



Rocknocker — a geologist's memoir, by George Devries Klein, 2009. CCB Publishing, 3632 Eby Street, Terrace, BC, Canada (www.ccbpublishing.com); distributors for North America: Ingram Books, Baker & Taylor; for Europe: Gardner Books, Bertram Books. Paperback, 440 pages. Price USD 21.95. ISBN 978-1-926585604.

George Devries Klein (born in 1933 in The Netherlands) is particularly known for his contributions to tidal sedimentology (he proposed, for instance, the "tidalite" concept). He has an exceptionally broad professional record, being one of the few geologists who excelled as an oil-company researcher, as a university professor, as a science administrator, and as a geological consultant. Not truly surprising, taking into account his education: after his emigration to the USA (1947), he graduated from Mamaroneck High School, earned his B.A. from Wesleyan University, his M.A. from the University of Kansas, and his Ph.D. from Yale University. During his professional career, during which he served also as President of the New Jersey Marine Science Consortium and as New Jersey State Sea Grant Director, he authored and co-authored a few hundred publications. These include not only the book *Sandstone Depositional Models for Exploration for Fossil Fuels* and his famous wall chart *Vertical Sequences and Log Shapes of Major Sandstone Reservoir Systems*, but also 11 reference books and, as a surprising proof of his creative mind, also a novel, *Dissensions*.

This book is a review of his extraordinary life. Numerous geologists have written memoirs or autobiographies, among them F.J. Pettijohn, J. Rodgers, and G.M. Friedman, but the approach George followed in his memoirs is different from other memoirs in that each chapter ends with a section "Lessons learned". These "Lessons learned" sections are basically very personal critical analyses of specific events or situations. Some of the postscripts are advises, that, I believe, readers will find informative and useful. In addition to the "Lessons learned", George included at the end of some chapters items relevant to the pertinent chapter.

The book is divided into two parts. Part I provides a chronological autobiography, and part II encompasses some personal issues/incidences that could not be fitted in a logical way into part I, but that certainly deserve mentioning.

George is a widely respected and appreciated geologist, in both the academic and the industrial environments. His exceptional career rewarded him with a highly interesting life by meeting numerous outstanding people several of which became colleagues, teachers and friends. He introduces them in a proper context by adding information about their degrees and by a brief description of their careers. From his description and interaction with them it is clear that he met a range of people who "were as variable as many rock types he examined". George encountered highs and lows in his life and his reaction/response is well expressed in these memoirs, in which he presents his experience, philosophy, and advice in an enjoyable mode.

Perhaps the most important of George's memoirs is, however, the way in which he shows young geologists how to work and how to do so efficiently and effectively. This holds, in my opinion, particularly for working in the petroleum sector. It is obvious that George's great and long experience as a consultant in this field are highly valuable, particularly because of the wide range of topics that he was involved in, and the large spread of locations where he worked: in the US Gulf of Mexico and the Gulf Coast; the Illinois and Appalachian Basins; Africa (Angola, Senegal, South Africa and elsewhere); Asia (Romania, Russia); South America (Brazil, Peru, Venezuela) and elsewhere. It is worthwhile to mention in this context that he has discovered on his own or as part of a team some 160 million barrels of oil and some 3 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Which geologist would not like to have a career like that?

I sincerely hope that George's memoirs will be equally appreciated by the entire geological community as I do. I thank George for his willingness to share his experience with

us, and I congratulate CCB Publishing for publishing this excellent work, which has such a low price that it cannot be an obstacle for any geologist.

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