

Eugene C. Reed, 1901-1976

Eugene Clifton Reed, water and petroleum pioneer and former State Geologist of Nebraska, died on July 19, 1976, in Lincoln, Nebraska. He had been active in geological research up to the time of his sudden death as the result of a fall at home. He is survived by his wife Kathryn (Slaughter) Reed.

Eugene Reed was born on December 12, 1901, in Holdrege, Nebraska. He received his A.B. degree in 1923 and his M.Sc. degree in 1933, both from the University of Nebraska. From 1923 to 1931, Mr. Reed was employed as a petroleum geologist in Mexico and Venezuela. In 1933, he joined the staff of the Conservation and Survey Division, a research and service arm of the University of Nebraska in the field of natural resource surveys. He became assistant director of the Division and Assistant State Geologist in 1940 and Director and State Geologist in 1954.

Mr. Reed pioneered several methods designed to provide more adequate and complete information about the occurrence and distribution of Nebraska's water-bearing formations. He devised a system, now widely accepted, whereby rock samples obtained by systematic test drilling could be rated in terms of their potential to yield water to wells. Under his leadership, a

program of testhole drilling, observation-well monitoring, and groundwater investigation was carried out throughout Nebraska, in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey, making Nebraska one of the leaders among the states in knowledge about the occurrence and availability of groundwater. The application of this knowledge provided the foundation for the expansion of the state's agricultural base through irrigation and effective groundwater management.

He was a pioneer in research concerned with the Pleistocene of the mid-continent region. His studies of this complex group of rocks provided a major contribution to knowledge of the Pleistocene deposits and an understanding of their importance to man.

In addition, he contributed personal leadership and scientific assistance to the State of Nebraska in the development of Nebraska's petroleum industry and in the development of the sand, gravel, and lime industries of the state.

Mr. Reed was a member of the Association of American State Geologists and was made an honorary member in 1968. He was a Fellow in The Geological Society of America, a member of Sigma Xi, American Association of Petroleum Geologists, American Geophysical Union, and Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists.

He was honored by many organizations for his contributions to scientific research and resource development. His extensive list of publications attests to the wide variety of his scientific interest and to his diligence in research and its applications.