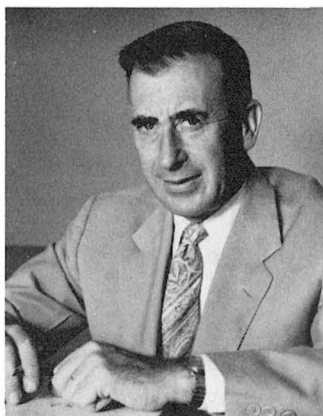


Memorial to Geoffrey W. Crickmay 1905—1971

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Geoffrey W. Crickmay was born in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, March 10, 1905, and died March 2, 1971, in Laguna Hills, California. He was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Crickmay, Sr., pioneer residents of Vancouver.

Geoff, as he was known among his friends, graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1927 with a B.A. degree, and thereafter attended the graduate school of geology at Yale University where he was awarded a Ph.D. degree in 1930. Since Geoff had enjoyed several seasonal appointments with the Canadian Survey, it was only natural that his thesis would be on Canadian geology. His doctoral dissertation was "Taconic Orogeny, Quebec," which was published in

the *American Journal of Science*, Volume 24.

While at Yale, Geoff came under the influence of great professors, including Drs. Schuchert, Longwell, Knopf, Flint, Huntington, and Dunbar. The great teaching ability of the faculty at Yale carried through Geoff Crickmay's life and he was highly regarded by all of the younger people working for him—he had the faculty of explaining in simple terms the problems at hand without talking down to them. It was at Yale where Geoff met his future wife, Helen L. Harrell, who was private secretary to the late Dr. Ellsworth Huntington.

Following graduation, Geoff accepted a one-year assignment as Assistant Geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey. His next assignment was with the Georgia State Department of Mines at Atlanta, where he spent three years as Assistant State Geologist. Because of Geoff's great love of teaching, he transferred to the school of geology at the University of Georgia where he was Associate Professor for four years. Geoff was a prolific writer prior to entering commercial work.

Geoff's keen interest in geology, and especially the use of the science in the finding of oil, caused him to join Gulf Oil Company in 1941 where he spent approximately one year as Field Geologist in a joint interest project with Atlantic Refining Company in Nicaragua. At that time, World War II was underway and Geoff joined the U.S. Navy, in which service he reached the level of Commander in mine technical work. While in the U.S. Navy, Geoff was under Commander "Jack" Frost. Here again Commander Frost left a lifetime print on Geoff who was always learning so that he could be a better teacher.

At the end of the war in 1946, Geoff was employed by Atlantic Refining Company (now Atlantic Richfield) as Geologist with Venezuelan Atlantic Refining Company. He was later named Manager of Operations for Venezuelan Atlantic and served in that

capacity during an important growth period of the Company until 1961. Due to decreasing activities in Venezuela, Geoff asked to be transferred to a position where he would have a more active career. Accordingly, he was transferred to Calgary, Alberta, where he assumed the duties and responsibilities as Manager for Atlantic Richfield in Canada. Geoff had become a U.S. citizen in 1932, but enjoyed greatly the opportunity to "go back home" to Canada. The press hailed his return to Canada as the return of the "Prodigal Oil Man."

At some point in Geoff's life he had contracted emphysema, which had been rather dormant in his years of work in the relatively warm climates but was severely aggravated by the cold winters of Canada. For this reason it became desirable for him to transfer to a warmer climate. Accordingly, he moved to Brisbane, Australia, where he was Manager of Atlantic Richfield's Australian operations until his retirement in 1967.

As a manager, Geoff was known as a strict taskmaster, but he always had a twinkle in his eye, and he was always searching for means of improving the operations with which he was concerned. His years in Venezuela and Canada were rewarded with significant oil discoveries, and his passing leaves a host of friends in all of the areas in which he worked. The *Daily Journal* in Caracas noted Geoff's passing by saying that he was a model foreigner in Venezuela, and pointed out his keen interest in all aspects of life in that country.

Geoffrey Crickmay, in his personal life and work, touched the lives of many others, especially in the fields of geology and geophysics, and all, including the writer, are saddened by his passing. We will miss this jubilant character among our circle of friends. His British humor could be light as a butterfly, earthy as a pun, or wit-cutting as a knife.

He was a member of numerous scientific societies, including the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the American Geographic Society, The Geological Society of America, and Sigma Xi.

Geoff is survived by his wife, Helen, of Laguna Hills, California, two brothers and two sisters. His older brother, Dr. Colin Crickmay, is a distinguished Canadian geologist.

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