

## DANIEL J. JONES (1889-1965)

Daniel J. Jones, State Geologist Emeritus, Kentucky Geological Survey, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on December 18, 1965, in Lexington, Kentucky. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Matilda Gilcher Jones; a daughter, Mrs. Glenn A. Price, Bayport, Long Island, New York; and three grandchildren.

Mr. Jones was born on a farm near German, New York, January 16, 1889. He received his elementary education in a one-room school at German and attended high school in nearby Greene. Later he enrolled at Syracuse University where he earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in geology.

In 1914 he joined the faculty of the University of Texas as instructor in mineralogy and economic geology, where he remained until 1917. At that time he left the academic field to accept industry employment, first with McMann Oil Company and then Eastern Gulf Oil Corporation.

Mr. Jones' work in petroleum geology took him to Kentucky where he resided the rest of his life. His professional activities were interrupted by World War I and he served his country as a member of the Army Engineers. His military assignments included European service as a part of the American Expeditionary Force in 1918 and 1919. Before entering military service he recommended a drilling location for Eastern Gulf on the Eph Angel farm in Lee County, Kentucky, as the result of his surface geologic mapping in that eastern Kentucky area. It was drilled during his absence, opening the Big Sinking oil field which proved to be the largest ever discovered in Kentucky.

When he returned in 1919 he found that the pattern of development did not follow the surface structure. His analysis of what appeared to be an anomalous situation led to his interpretation of the production as being controlled by a stratigraphic trap associated with an erosional unconformity. Although few of his subsurface stratigraphic studies ever reached print, his ideas on this comparatively new concept of oil accumulation were sought. Dan Jones was named State Geologist in 1934 and served his adopted state in that capacity until 1958, holding the office longer than any other individual, and through what have been referred to administratively as the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Surveys. He wrote comparatively little, but rather encouraged younger geologists serving under him to take a prominent place both on the platform and in publication.

Mr. Jones pioneered in oil, gas and water conservation in Kentucky. His work has led to a more orderly exploration and development of these important natural resources. He was one of the first in Kentucky to advocate the systematic collection and filing of oil-filed records. In

1963 he was cited for outstanding leadership and distinguished service in these fields. As a result of oil-sand studies which he initiated in 1935, many Kentucky oil operators were shown that they were abandoning valuable properties from which much additional oil could be recovered by the injection of air, gas, or water. Today more than half of Kentucky's total petroleum production is derived from the use of such secondary recovery methods. Kentucky's comprehensive statewide water resources investigations program, conducted cooperatively by the Kentucky and the United States geological surveys, had its impetus in the 1940's. The results of the early studies took much of the guesswork out of the drilling water wells in the Central Bluegrass and eventually led to a statewide water inventory.

His versatility as a geologist was further evidenced by his work on coal bumps in the Cumberland overthrust block in eastern Kentucky. As a result of his investigations and resulting recommendations, the coal industry in this mountainous area subsequently experienced a decrease in loss of both life and property.

Dan Jones was long an advocate of the importance of adequate base maps for any aspect of economic development and growth, and was a moving force in the early stages of Kentucky's statewide topographic mapping program.

Dan enjoyed and valued his affiliation with the Association of American State Geologists. He held several offices in the Association, including that of president in 1956. He considered it an honor and privilege to host the annual meeting that year in Kentucky, and to share the hospitality of his home and state with his colleagues. He was elected an honorary member in 1959.

He was active in the Interstate Oil Compact Commission and served many years on its Research Committee. Other professional affiliations included membership in the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Sigma Xi, and Appalachian Geological Society; and charter member and past president of the Geological Society of Kentucky.

He was a Mason and a member of Rotary International, Executive Club, and Second Presbyterian Church in Lexington, and a 50-year member of Phi Kappa Alpha social fraternity. He practiced Christianity in his everyday life with family, friends, and professional associates. It was his disposition to help others, often at his own expense; the extent of his charities and philanthropies was known by only a few. His outstanding characteristics were his benevolence, humility, integrity, sincerity, warmth, and fine sense of humor.

Few of Dan Jones' accomplishments bear his name, but the results of his unselfish and untiring efforts will be reflected for many, many years in the service of the Kentucky Geological Survey, in the talent of those who were trained by him, and in the lives of those who knew him. He gave his yesterday that others might live better today.

Preston McGrain

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