



E. Russell Lloyd 1979

E. Russell Lloyd, a native West Virginian, was born in 1882. A brilliant student, he earned a Rhodes scholarship. While studying at Oxford, he vacationed in the Alps and other European locations whose geological formations intrigued him. He took up serious study of geology. His subsequent career included work with the United States Geological Survey; with Sinclair Wyoming; at Roswell, New Mexico, with Roxana Oil; in Midland, with Superior Oil Company and as an independent geologist.

Lloyd's great contribution to Permian Basin oil development and to scientific knowledge generally took form over several years. He sensed that the Capitan Peak in southwestern New Mexico was part of a great reef system that formed the western boundary for a sedimentary basin we now call the Permian Basin. His studies of this reef system and of limestone problems in geological interpretations led to his becoming an internationally recognized authority in his field.

His distinguished colleague, John Emery Adams, once called him the foremost geologist in West Texas.

He served as associate editor of the American Association of petroleum Geologists Bulletin for many years. His death in 1955 ended the career but not the influence of a wise, kindly, man whose analytical mind brought untold benefits to this region and the nation.