Robert C. Lang, III
(1923–1993)

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Robert C. Lang, III, was born September 28, 1923, in Fort Myers, Florida, and passed away on July 18, 1993, in Ardmore, Oklahoma, after a relatively short illness that he fought with the same tenacious optimism that characterized his philosophy of life. To discuss his accomplishments and interests only in the light of petroleum geology would be a total disservice to the whole person. Besides being a geological scientist and oil finder, he was a humorous entertainer and had an unquenchable thirst for knowledge.

During his early life, he attended schools in Florida; and after having attended the Gordon Military College was well prepared to enter military service during World War II. He participated in the Pacific Theater of Operations as an infantry officer. He was awarded the Bronze Star two times, and the Silver Star, our nation’s third highest combat decoration.

Following World War II, Bob returned to school and earned a Masters Degree with honors in geological engineering from the University of Oklahoma. While he was a graduate assistant, he had the opportunity to lead field trips through the complex geology of southern Oklahoma; and many of his later friends first became acquainted with him at that time. Also at that time, his lifelong fascination with this area became established. His early leadership role in conducting such field trips indicated his willingness to share his knowledge and insight with other geologists in the area.

Following graduation from the University of Oklahoma, Bob was employed by Humble Oil and Refining Company in Houston, Texas. From 1951 to 1958, he served as chief geologist for Samedan Oil Corporation in Ardmore, Oklahoma. After leaving that company, he organized his own company, Compadre Oil Corporation, and served as a consultant to some of the largest independent oil companies in southern Oklahoma. With offices both in Ardmore and Calgary, Canada, he was able to establish oil and gas production in both areas and become an acknowledged authority in the geology of those diverse producing regions.

In 1963, Governor Henry Bellmon appointed him to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board; and in 1992, the Ardmore Geological Society made him an honorary life member.

In addition to his contributions to his chosen profession, Bob will long be remembered for many talents. He was an accomplished singer and storyteller with a total command of the English language. Those of us who knew him would sit entranced by his recollections of his early days in Florida, his military experiences during the war, and his recitation of more current happenings. At the time of his death, he was in the process of writing two novels. He was vitally interested in civil war history and visited every historical monument no matter how far he might have to detour dur-