REVIEW OF THE HISTORY OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF KENTUCKY, 1940–1987

Vincent E. Nelson* and Thomas G. Roberts

^{*}Vincent E. Nelson died February 17, 1988, while this study was in progress.

ORGANIZATION

An organizational meeting to establish the Kentucky Geological Society was held April 26, 1940. The minutes of this first meeting read:

At the regular spring meeting of the Division of Geology and Geography of the Kentucky Academy of Science, the following business matters were transacted prior to the program of papers. The meeting was called to order by the chairman, Vincent Nelson, at 9:35 a.m. D. M. Young was appointed secretary pro tem. At the call for business the following motion was offered by D. M. Young: That the group assembled effect an organization of Kentucky geologists to be known as the Kentucky Geological Society; that this organization maintain the affiliation with the Kentucky Academy of Science hitherto maintained by the Division of Geology and Geography; and that affiliation be established with the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. The motion was seconded by Mr. D. N. Jones and passed unanimously. Election of officers for the new organization was proposed by Chairman Nelson, and Arthur C. McFarlan was nominated as President and C. D. Hunter as Secretary-Treasurer. There were no further nominations and the ticket was elected by acclamation. After some discussion the matter of constitution and bylaws was left to the officers as an Executive Committee, said constitution and bylaws to be presented for the approval of the membership at the fall meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned for the program of papers. Dues for active incrnbers-40,00 per year; \$2.

Signed: David M. Young Secretary pro tem

m of the Latavetta Hotel in Lexington.

The following constitute the Charter Members of the Geological Society of Kentucky:

Linwood Arnall, Lexington logical Svirtey, Knoaville, Tonbessee, and Edward Barnes, Owensboro Lucian Beckner, Louisville lley Browning, Ashland Elmer Dyer, Lexington

Louise Freeman, Lexington Richard Hicklin, Mattoon, Illinois Coleman Hunter, Ashland Phillip Jenkins, Paintsville Willard R. Jillson, Frankfort Daniel Jones, Lexington Arthur C. McFarlan, Lexington Arnold C. Mason, Lexington Dyer, E. C., Indiana of producer, Loungton Phil Miles, Paintsville Vincent Nelson, Lexington Samuel Stith, Lexington George Strawghan, Prestonsburg Ralph Thomas, Ashland with youlded to memoraged to A mahalloke John Stokley, Lexington Fromser, A. D., Leithgron, Kentucky David Young, Lexington

The organizational meeting notes refer to the Society as the Kentucky Geological Society. However, the original constitution, which was adopted in November 1940, reads "Geological Society of Kentucky."

The following minutes of the second meeting of the Geological Society of Kentucky, on November 8, 1940, read:

Believing that Kentucky is truly a geological paradise and realizing the importance of a geological organization centrally located, which will not only further the advancement of this science in Kentucky but also cooperate with similar geological societies of adjoining states as well as national organizations, the Geological Society of Kentucky comes into being on November 8, 1940. A very entertaining program was

presented and a banquet held in the Red Room of the Lafayette Hotel in Lexington,

Charter Members who organized the society in April 1940 at the Department of Geology, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, Is enclosed, partment of Geology, Oliversity of the state of those nominated for membership and associate membership. The names of members and guests who were present at the November meeting is enclosed.

Dr. A. C. McFarlan, Department of Geology, University of Officers President:

Kentucky

Mr. R. E. Stouder, Geologist, Louisville Gas and Electric Vice President:

Company, Louisville, Kentucky

Mr. Coleman D. Hunter, Chief of Department of Geology Secretary-Treasurer:

and Research, Kentucky-West Virginia Gas Co. Ashland,

Kentucky

The constitution as presented, except for a few minor changes, was accepted.

All graduate geologists and petroleum engineers are eligible for membership. All individuals interested in geology and the oil and gas industry are eligible for associate membership. All members of the Geological Society of Kentucky are also members of the Kentucky Academy of Science.

Dues for active members-\$3.00 per year; \$2.00 of this amount goes to the Kentucky Academy of Science

Dues for associate members-\$1.00 per year

The guest speakers for the evening were Mr. Kendall Born of the Tennessee Geological Survey, Knoxville, Tennessee, and Mrs. Louise Barton Freeman, Kentucky Geological Survey, Lexington, Kentucky.

