
A. Rodger Denison
1897-1962

With the death of Dr. Rodger Denison, the science of geology lost a man who has given much to the profession. He and his wife, Maud Espy Denison, were killed in the crash of a commercial airplane at Honolulu on July 22. He had actually passed retirement age and was traveling on a final mission for his company at the time of the tragedy.

Albert Rodger Denison was born near Oklahoma City on June 7, 1897. He taught school from 1913 to 1921 and studied geology part time at The University of Oklahoma, where he earned the Bachelor of Science in Geology degree in 1921. He worked part time for the Oklahoma Geological Survey in 1920, 1921 and 1922.

In his graduate work he had a teaching fellowship and earned his MS degree in Geology in 1925. His thesis, *The Roberson Field, Garvin County, Oklahoma*, was published in 1923.

Denison went to work for Amerada Petroleum Corporation as geologist in 1923 and rose rapidly, becoming district geologist in 1925, division geologist in 1927, chief geologist in 1937 and vice-president in 1950.

His many services to his country and to his fellow geologists include his work as member of the Board of Directors of the Community Chest (1955-1958), as secretary-treasurer of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (1929-1930) and later as president of the Association (1943-1944), as councillor of the Geological Society of America (1954-1957), as member of the Military Petroleum Advisory Board, and chairman of its Production Panel, as director, chairman of the finance committee, and member of the executive committee of American Geological Institute, and as chairman of the advisory committee of Research Project 51 for the American Petroleum Institute. In 1952 he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree by South Dakota School of Mines.

Denison helped students and geologists in many ways. He was representative for geology in The University of Oklahoma Career Conference, lecturer in classes and to public meetings and he arranged grants to help students in graduate work.

In college Rodger joined Kappa Alpha social fraternity and Sigma Gamma Epsilon, honorary Earth Science fraternity. He was a Mason, a member of the American Geophysical Union, of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, The Oklahoma Academy of Science and a member of the Tulsa Club.

Rodger Denison's life was a busy and productive one. He was especially known to geologists in general for his able and numerous services to the professional societies and to individual geologists.

Carl C. Branson
