Memorials

*Memorials are limited to 800 words or 2–3 typewritten double-spaced pages.

PHILIP WINGATE REINHART
(1905–1991)

by Larry Brundall
Santa Barbara, California

Philip Wingate Reinhart died, after a lengthy illness, on December 16, 1991, in Santa Barbara, California. He was born in Ferguson, Missouri, in 1905, the son of Emil Troder and Ida Bibb Reinhart. He is survived by his wife, Marion; daughter, Jan Kelley; two grandchildren; and a sister, Vivienne Powers.

The Reinharts moved to Houston when Phil was five years old. His high school education was at Kemper Military Academy in Boonville, Missouri. He attended Rice Institute (now University) from 1923 to 1925, but transferred to Stanford University before he graduated because he had become interested in geology, and geology was not taught at Rice at that time. He received an A.B. degree in 1927, followed by an A.M. in 1928. While at Stanford, he met his future wife, Marion Edith Argabrite, of Ventura, California, who was also a student.

Phil was hired by Shell Oil Company in 1928 and was engaged in field work in California. He and Marion were married in 1930. This felicitous union lasted 61 years, until Phil's death. Because of the Great Depression, he was laid off in 1931. In a way, this was a favor because he had wanted to continue to study for a Ph.D., so he returned to Stanford that year and received his Ph.D. in 1933. Shell rehired him in 1935, and he worked in California until 1943. During that period, Phil and Marion moved from and to a number of California locations. In addition to field work, he also acted as geological coordinator in various seismic programs.

In 1943, Phil and Marion moved to Casper, Wyoming, where he was named exploration manager of a new Shell division. The Casper years were fruitful ones for the Reinharts. At long last they were able to settle down and not worry about being moved every few months. The move was a professional challenge to Phil. He was involved in a new (to him) little-explored area having great petroleum potential. During this time, the Casper staff expanded and several geological and seismic crews were in operation most of the time. Later, he supervised activities in the Powder River basin and was directly responsible for most of the deep exploratory tests that lead to the discovery of Ash Creek and South Ash Creek oil fields on the Wyoming–Montana state line. Other deep tests in the central basin and east flank provided valuable information on later Shell discoveries in the Minnelusa and Mesa Verde formations.

A colleague of the Casper period wrote, "Phil was particularly adept at summarizing the geological framework of potential prospects." Another colleague wrote of "his wonderful ability to teach us young fellows just out of college all the things we needed to be petroleum geologists. He showed me how important and useful a tool the isopach map could be.... I remember the Casper days were the best I ever had with Shell and a great deal of the credit belongs to Phil." Another colleague wrote, "Looking back, I thank P.W.R. for patience, perseverance, and personality that helped initiate another neophyte in the oil business." Phil's great sense of humor was mentioned a number of times.

The Reinhart's last move with Shell was to Denver, Colorado, in 1955, where Phil was area geologist until his retirement in 1959. He was a consultant in Denver until 1965, when he and Marion moved to Santa Barbara, California.

As a direct result of the Santa Barbara oil spill in 1969, Phil was appointed to that city's newly formed Environmental Quality Advisory Board (EQAB). His professional expertise was valuable in helping city officials and the general public to better understand the spill. In addition to the oil spill matter, EQAB acted in an advisory capacity in a number of environmental concerns and, here too, Phil's scientific objectivity was most helpful. In other community activities he was a member and president of the Cosmopolitan Club, a prestigious luncheon group; a Vestryman and Senior Warden of All-Saints-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church; and president of a local Toastmasters club.

Phil had three great loves: family, geology, and music. He demonstrated his musical ability when he played oboe in the Kemper and Stanford bands. Later, he and Marion studied the piano, and their friends used to enjoy listening to duets played on two grand pianos. Musical ability runs in the family. Their daughter, Jan Kelley, is a professional cellist and is married to a musician. Their two grandchildren, Daniel and Joyce, also are following musical careers, and Joyce is emulating her grandfather by playing the oboe.

Phil was a fellow of the Geological Society of America, Emeritus Member of the AAPG, and a member of Sigma Xi.

He was a soft-spoken and very polite person—truly, a "gentleman of the old school."