Members and Guests Present at the Meeting White, W. H., Department of Geology, University of Kentucky Hicklin, Richard, The Carter Oil Company, Mattoon, Illinois

Nelson, Vincent, Department of Geology, University of Kentucky

Stokley, John, Lexington, Kentucky

Thomas, Ralph, Inland Gas Corporation, Ashland, Kentucky

Arnall, David, Lexington, Kentucky

Stith, Sam, Department of Mines and Minerals, Lexington, Kentucky

Pettit, A. Edwin, Lexington, Kentucky

Barnes, H. E., The Ohio Oli Company, Owensboro, Kentucky Young, David M., Department of Geology, University of Kentucky

Jones, Daniel N., State Geologist, Lexington, Kentucky Van Gilst, P. C., Kentucky-West Virginia Gas Company, Ashland, Kentucky

Dyer, E. C., Indiana oil producer, Lexington, Kentucky Stouder, R. E., Louisville Gas and Electric Company, Louisville, Kentucky

Mason, A. C., Department of Geology, University of Kentucky

Miles, Phil, Barrow Road, Lexington, Kentucky Straughan, George, Kentucky-West Virginia Gas Company, Ashland, Kentucky

Jenkins, Phil, Oliver Jenkins, Paintsville, Kentucky

McFarlan, A. C., Department of Geology, University of Kentucky

Freeman, Louise Barton, Department of Mines and Minerals, Lexington, Kentucky

Freeman, A. D., Lexington, Kentucky

Knowles, Carroll, and Mrs. Knowles, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dyer, Bill, Lexington, Kentucky

Dyer, Mrs. E. C., Lexington, Kentucky

Barnes, Mary, Lexington, Kentucky

Powell, Luther, Owensboro, Kentucky

Roue, Olaf, Lexington, Massachusetts

The fledgling Society was publicized in the following article, which appeared in the Lexington Herald on November 9, 1940.

The organizational meeting notes refer to the

Kentucky Geologists Organize Association Furthering plans made last spring at a meeting of the Kentucky Academy of Science, about 25 persons interested in the state oil and gas industry met at the Lafayette Hotel Friday night and adopted a constitution and by-laws for the Geological Society of Kentucky, an organization which will be affiliated with the academic group and with the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

Chosen to head the society was Dr. A. C. McFarlan, head of the Department of Geology at the University of Kentucky; Ralph E. Stouder, geologist for the Louisville Gas Company, was elected vice president, and Coleman Hunter of Ashland, geologist for the Kentucky-West Virginia Gas Company, was chosen secretary-treasurer.

that the Lexington

Principal speaker at the organization meeting was Kendall E. Born of the Tennessee Geological Survey, who discussed problems of producing oil and gas from greater depths than have been exploited east of the Mississippl.

Other speakers were Mrs. Louise Barton Freeman, Lexington, assistant state geologist in the department of Mines and Minerals; Mrs. Ruth Shelton, Tulsa, Okla., writer; Peter V. Van Gilst, Ashland, and Olaf N. Roue, Boston, Mass., geologist for the U.S. Smelting Refining and Mineral Company.

Dan Jones of Lexington, state geologist in the Department of Mines and Minerals, was recognized at the meeting. Geological workers from Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, and Tennessee were present.

SUMMARY OF MEMBERSHIP HISTORY

As previously noted, the charter members at the organizational meeting in 1940 numbered 20. Society membership records were inaccurate; therefore, the membership counts that follow were taken from dues records kept by secretaries and treasurers over the years; these dues records were by no means complete either. It appears from this none-too-accurate record that in 1942 membership had reached a total of 36. There is no record of the Society from 1942 until 1947, when the membership was 41. By 1952 the number had grown to 88. Ten years later a membership list contained 133 names. Membership remained quite stable for a number of years; 1974 records indicate a membership of 136. A 1980 list of members contained 190 names, but did not differentiate between paid up and delinquent members. In 1985 members with dues paid up numbered 135. The 1987 computerized list of members totals 198 names.

The Geological Society of Kentucky confers Honorary Membership from time to time in recognition of dedicated service to the profession of geology and especially to the Geological Society of Kentucky. The first person to receive this recognition was Colonel Lucian Beckner on May 5, 1950. Others who have received this recognition to date are Daniel J. Jones, Arthur McFarlan, Wallace Hagan, Vincent E. Nelson, William C. MacQuown, Thomas G. Roberts, Ruth Browne, and William R. Brown.

