WILLIAM DAVIS "DUB" HALE
(1942—1996)

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William Davis "Dub" Hale passed away on July 3, 1996, in Graham, Texas, after a 19-month battle with cancer. With his passing, the geological community has lost a dedicated oil finder, an excellent geologist, and a strong supporter of the earth sciences. Dub was one of those unique individuals that had the ability to analyze subsurface geological data and parlay the information into a viable drilling prospect. His success as a petroleum geologist is testament to his sound reasoning and use of all available data.

Dub was born on January 13, 1942, in Electra, Texas. After graduation from Electra High School, he moved to Wichita Falls, Texas, where he attended Draughon's Business School and became a draftsman. He was employed by Cities Service Oil Company and enrolled in Midwestern University. While attending Midwestern, he also worked for Kadane Oil Company, and upon earning his Bachelor of Science degree in geology in May 1967, went to work as a full-time geologist for the Kadanes. I met Dub in the summer of 1966 while we were both attending Texas Tech field camp in Salido, Colorado. We were field partners and became friends for the next 30 years.

Dub married Alice Nann Coker on December 23, 1967, in Wichita Falls, Texas, and to this union two wonderful daughters, Kandy and Brandi, were born. He was a loving husband and adoring father who placed his family above all his other endeavors. The closeness and unity of the Hale family is a living memorial to Dub. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Nann and the girls, knowing that their loss is heavy and long-enduring. Nann told me that she not only lost her husband but also her best friend when Dub passed away.

Dub worked for Kadane Oil Company from 1965 to 1972 in Wichita Falls and then moved to Dallas where he joined Southwestern Gas Company as north Texas exploration geologist. He then went to work for Lone Star Producing Company (now Enserch) in their Dallas office as an exploration geologist. In August 1973, Dub made an important career decision to leave company employment and become an independent geologist. The price of natural gas had increased fourfold, and oil prices had gone from $3.00 to $5.00 a barrel. Dub felt that the time was right to take the plunge and entered the oil business as an independent oil operator.

On September 1, 1973, Dub and Jack Nunley, a land man, leased a prospect in Wise County, Texas. Their first well hit, the oil and gas prices kept going up, and they became a bona fide oil company, operating as Nunley & Hale. In the spring of 1974, they decided to find a location closer to the oil activity and after visiting several towns decided that Graham, Texas, would be ideal for their operations. They took their two used desks and one army surplus file cabinet and moved into the old Graham Land Office Building. Nunley & Hale drilled 36 wells in 1975 and 43 wells in 1976. Most of these were drilled in the Boonesville Bend gas field of Jack, Wise, and Palo Pinto counties of north Texas. Their success rate was phenomenal, and oil and gas prices were setting all-time records. In June 1976, Dub decided to form his own company and try the oil business completely on his own. He formed Hale Oil and Gas Properties and launched on a most productive and successful 20+ year career as an independent oil operator.

Dub Hale was an active member of AAPG, one of the founders of the Graham Geological Society (December 1981), and a director of the Independent Petroleum Association of America. He served as the second president of the Graham Geological Society (1982-1983) and was instrumental in their becoming a sanctioned affiliate of AAPG. When questioned at the AAPG National Convention on where exactly Graham, Texas, was located, their response was that everyone knew that Graham was located 25 miles from Wizard Wells, Texas. The Graham Geological Society was unanimously approved as an affiliated society of AAPG.

Dub and his family moved to Graham, Texas, in 1974 and resided there until his untimely passing. He was active in civic and church affairs and established himself as a highly respected businessman and beloved community member. The standing room only at his memorial service in the Graham First United Methodist Church was a tribute and testament to his impact on his community and