

HORACE D. THOMAS

Dr. Horace D. Thomas, professor of geology at the University of Wyoming, and long time Wyoming State Geologist died in Laramie, Wyoming, May 14, 1967 after a short illness. He is survived by his wife, Maxine Thomas, and his son, Tom.

Horace Thomas better known to his friends as "Bill" was born in Laramie, Wyoming on March 25, 1905 of a pioneer Wyoming family—William C. Thomas and Dulcie Davis Thomas. The family were identified with business and ranching interests for many years. Horace Thomas was educated in the local schools of Laramie and entered the University of Wyoming in 1922, graduating in 1926, and receiving the M.A. degree in 1928. Following this he continued graduate work at Columbia University receiving the doctoral degree in 1935.

"Bill" Thomas began his career at the University of Wyoming in 1931 as an instructor and continued his primary interest as a teacher until a few days before his death. He acquired a tremendous breadth of knowledge concerning the stratigraphy of the Rocky Mountains, and

gladly shared this with several generations of students. His contributions to stratigraphy centered on Paleozoic strata, particularly the Permian.

In 1941 Dr. Thomas was appointed Wyoming State Geologist, and Director of the Wyoming Geological Survey, positions which he held until his death. Since 1958 he had been a member of the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. His activities in connection with petroleum geology were numerous including the vice presidency of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists in 1949, service on many of its committees, Distinguished Lecturer, and recipient of its Matson award.

Horace Thomas served the State of Wyoming well, and was a responsible spokesman for the geologic profession in all state agencies. He will be missed by his colleagues and many friends, and long remembered for his personal and geologic contributions to the science.

D. L. Blackstone, Jr.
State Geologist