
Charles Weldon Tomlinson

1892-1960

Charles Weldon Tomlinson, consulting geologist and oil producer was born on April 23, 1892, in Detroit, Michigan. He died on April 3, 1960 in Ardmore, Oklahoma.

He entered the University of Wisconsin in the fall of 1909 electing to major in geology. Four years later he received the Bachelor of Arts degree and after a year of graduate work the Master of Arts degree. He spent the academic year 1914-1915 in graduate work at the University of Minnesota and the next year he transferred his studies to the University of Chicago from which he received his Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1916.

Immediately after receiving his doctorate Dr. Tomlinson started practicing geology by accepting a position as oil geologist with the Carter Oil Company in Kansas. He was appointed Professor of Geology at Mississippi A. and M. College for the academic year 1916-1917. During the next 24 years he served three as district geologist for the Gypsy Oil Company and the remaining years as geologist for and with J. B. Schermerhorn. Since 1942 he has been an independent oil producer and geologist.

During his very active career Dr. Tomlinson enjoyed membership in many honorary and scientific societies. While in college he was selected to membership in Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi. Among the scientific societies in which he held memberships are the Oklahoma Academy of Science, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and the Geological Society of America in which he was a Fellow. Of these societies he was most active in the American Association of Petroleum Geologists in which he served on a large number of committees, became a Life Member in 1939 and was elected to the Presidency in 1949.

Dr. Tomlinson was interested in all divisions of geological science. The great variety of subject with which his many published articles deal is evidence of his diversified interests and his outstanding ability in the various divisions of his science. His particular interest was the geology of the Arbuckle Mountains. If it can be said that a person loved the geology of an area it is certain that Dr. Tomlinson felt that way toward the Arbuckle Mountains.

Without question Dr. Tomlinson was one of the outstanding geologists of his time, but he was much more than a geologist to the people who knew him. He was a man who had ideas, who could lead and who had

ability to accomplish. He was one of those very much needed men in his community who gave freely of his time and his ability to his Church, to the creation of things not only for the benefit of the people of his community but for all people, to the teaching of young people, to the teaching of geology by conducting group and personal field trips for all who were interested and to extending aid to the students and geologists who were working in southeastern Oklahoma. Dr. Tomlinson will always be remembered by his great number of friends and the geologists who knew him as a companionable, kindly and most generous person whose help and encouragement were always available.

A. N. Murray