AFFILIATION HISTORY

Though the origin of the Geological Society of Kentucky began as a motion by the Division of Geology and Geography of the Kentucky Academy of Science, there was some discontent among the membership with this affiliation with the Academy. Over the years the discontent continued, and grew. Finally, at the business meeting of the Society in Middlesboro in 1961, a motion was presented to the Society that affiliation with the Academy be abandoned. After considerable comment, some of it bitter, the motion was defeated. There was no de facto affiliation of the Society and the Academy, in spite of the Society's constitution. This tempest in a teapot was resolved when Article II, Section 2 was deleted from the constitution during the annual meeting at Lake Cumberland State Park, May 3, 1963. At that time it was agreed that a small financial donation be made to the Academy annually, in the hope that it would be used to support the Junior Kentucky Academy of Science. The agreement met an early death of neglect.

The initial application of the Society to become affiliated with the American Association of Petroleum Geologists was made in a letter dated January 7, 1947. Affiliation was turned down by the executive committee of the AAPG during its annual meeting in Los Angeles in March 1947, probably because of the small size of the Society and the fact that even fewer were members of AAPG. A second applica-

tion apparently was made in the fall of 1957; no correspondence concerning this could be located, but it is clear from sketchy correspondence that affiliation was granted sometime in the spring of 1958.

Not long after the mini oil boom of 1958 at Greensburg, Kentucky, several local geologists established a new Lexington Geological Society. This new group grew in membership and became affiliated with AAPG shortly thereafter. AAPG's ensuing confusion over both a Lexington Geological Society and with AAPG shortly thereafter. AAPG's ensuing confusion over both a Lexington Geological Society of Kentucky, which had overlapping memberships, including the same person as president of both groups in the fall of 1965, led many in both societies to conclude that the Lexington Geological Society should become a chapter of the Geological Society of Kentucky. Both the Lexing-ton Geological Society and the Louisville Geological Society were offered invitations to do so, and both accepted in November 1966.

When the Northeastern Section of the AAPG was formally organized in the early 1970's, our Society was assigned to this section as an affiliated unit of the AAPG. The Society served as host for the 1976 annual meeting of the Northeastern Section in Lexington.

CONSTITUTIONAL REVISIONS

At the organizational meeting on April 26, 1940, the newly elected officers of the Society were made responsible for submitting a constitution and by-laws at the fall meeting. At the fall meeting, November 8, 1940, the constitution and by-laws were accepted. The constitution consisted of six articles, several containing numbered sections. The by-laws consisted of four sections.

The first changes in the constitution were not formal revisions, but minor changes in both the constitution and by-laws. The committee proposing the change met May 14, 1946.

An enigmatic constitution, undated and unsigned, was found in a search of the Society files. Nothing indicates that this proposed revised constitution was ever voted upon or accepted. A review of all the constitutions found in the files clearly shows the 1946 constitution and the 1963 constitution to be much more similar than either is to this aberrant one. In both the 1940 and 1963 constitutions, Article II, Section 1, consists of a single sentence of twenty-one words. In the mysterious constitution, the same section consists of a single sentence of 141 words. Article II, Section 2 is identical in the 1940 and 1963 constitutions; it is missing altogether in the undated one. The 1946 constitution is a genuine mystery.

A substantive amendment was proposed to the constitution at the annual business meeting at Kentucky Dam Village on May 11, 1962. A few people, not truly qualified for membership, had been made members, and they were using their membership in the Society as proof of competence in the practice of geology. At the May 3, 1963, annual meeting, another amendment was passed deleting Article III, Section 2, which was as follows:

The society shall be affiliated with the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and with the Kentucky Academy of Science and shall pay membership dues to the Kentucky Academy of Science for its elected officers. Its spring meeting shall be listed with the program of the Academy for its annual meeting.

On April 22, 1966, the society passed an amendment allowing the establishment of local chapters affiliated with the Society.

