate school at the University of Oklahoma. His studies were interrupted in 1969 for a tour of duty in the U.S. Army where he spent three years on active duty as a field artillery instructor and held the rank of 1st lieutenant upon separation.

He married Judith A. Godwin on January 7, 1972, while finishing his master's degree in geology at Oklahoma. His master's thesis, a subsurface stratigraphic analysis of the Morrow sandstones in southwestern Kansas and northwestern Oklahoma, was subsequently published in the 1974 AAPG Bulletin with Daniel A. Busch, Greg's thesis advisor, as co-author.

Greg completed his doctorate in geology at the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque in August 1976. His dissertation focused on the stratigraphy and sedimentology of the La Ventana Tongue of the Cliff House Sandstone in southeastern New Mexico. Some results of this work were presented in 1975 at both the AAPG Rocky Mountain Section meeting and the AAPG annual convention.

Greg held numerous temporary positions during his academic career. He was a teaching assistant at Oklahoma and New Mexico, as well as a part-time faculty member at New Mexico. He was a research geologist for Sun Oil during the summer of 1972 and a summer geologist for Gulf in 1967 and Amoco Production Co. in 1973.

Following completion of his doctorate in 1976, Greg moved to Denver and joined the exploration staff of Amoco. He made several important contributions in his short career with Amoco. His work in the Sholom Alechem field led to a clear understanding of factors affecting stratigraphic trap development in the Pennsylvanian Sims Sandstone in southern Oklahoma. He also developed a refined structural interpretation of the Rock Springs uplift in southwestern Wyoming.

Greg did not overload himself with projects that remained forever half done. Instead, he preferred to focus on all aspects of a single problem until a meaningful solution was reached. His tenacity and enthusiasm for geology led to many late hours at the office which often culminated in a sprint down 16th Street in hot pursuit of the last bus.

Greg did not preach—he practiced. He lived his beliefs with high ideals and a remarkable self-discipline. He jogged avidly, was a competitive tennis player, and an accomplished skier. A devout Catholic, Greg possessed a truly profound personal commitment to the poor and underprivileged. Many weekends were spent in service to those less fortunate than himself. In addition to the responsibilities of his own two children, he was also an active member of Denver’s Big Brother program.

The loss of a fellow geologist at the dawn of his career is a stunning blow to all of us. However, the accomplishments and success of a career can never be measured in years alone. Greg distinguished himself by substantial contributions in the short time which was his. We must not think in terms of lost potential or unrealized accomplishments, for certainly it is evident that Greg achieved more than many people twice his age. The ideals and personal integrity Greg brought to his work, as well as his personal life, will not soon be forgotten.