Monroe G. Cheney (1893-1952)

Monroe G. Cheney was a pioneering petroleum geologist in the American Southwest. Born in New York, he was educated at Cornell University and the Royal School of Mines in London. The following photograph and biography of Mr. Cheney were taken from the 1952 Abilene Geological Society volume, which was dedicated to Mr. Cheney.

The Abilene Geological Society dedicates this volume to a beloved member and untiring worker, Monroe George Cheney. Mr. Cheney, the youngest and eighth child of Monroe George Cheney and Annie Naomi Borton, was born September 27, 1893, in Franklinville, New York. He was educated at Cornell University, graduating in 1916 with the degree of Bachelor of Science. Following his graduation he was employed by the Empire Oil Company and came to Texas in the Fall of 1916. Mr. Cheney joined the armed services where he served in France as Master Engineer, Senior Grade, 11th Engineers, 36th Division. Following his service he attended the Royal School of Mines in London. In 1919 Mr. Cheney returned to Texas and formed the Anzac Oil Corporation which was named for the New Zealand and Australian soldiers, referred to as "Anzacs" during the First World War, and with whom Mr. Cheney was associated in the Royal School of Mines.

He married Margaret Booth, daughter of Judge William R. Booth and Stella Booth of Fort Worth, in 1918 prior to his departure overseas. The couple had two sons, Monroe George Cheney, Jr., born March 10, 1919, and Harris Graham Cheney, born April 29, 1922. Harris died in the service of his country over Iwo Jima on February 9, 1945.

Mr. Cheney's unlimited energy in the field of science is evidenced by an imposing list of professional organizations in which he held membership. Among these are: The American Association of Petroleum Geologists in which he served as Secretary-Treasurer in 1934 and as President in 1945; Geological Society of America; American Association for the Advancement of Science; American Geographical Society; Society of Economic Geologists; American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers; Society of Exploration Geophysicists; American Geophysical Union; Paleontological Research Institution; Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists; American Petroleum Institute; and the Texas Academy of Science.

Mr. Cheney's non-technical affiliations included membership in the Kiwanis Club and the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Coleman.

His best known publications include the University of Texas Bulletin 8913, and papers in the American Association of Petroleum Geologists Bulletins published in the years 1929, 1935, 1940, 1945 and 1946.

Business associates will remember him as the genial President of the Anzac Oil Corporation and Vice-president of the Maxwell Drilling Company of Coleman.

His devotion to his profession as petroleum geologist was evidenced even to the end when, in final gesture, he was buried on the Overall lease, overlooking the oil field which he discovered in 1962.