



VIGNETTES OF COASTAL PLAIN GEOLOGY

WALTER SCOTT ADKINS
(1890-1956)

Walter "Doc" Adkins trained as a biologist and his first professional position was as an Assistant Professor of Biology at Texas Christian University. Here he was attracted to the fossils of the northern Texas Cretaceous. In 1919 he joined the staff of the Bureau of Economic Geology, University of Texas, and from that time he devoted his life to the study of the stratigraphy and paleontology of the Mesozoic of Texas and Mexico, culminating in his masterful study on *The Mesozoic Systems in Texas* (1933). In 1934 he went to work for Shell Oil Company and much of his professional life was spent with Shell, or its Mexican subsidiary "El Aquilar," where his greatest contribution was the inspiring and training of younger geologists. Upon his death, the extensive fossil collections he had amassed over his lifetime were deposited in the Department of Geology, University of Texas, where they are available for all workers. Described as "lovable, generous, cantakerous, and argumentative," he was an unforgettable character and a legendary figure among Texas geologists. (From J. T. Lonsdale, 1957, Geological Society of America, Proceedings for 1956)