

## Charles E. Decker

(1868-1958)

Charles Elijah Decker, one of the first members of the Oklahoma Academy of Science and one time president of the organization, passed away August 23, 1958 at his home in Norman, Oklahoma. Although he was probably the oldest member of the Academy his unusually good health and intense interest in research kept him active up until the very hour of his death.

Dr. Decker was born on a farm near Dixon, Illinois, on September 27, 1868. He received an A.B. degree in 1906 from Northwestern University and two years later the M.A. degree from the University of Chicago. After several years of teaching he received the Ph.D. degree in 1917 from the University of Chicago.

In 1916 Dr. Decker became a member of the instructional staff in Geology at the University of Oklahoma and the remainder of his life was devoted to building the reputation of that school through his teaching and research. His bibliography contains more than 75 papers, some of which are concerned with his stratigraphic studies in the Arbuckle and Wichita Mountains of Oklahoma, but most discuss his research work with regard to graptolites. He became an international authority in this latter field.

He was one of the founders of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and served as the national secretary-treasurer for seven years. He also helped organize the Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists and served as president of it in 1930. Both of these organizations in recent years elected him to honorary membership. He was a Fellow in the Geological Society of America, an honorary member of Phi Beta Kappa and twice president of the Oklahoma University chapter of Sigma XI. In 1935 Oklahoma City University conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Science.

Many people who were not acquainted with Dr. Decker's reputation as an earth scientist knew him for his activities in the McFarlin Methodist church which he served faithfully and efficiently in many important capa-

cities. Others knew him for his work in cross-pollination of Iris which caused him to be called upon frequently to act as judge in Iris contests. The thousands of men and women who knew him in any one of the many diverse facets of his career all agree that he was one of the most industrious, capable, and kind men of their acquaintance.

V. E. Monnett and Carl C. Branson