

Memorial to G. Frederick Shepherd

1908-1990

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G. Frederick Shepherd, best known as "Ted" Shepherd, died after a short illness in Dallas, Texas, on July 28, 1990.

Ted Shepherd was born in Mexico, New York, in 1908. He received his undergraduate training in geology at Hamilton College, New York, where he received an A.B. degree. He continued his geologic studies as a graduate student at Northwestern University and at the University of Chicago. In December 1931, he married Marnie Banning, who had graduated from Northwestern University with a B.Sc. degree in geology a few months before their wedding. Ted's father, a Methodist minister, performed their wedding service.

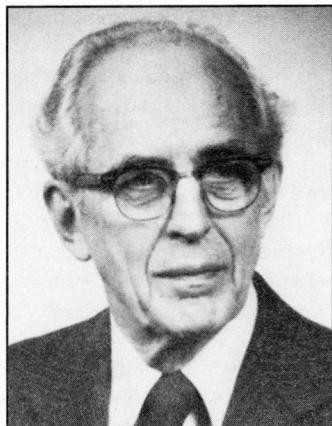
In December 1935, while he was a graduate student, Ted trekked across the Craters of the Moon and the lava plateau to the Snake River, carrying food and water. It was fortunate that he carried these supplies because the known water holes along the route were either dry or had water levels too low to reach.

Ted Shepherd began his career as a practicing petroleum geologist in 1936, working for the Phillips Petroleum Company. He worked out of the company's home office in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, but was frequently sent into fields throughout the Southwest. It was at Phillips that he was introduced to electric logging, then a relatively new tool in subsurface geology.

After working for Phillips for four years, Ted worked for Lane-Wells in New Iberia, Louisiana. He worked almost exclusively interpreting Lane-Wells logs. From 1941 to 1946 he worked for William Helis in New Orleans, Louisiana. Helis explored actively during these boom years, and Ted Shepherd gained a great deal of experience in south Louisiana subsurface geology. He spent the next two years, 1946 to 1948, as an independent in south Louisiana. In 1948 he moved to Dallas, Texas, and became chief geologist for General American Oil Company of Texas. He worked for General American for four years.

After leaving General American, Ted made an important career change. He practiced the next sixteen years, 1952 to 1968, as an independent and as a consulting geologist. Much of his work dealt with the geology of south Texas and northeast Mexico. For six years, he was consultant to Petróleos Mexicanos. He delivered a paper in Spanish, "Criterios Sismológicos y de Geología de Subsuelo en la Interpretación de Fallas en el Noreste de México," before the 1967 convention of the Asociación Mexicana de Geofísicos de Exploración.

In 1969, the president of the Dallas Geological Society appointed Ted to organize the Geological Information Library of Dallas (GILD), and to serve as its president. For the next seven years, Ted worked full time without remuneration and was able to recruit other volunteers for much of the operating staff. In late 1976, the Lee Fikes Foundation provided funds for a salary for Ted and for some members of his staff. In the beginning, GILD was incorporated as a tax-free entity. Throughout the years, companies and individuals contributed vast amounts of logs, maps, production records, well records, and other forms of geologic data to GILD. It is impossible to assess the value of these data to individuals and companies who used the library.



Ted Shepherd was president and a devoted worker for the library for nineteen years. Initially, ownership of the library assets had been placed in the University of Texas at Dallas. In January 1989, the university assumed responsibility FOR the management of the library, which became known as UTD-GIL. Ted Shepherd continued until August 1989, under contract to provide the computer indexing of the library contents. He continued this work as a volunteer until his death. The importance of Ted Shepherd's dedication cannot be adequately described. Someone has said, "Every great institution is the lengthening shadow of one man." That, surely, is the case of Ted Shepherd and GILD.

In 1971, Ted attended the World Petroleum Congress, and he and Marnie traveled across the USSR from Leningrad to the eastern coast of Siberia. When he returned, he gave a report on his experiences to the Dallas Geological Society and to other professional and nonprofessional groups.

He was a member of the People to People Petroleum Technology Delegation to the People's Republic of China in 1983.

Ted Shepherd's bibliography includes papers published by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the Geological Society of America (coauthor with Carey Croneis), Colorado School of Mines, Asociación Mexicana de Geofísicos de Exploración, *The Petroleum Engineer, Rocks and Minerals, Oil and Gas Journal*, and *Oil Weekly*. Throughout most of Ted Shepherd's career he was a Fellow of the Geological Society of America.

Ted is survived by his wife, Marnie, a daughter, Elizabeth Anne, a son, Richard, and two grandsons, Nicholas and Randolph.

I knew Ted Shepherd for more than forty years. He was an excellent geologist, a dedicated worker in many scientific organizations, and a friend I shall always revere.