



### **Virgil E. Barnes (1903-1998)**

The Director and staff of the Bureau of Economic Geology sadly announce the death of Dr. Virgil E. Barnes, age 94. Dr. Barnes was the oldest University of Texas faculty member and the oldest employee of the State of Texas, having been at The University of Texas for 63 years and having remained professionally active until very recently. He died on January 28 in an Austin, Texas, hospital.

Dr. Barnes was an internationally known authority on tektites and the author of more than 300 abstracts, articles, books, and maps, including his memoirs, "On Solid Ground: Memoirs of a Texas Geologist." At the Bureau of Economic Geology, where he had been employed since 1935, he was a Senior Research Scientist and the director of the Geologic Atlas of Texas project and the head of the Geologic Map of Texas mapping project.

During his distinguished career, Dr. Barnes received many awards, including the Meteoritical Society's Barringer Medal (1989) and the Texas Academy of Sciences' Distinguished Texas Scientist award (1988). He also received the Public Service Award of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (1993).

Two fossils were named in recognition of Dr. Barnes' work on Central Texas Cambrian rocks: *Anconochilus barnesi* Knight, a gastropod, and *Shelbyoceras barnesi* Flower, possibly a cephalopod. In 1978, a new lithium aluminum silicate mineral in glass from Peru was named "virgilite" in his honor.

Dr. Barnes was predeceased by his wife of 62 years, Mildred Louise Adlof Barnes, in 1994 and is survived by a son, Dr. Virgil E. Barnes II of West Lafayette, Indiana; two daughters, Dr. Louise Barnes of Nashville, Tennessee, and Dr. Elizabeth Barnes Thompson of New York City; and six grandchildren.

A memorial service was held in Austin, Texas, on Saturday, February 21, 1998. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Dr. Barnes' name to the Geology Foundation, The University of Texas at Austin. Austin, TX 78712.