AN INFORMAL HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY

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by

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This chronicle is intended for present and former students and staff members of this Department. Its form and style would be disowned by a proper historian; it is compiled largely from secondary written sources (including letters and filed material), with some additions from conversations and recollections, which may not always be precise.

The all-too-brief outlines of the vitae and professional interests of staff members are occasionally varied by adjectives intended to recall them vividly to their associates, and for no other reason: my intention is to revive, not memorialize.

Due to space limitations, too many facets of Departmental history have been left out: the individual students (majors), many of whom, of course, were as interesting as the staff members; the secretaries and other clerical workers, whose skilled and patient help often carried the staff over obstacles; the technical staff, including those on time card (from $0.25 per hour in WPA days to the present), except for Virgil Reynolds, who is memorialized here; and the Administration whose efforts sometimes helped the secretaries and sometimes cancelled their efforts in moving the Department forward.

Much of the iceberg is thus tantalizingly out of sight. Ward Carithers winning the bet at the 1936 summer camp by remaining five minutes immersed in the icy Barnaby Creek. One secretary (briefly in 1947) who was an Arthur Murray dance instructor, drenched in a perfume that has only recently disappeared