For the first time ever, in the spring of 1970, a committee was appointed to draft a constitutional revision. After much effort, the task was completed and submitted to the Society on March 23, 1971, at Carter Caves State Park. It was approved at the annual meeting on April 22, 1971. Two minor changes in the revised constitution were made by amendment from the floor at the meeting, and adopted. Basil Doerhoefer, chairman of the constitutional revision committee wrote, in a letter sent to Society members with the revised constitution:

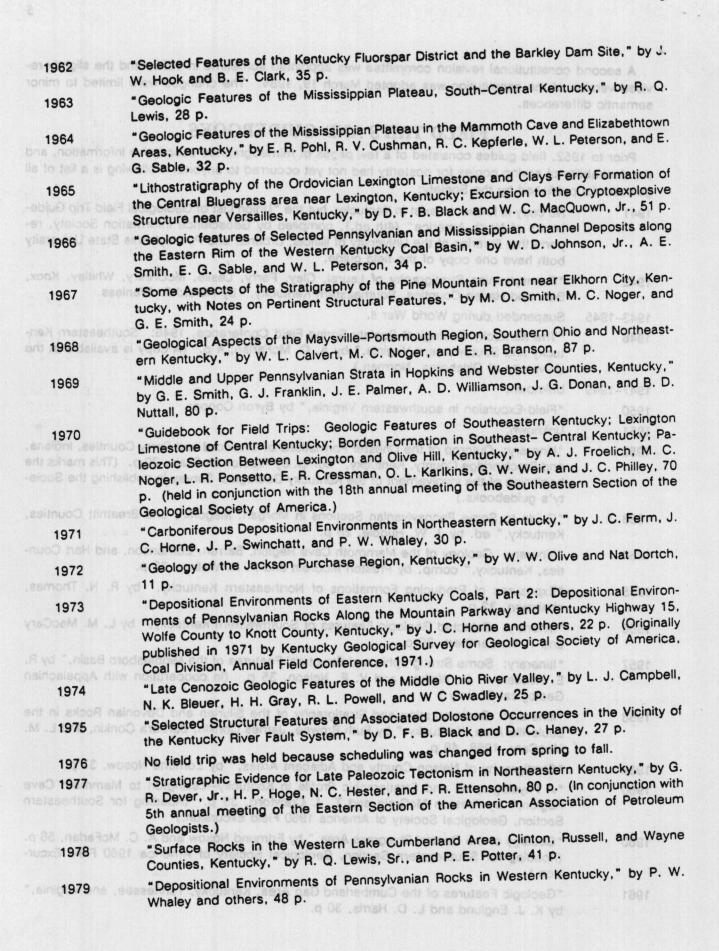
The goal of the committee was not major revision, but rather minor changes that would enable the Society to function more easily and be a more active and more representative geological organization. Revisions made, for the most part, just concern membership, the office of treasurer, terms of office, and incorporation of the chapter affiliation amendment into the body of the constitution.

A second constitutional revision committee was appointed sometime in 1983, and the slightly revised version of the constitution was adopted March 19, 1984. The changes were limited to minor semantic differences.

FIELD TRIPS AND GUIDEBOOKS

Prior to 1952, field guides consisted of a few pages of mimeographed descriptive information, and the desirability of saving copies for posterity had not yet occurred to anyone. Following is a list of all guidebooks published by the Society:

