



Robert M. Sanford, #1360

Irving, Texas

1918-2006

Robert Marne Sanford, international petroleum exploration geologist, a 35-year resident of Irving, Texas, passed away on Saturday, July 22, 2006. He was born on June 15, 1918 on a farm in northwest Iowa, and attended grade school and high school in Iowa. During his boyhood in the depression years, Robert worked on Iowa farms while in school. Sandy, Bob, or Marne as he was variously called, hitchhiked to Texas in 1936 and worked his way through Texas Christian University (TCU) in Fort Worth earning a degree in geology in the class of 1940. While at TCU, he began writing oil development articles on a part-time basis for the *Oil & Gas Journal*. By his senior year he had become district editor and covered many of the major oil field discoveries of East Texas, North and Central Texas, West Texas and the Permian Basin. After graduation he remained with the *Oil & Gas Journal* until the war years. He then joined the Army Air Corps as a cadet.

With a career already started in the oil business, he often said that he wanted to become a pilot, and instructor, and remain in the U.S. so that after the war he could go back into the oil business. He did this by becoming a 2nd engine pilot instructor at the Central Instructor's School at Randolph Field, Texas. Upon leaving the service after the war, Sanford joined the Standard Oil Co. with a geological field party in the jungles of Peru. This foreign work led to four years in Peru from 1946-50; two years in Saudi Arabia from 1951-52; and nine years in Brazil. In Brazil, he worked as party chief, district manager to subsurface supervisor in Rio de Janeiro during the Petrobras Co. exploration years of 1952-61.

Returning to Texas in 1962, Bob put his international experience to use for the Hunt Oil Co. of Dallas. Hired by Mr. H.L. Hunt, he became chief geologist for the Hunt International Petroleum Co. During his twenty years with the Hunts, they made oil discoveries in many parts of the world, and extensive offshore deepwater wildcatting in many more countries, mainly New Zealand, north offshore Canada, the British North Sea, Mozambique, South Africa, Argentina and others. Bob retired in 1983 and became an independent petroleum exploration consultant, which continued his career and his travels for another ten years. In addition to SIPES, he was a member of AAPG, GSA, SEG, SPE, Dallas Geological Society and the Explorer's Club. He was a member of the philanthropic Clark Society of TCU and endowed a Robert Sanford Permanent Scholarship for the university. He was preceded in death by his wife, Bobbye Jackson Sanford.