



**Dean E. “Cap” Lounsbury 1972**

Dean E. Lounsbury of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, was involved with rocks in the Permian Basin so long that he probably came to know every single one by name, rank, and serial number.

In 1919 Cap Lounsbury graduated from Cornell University in New York. He followed this with a year on the Cornell faculty, but left in 1920 to do geological work for Whitehall Petroleum Corporation in western Indian, Baluchistan, and Burma, which must be a story in its own right.

From 1922 to 1924 he did field work for Midwest Refining in the Panhandles of Oklahoma and Texas, in the Mountain States, and in the Permian Basin. In 1924 he became district geologist for Midwest at Abilene and held this position for two years. In December, 1926, he was named district geologist for Phillips Petroleum at San Angelo with responsibility for the West Texas and North Central Texas areas.

From this vantage point he began to do great things for Phillips, laying the foundation for much of the reserves that the company developed in the Basin. In 1933 he went to Bartlesville as assistant chief geologist, and was named chief geologist in 1937. From 1952 to 1962 he was technical assistant to the Vice President of the Land and Geological Department. Directly and indirectly, he thus shared in geological work in the Basin for 38 years.

One of the many major contributions he made was in the locating and drilling of Phillips’ No. 1 Glenna, in 1952. This well opened up the deep Delaware and Valverde basins, a development that even today is a strong stimulant to the Basin’s economy. He was also involved in acquiring large lease holdings for Phillips in the Goldsmith and Embar fields, and in many others.

Cap Lounsbury is one of those men who – because their judgments were trusted and because of recognized skills – were able to move large corporations into spending many hundreds of thousands of dollars in what have been lost causes but turned out to be very large reserves. He knows the Basin as few know it. It exists today because he and men like him gave it their best, and their best was very good indeed.