- No copy is known to exist in Kentucky, but the "Union List of Geological Field Trip Guidebooks of North America" (4th ed.), compiled by Geoscience Information Society, reports that libraries at the University of Illinois, Urbana, and Pennsylvania State University both have one copy of the field guide.
- "Pennsylvanian Stratigraphy of Laurel, Clay, Perry, Leslie, McCreary, Whitley, Knox, 1942 Bell, and Harlan Counties, Southeastern Kentucky," by Harold R. Wanless.
- Suspended during World War II. 1943-1945
- "The Kentucky Geological Society Spring Field Conference, 1946: Southeastern Ken-1946 tucky and Southwestern Virginia," by A. C. McFarlan, 4 p. (A copy is available at the University of Oklahoma, Norman.)
- Unknown. 1947-1949
- "Field Excursion in southwestern Virginia," by Byron Cooper. 1950
- Unknown. 1951
- "Itinerary: Outcrop of the Chester Formations of Crawford and Perry Counties, Indiana, 1952 and Breckinridge County, Kentucky," comp. by Preston McGrain, 20 p. (This marks the beginning of the involvement of the Kentucky Geological Survey in publishing the Society's guidebooks.)
- "Guide to Some Pennsylvanian Sections in Morgan, Magoffin, and Breathitt Counties, 1953 Kentucky," ed. by J. W. Huddle, 28 p.
- "Itinerary: Geology of the Mammoth Cave Region, Barren, Edmonson, and Hart Coun-1954 ties, Kentucky," comp. by Preston McGrain and F. H. Walker, 32 p.
- "Exposures of Producing Formations of Northeastern Kentucky," by R. N. Thomas, 1955 chairman, 32 p.
- "Itinerary: Selected Geologic Features of Southwestern Kentucky," by L. M. MacCary 1956 and T. W. Lambert, 30 p.
 - "Itinerary: Some Stratigraphic and Structural Features of the Middlesboro Basin," by R. 1957 E. Hauser, F. H. Walker, and V. E. Nelson, 35 p. (In cooperation with Appalachian Geological Society.)
 - "Itinerary: Sedimentation and Stratigraphy of the Silurian and Devonian Rocks in the 1958 Louisville Area, Kentucky," by Ruth Browne, James Conkin, Barbara Conkin, and L. M. MacCary, 1958, 46 p.
 - "Stratigraphy of Nelson County and Adjacent Areas," by Edmund Nosow, 37 p. 1959
 - "A Physiographic and Stratigraphic Profile in Kentucky-Lexington to Mammoth Cave Region," by Preston McGrain and T. J. Crawford, 39 p. (Roadlog for Southeastern 1960 Section, Geological Society of America 1960 Field Excursion.)
 - "Geology of the Central Bluegrass Area," by Edmund Nosow and A. C. McFarlan, 56 p. 1960 (Roadlog for Southeastern Section, Geological Society of America 1960 Field Excur-
 - "Geologic Features of the Cumberland Gap Area, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia," 1961 by K. J. Englund and L. D. Harris, 30 p.



1980	"Stratigraphy, Trace Fossil Associations, and Depositional Environments in the Borden Formation (Mississippian), Northeastern Kentucky," by J. R. Chaplin, 114 p.
1981	"Energy Resources of Devonian-Mississippian Shales of Eastern Kentucky," by W. A. Pryor, J. B. Maynard, P. E. Potter, R. C. Kepferle, and John D. Kiefer, 44 p.
1982	"Coal and Coal-Bearing Rocks of Eastern Kentucky," by J. C. Cobb and others, 169 p. (Published by Kentucky Geological Survey for 1981 Coal Division of Geological Society of America field trip.)
1983	"Hydrogeology of Mammoth Cave Karst Area"; leaders were James Quinlan and Ralph Ewers. There was no guidebook, because no manuscript was ever furnished to the Survey for publication.
1984	"Teaching and Field Guide to Alluvial Processes and Sedimentation of the Mississippi River, Fulton County, Kentucky, and Lake County, Tennessee," by P. E. Potter, W. A. Pryor, L. M. Smith, and David Rich, 46 p.
1985	"Stratigraphy Along and Adjacent to the Bluegrass Parkway," by M. C. Noger and R. C. Kepferle, 24 p.
1986	"Stratigraphy, Structure, and Mineral Deposits of the Western Kentucky Fluorspar District and the Stevens Hill Roadcut," by R. D. Trace, F. B. Moodie, and D. A. Williams, 12
	p. Partier committee inquiriteering after H learnes against on the
1987	"Stratigraphy, Sedimentology, and Paleontology (Upper Ordovician), and Glacial and Engineering Geology of Northern Kentucky and Southern Ohio," by R. C. Kepferle, M. C. Noger, D. L. Meyer, and G. A. Schumacher, 18 p.
1988	"Structural Geology of the Rough Creek-Shawneetown Fault System," ed. by A. L. Cowan and D. A. Williams, 16 p.
	Marie Address of the second control of the s

