Robert B. Mitchell died on February 17, 1987, after remaining comatose from a stroke suffered a month earlier on January 19. The stroke was so severe that he never had any hope of survival, and finally he slipped peacefully away from a happy and successful life. A mourner at the funeral commenting about Bob said, "One of the last, original oil men, whose likes we will never see again, has just passed from the scene."

Bob was born in Toledo, Ohio, on April 2, 1902, and even in his younger years, showed a budding interest in the earth and nature. As a Boy Scout, he wrote an article, "Birds and Reciprocity," and went on to a lifetime hobby as an expert ornithologist. His love of the earth led him to the University of Michigan where he studied geology and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in geology with a major in economic geology in 1924.

While at the university, Bob displayed the energy, leadership, and involvement that characterized his professional life. He was class treasurer in 1921 and 1923, and was assistant manager of the football team in 1922. He belonged to the Sigma Chi fraternity and maintained his interest in the fraternity throughout his life. Several years ago, when his fraternity brother and college roommate of four years died, Bob donated a beautiful conference table to the fraternity in his friend's memory. Bob was a very generous man who wanted to give something back to the university that gave him the foundation for his successful career in oil and gas exploration. He funded the impressive state-of-the-art Robert B. Mitchell Electron Microbeam Analysis Laboratory and was honored at the dedication ceremony of the lab in 1986.

Bob was also generous in giving his time and money to a number of organizations of various types. A small sampling of his activities over the years includes his being co-chairman of the Houston Christmas Seal Campaign, a life member of the Houston Fat Stock Show, past president of the Houston Sigma Chi Alumni Association, past president and director of the River Oaks Country Club, Trustee of the South Texas College of Law in Houston, and a director of Southwest Forest Industries. If a worthwhile organization needed help, Bob was there to help. He was a political activist who held a strong belief that the basic freedoms and moral and ethical values of our nation must be preserved if we were to continue as a great and unique country. He was active in the Republican party, and in his later years donated much time and money to conservative political causes.

Bob lived life with zest. He loved hunting and fishing and thoroughly enjoyed wild-game dinners. A good gin rummy game with his friends brought out the best in him, and he took pride in a good round of golf. He lived an easy nine-iron shot from the River Oaks Country Club where he played frequently until cataracts and a subsequent operation made it difficult for him to see. On an earlier occasion when Bob was disgusted with his performance in losing a game of golf, he declared that he was going to sell his clubs. A mischievous member of the foursome followed up his declaration by putting this advertisement in the "for sale" section of the local newspaper: "Complete set of Spaulding golf clubs for sale" with Bob's name and box number. The joke was enjoyed by all, including Bob.

Bob married Statira Jane (Betty) Butman in 1927 and brought his new bride to Texas. During the Great Depression, they lived in the Stanolind camp in Pampa, Texas. Not only did Bob thoroughly enjoy his job, but he and Betty enjoyed living in the camp as well. Bob recalled, "Nobody had any money and we all had a good time." Their main entertainment was riding the horses kept at the camp. Betty died

Continued on next page