

THOMAS W. OLSEN

1952-2015

Historical Legend

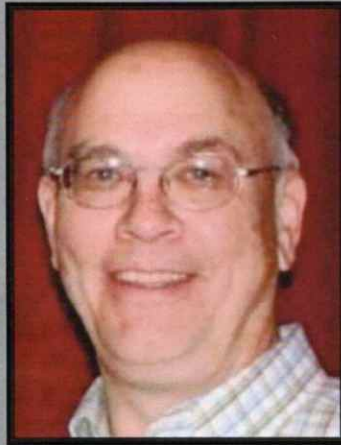
Thomas W. "Tom" Olsen was born in Omaha, Nebraska to parents Laverne "Ole" and Dorlene Olsen, and joined his older sister Karen in completing the Olsen family. Tom grew up and attended school in Ralston, an Omaha suburb. In his youth he had a paper route for the Omaha World Herald, a yard mowing business during the summers, and also worked summers at the family's ranch near O'Neill, Nebraska as a camp counselor, horse wrangler and leather craft instructor.

In the fall of 1970 Tom began his college studies at the Colorado School of Mines, from which he graduated with honors in 1974 with a degree in Geological Engineering. In addition to his studies Tom played the French horn in the Mine's band. He was proud of the band uniforms, which consisted of jeans, hiking boots, red flannel shirts and hard hats. The excellent educational experience that Tom received at Mines shaped his career and endowed him with respect for education and pride

in applied geology.

Following graduation Tom began his professional career with Cities Service in Oklahoma City. It was while at Cities that he met his future bride, Janet Fulks. They were married in 1978 and had two children, Lindy (1980) and Tim (1982). In late 1978 Tom hired on with Tenneco and was transferred to San Antonio. In 1980 Tom was contacted by James

A. Johnson Inc. in Oklahoma City, where he worked from 1980-1985. This move back to Oklahoma City allowed Tom to renew the friendships and contacts that he had cultivated in the Oklahoma City Geological Society.



After much recruiting by Chad Craddock with The Quintin Little Companies, Tom joined The Quintin Little Companies in 1985 in

Ardmore, Oklahoma, where he remained for the rest of his career. Tom Olsen's mutually successful 29+ year association with The Quintin Little Companies also proved to be extremely significant to the Ardmore Geological Society as well as the larger oil and gas community. Tom was professionally involved with and donated countless hours to the Ardmore Geological Society (where he served 6 terms as president and was long time secretary/treasurer), Ardmore Sample Cut and Log Library (board member and chairman for many years), Oklahoma City Geological



Society, American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Society of Professional Engineers, Southern Oklahoma Petroleum Landman's Association, and Society of Professional Earth Scientists. Tom also volunteered for over 14 years as a Petro Pro for the Oklahoma Energy resource Board, where he gave over 120 live and video presentations to 4,450 students throughout the state, teaching about geology and its relation to Oklahoma's petroleum industry and its impact on the state's economy. Tom also served as a judge for the Oklahoma State Science Fair held in Ada, Oklahoma.

Tom's love of his life was his family, wife Janet, their children Lindy Olsen and Tim Olsen, and grandchildren Layla and Dylan. Late in his career Tom went on half time with Quintin Little so he could devote more time to his family, his volunteer work with the Mid-Continent Section of AAPG, and his relationship with the First Presbyterian Church in Ardmore. He had again taken up the accordion, which he had learned in his youth, and frequently played at Christmas

parties and other gatherings. Tom was always organizing and planning for the future.

An astute exploration and production geologist, Tom was always a welcome participant in general geology discussions; his opinions were both timely and valued. Tom could always ask the tough scientific questions, but at the same time he was blessed with an enduring sense of humor that was fundamental to his character. Tom was very effective at using humor to help us find the lighter side of tough situations, to enjoy our daily work, to smile, and to laugh at ourselves.

For all his professional accomplishments, and for his unselfish dedication to his profession and helping others, the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Geological Foundation is proud to honor Thomas W. Olsen as a Historical Legend Award recipient for 2018.