LIST OF OFFICERS

Year	President	Western Vice President	Eastern Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer
1940-41	A.C. McFarlan	R. E. Stouder		Coleman Hunter	
	Coleman Hunter	D. M. Young		Ed Barnes	
1946-47	D. M. Young			Frank Fisher	
1947-48	Frank Fisher	Woodson Diamond	V. E. Nelson	Daniel Ham	ilton
	Woodson Diamond		William R. Brown	Boyne Wo	ood
1949-50	lley Browning	D. M. Stith	William R. Brown	Sam Sti	th
	V. E. Nelson	Sam Stith	Phil Jenkins	William R. B	Irown
1950-51		W. D. Chawner	R. N. Thomas	J. E. John	ston
	W. D. Chawner	R. N. Thomas	Phil Miles	Mary Beth Mo	Farlan
1952-53		W. W. Hagan	R. N. Thomas	Frank H. W	alker
	R. N. Thomas	Sam H. Stith	Edward O. Ray	G. E. Hendr	ickson
		George Thomas	Don G. Sutton	Robert J. F	Floyd
	Preston McGrain	R. N. Thomas	Frank H. Walker	James D.	Clay
	Sam Stith Frank H. Walker	Don Sutton	Jack Hutchins	William Ma	acke
1957-58		Joe B. Cathey, Jr.	Robert E. Hauser	Erwin J. L	yons
1958-59		Ormon Shewmaker	Frank Fisher	Thomas J. C	rawford
1959-60		W. E. Price	Lois J. Campbell	Thomas J. C	
1960-61			Phil Miles	Thomas G. F	Roberts
1961-62		E. N. Wilson	Alva C. Ward	Thomas G. F	
1962-63 1963-64	Robert D. Trace Robert Cushman	Nat Dortch Armin L. Clark	Willard Puffett	William D.	

Year	President	Western Vice President	Eastern Vice President	Secretary Carolina	Treasurer One
1964-65	Thomas G.Roberts	Harry Klemic	Ruth G. Browne	William D. Rose	17
1965-66	Harry Klemic	Gilbert E. Smith	William MacQuown	Basil Doerhoefe	r 1881
1966-67	LA. Freezensky FPL STEE	Edward G. Sable	John Peck	Basil Doerhoefe	
1967-68	E. J. Combs	W. W. Olive	W. D. Rose	Louis R. Ponset	to saer
1968-69	V. E. Nelson	G. W. Franklin	D. C. Haney	Louis R. Ponset	to .
1969-70	Paul Richards	Basil Doerhoffer	John Philley	Harry M. Whitma	an
AN A THE STREET	Albert Bryant	Peter W. Whaley	Gordon Weir	Harry M. Whitma	an 8827
1971-72		Howard Schwalb	Joe Cathey	Sherwood Mull	Benjamin I. Kelley, Jr.
	William MacQuown	Nat Dortsch	Douglas F. B. Black	Sherwood Mull	David K. Hylbert
	Howard Schwalb	James Kimbrell	Harry Hoge	Robert McDowell	David K. Hylbert
	W. W. Olive	Allen Williamson	Hunt Perkins	Robert McDowell	Anne Noland
1974-75		Avery Smith	Garland Dever	Beecher Hines	Anne Noland
1975-70		James Vincent	Zelek Lipchinsky	Beecher Hines	Peter W. Whaley
1977-78		Ralph Thomas	Norman Hester	Robert Davis	Peter W. Whaley
1978-79	A Chart office	Allen Williamson	Frank Ettensohn	Robert Davis	Richard Sergeant
1979-80		Samuel H. Norris	James Chaplin	Charles Helfrich	Richard Sergeant
1980-81	James Chaplin	Phil Emery	Gary Kuhnhenn	Charles Helfrich	John Beard
1981-82	al O Dun T air	Ruth Browne	John D. Kiefer	Charles Helfrich	John Beard
1982-83		John Donan, Jr.	Hildreth Kidd	Charles Helfrich	Steven J. Cordiviola
1983-84		Peter W. Whaley	Garland Dever	Roy Van Arsdale	Steven J. Cordiviola
1985*	Steven J. Cordiviol		Roy Kepferle	Margaret L. Smath	Larry Rhodes
1986	John Philley	Howard Lamkin	W. W. Olive	Margaret L. Smath	Mark L. Reinhardt
1987	Martin C. Noger	D. W. Reynolds	Edwin Lyon	Margaret L. Smath	Mark L. Reinhardt
1907	martin o. mogor				

Vice President Vice President

it it fhomas

raso-si V. E. Notson

1956-59 Gerth Hendrickson Jee & Cathey, Jr.

*Officers terms changed to coincide with calendar year.

Socretary Yessures