



VIGNETTES OF COASTAL PLAIN GEOLOGY

NORMAN FREDERICK SOHL
(1924-1993)

Norm Sohl, the world's leading authority on Cretaceous stratigraphy and gastropods, began his long and distinguished career by collecting Silurian fossils from railroad rip-rap near his boyhood home in suburban Chicago. After an outstanding stint in the U.S. Army during World War II, when he received both a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star, he took advantage of the G.I. Bill to return to school. His original intention was to major in History but an elective course in Geology convinced him that Stratigraphy is the ultimate study of History. In 1954 he received his PhD and went to work for the U.S. Geological Survey the same year. Here Norm was to remain until his retirement, producing three monumental Professional Papers on the Upper Cretaceous of the Gulf Coastal Plain. He served in the largely thankless task of Branch Chief, Paleontology and Stratigraphy, for 14 years, receiving the two highest awards from the Department of Interior for his efforts. Through all of this he remained a dedicated field geologist, happiest when collecting the material that was the basis for his studies and unselfishly providing help and guidance to a generation of students and co-workers. (From John Pojeta, Jr., and G. Lynn Wingard, 1993. *American Paleontologist*, v. 1, no. 3)