

Roland Leroy Clifton**1884-1962**

A well-known Oklahoma geologist, and long-time resident of Enid, Roland L. Clifton, passed away on July 27, 1962.

Roland, son of B. F. and Anna Clifton, was born in Stafford, Kansas, on May 13, 1884, and was raised near Freedom, Oklahoma. He taught in various schools from 1901 to 1908 and was a school principal from 1909 to 1911. In 1913 he and Luellen Chesnut were married in Alva. The first bachelor's degree, Northwestern State Teachers College, was awarded to Roland in 1920. He served as Superintendent of Schools at Shattuck, Kingfisher, and Marlow. He took some course work at the University of Kansas, then came to The University of Oklahoma, where he earned the MS degree in geology in 1925. His thesis was *Areal extent and Stratigraphy of the Whitehorse sandstone*.

He worked with Oklahoma Geological Survey and wrote Bulletin 40-A on oil and gas in Woods, Alfalfa, Harper, Major, Woodward, and Ellis Counties (1926), and Bulletin 40-Y on oil and gas in Harmon, Tillman, Jackson, and Greer Counties (1927).

Clifton joined Champlin Oil and Refining Company about 1926 and rose to be its chief geologist, a position from which he retired in 1948. He then became an independent producer and continued in the career the rest of his life.

Clifton was actively interested in scientific matters and published a number of papers on Permian stratigraphy and fossils. He led organized field trips in northwestern Oklahoma, one of which was for The Oklahoma Academy of Science.

He served as first lieutenant in the Officer Reserve Corps, State Militia. He was a Mason, an Odd Fellow, and a member of Modern Woodmen of the World. He belonged to Pick and Hammer and Sigma Gamma Epsilon geological societies. His professional societies were American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists, Society of Economic Geologists, American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers, Oklahoma City Geological Society, and the Oklahoma Academy of Science.

Carl C. Branson
