



## VIGNETTES OF COASTAL PLAIN GEOLOGY

BLAKE WOODBURY MCNEELY  
(1929-1990)

Blake McNeely was born in Mobile, Alabama, and his earliest interest was in music. At the University of Alabama he was a music education major, but while there took an elective course in Geology. However, he left school to pursue a career in music that included a four year stint in the U.S. Air Force Band, then membership in various popular orchestras, as well as the Houston symphony. But he never forgot his first introduction to Geology and in 1955 he returned to the University of Alabama, graduating in 1958 with a BS in Geology, and a minor in Micropaleontology. He went to work immediately for Shell Oil Company and in 1967 was directed to study the then new field of planktonic foraminiferal zonation. He became an authority in the field and helped establish the biostratigraphic framework in the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain, participating in Leg X of the DSDP Program in the Gulf of Mexico. After retiring from Shell he did some consulting, and in 1989 he returned "home" to Alabama; however, his retirement was short and he passed away after a brief illness in December, 1990. (*From* E. B. Picou, Jr., 1991, *NOGS Log*, v. 31, no. 5)