



EUGENE "GENE" C. EATON
(1922–2000)

By Inda Eaton
Phoenix, Arizona

Eugene "Gene" C. Eaton, of Casper, Wyoming, died at home on August 17, 2000 at 78.

After serving in the Army Air Corps as a weather observer in WW II, stationed across the country and in the Yukon Territory, he attended Stanford on the GI Bill and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in geology.

Upon graduating, he moved with his family to Casper, Wyoming, and worked as a crew chief for Stanolind Oil, a well sitter for British American, and as a district geologist for Sun Ray until he went to work for himself as a consultant in 1954.

In 1965, he bought the Wyoming Avis franchise and began Ardon Car Rental, which he owned and operated until 1999. Through Ardon, he was able to create a scholarship program for his employees and began the Voluntary Employee Benefit Association (VEBA). He also created a national scholarship program known as the Ardon Foundation and began Natrona County's

Ardon Subdivision and made possible all of the amenities for each of its 19 homes.

In addition to being a geologist and a member of the Wyoming Geological Association, he was a businessman, a champion swimmer, an avid reader, and a devoted husband and family man. He is survived by his wife, Ardith; one son, Richard; and one granddaughter, Inda.



FRANK EDWARD KOTROWSKI
(1921–2001)

By David Schoderbek
Farmington, New Mexico

Frank Edward Kottowski "slipped the surly bonds of Earth" on April 18, 2001. He was a kind and gentle man, a war hero of the greatest generation, a giant among his many esteemed colleagues, and a pillar of New Mexico geology. Frank's life was characterized by selfless generosity and dutiful service. He was born April 11, 1921, in Indianapolis, Indiana, to Frank and Adela (Markworth) Kottowski. His father was a successful building contractor, and young Frank learned and developed

much of his work ethic from employment in the family business. Frank's fascination with the business side of the construction industry led him to enroll, after graduation from Arsenal Technical High School, at Butler University in Indianapolis, seeking degrees in accounting and business administration. Fortunately for all of our friendships with Frank, World War II intervened.

In 1942, Frank interrupted his formal education and enlisted in the United States Army, attending Armament School at Lowry Army Airfield in Denver and Navigation School at San Marcos, Texas. Further training was at Walla Walla Army Airfield, where he met his future bride, Florence (Chrisco), a Washington native working at the base. A few months after their first meeting, Frank was transferred to his final navigation training assignment at Pyote Army Airfield in sunny west Texas. Though he had first come west to Yellowstone on a post-high school road-trip, it was from the air that Frank was formally introduced to the clear, dry air; the spectacular, broad vistas; and the raw, uncluttered geology of the desert southwest. Aerial navigation was by dead reckoning and "shooting the stars," and here he developed his life-long appreciation of the celestial realm. Florence traveled shortly thereafter by train to Midland, Texas, where they were engaged before Frank and his crew flew their B-17 across the North Atlantic to their duty station at High Wycombe, in south-central England.

Frank and his crewmates were assigned to the 452nd Bomb Group of the mighty Eighth Air Force, where he served both as a navigator and an interpreter of post-attack air photos for damage assessment. Frank and his crew flew 22 combat missions in Europe and the Middle East, including support of the Allied D-Day invasion of France. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, three Bronze Oak Leaf

Clusters, the Air Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Service Ribbon, and four battle stars for his dedicated service to his country. Many of Frank's colleagues in the photointerpretation section were trained geologists, and their off-duty fieldtrips to the English countryside ignited Frank's interest in the stories of the strata. Following Germany's surrender, Frank shipped state-side aboard the Gray Ghost for a brief R&R, during which his reassignment to the Pacific theater as a B-29 navigator was cancelled by Japan's surrender.

Frank and Florence reunited in Indianapolis, where they were married in September 1945, and Frank enrolled at Indiana University. His exploratory foray into physical geology dramatically redirected his future. During the next six years at Indiana, Frank changed his major to geology and diligently earned a bachelor's degree in 1947, a master's degree in 1949, and a Ph.D. in 1951. Frank's future was markedly shaped by his association at Indiana with Charles Deiss and Eugene Callaghan. Deiss, Geology Department chairman and Indiana state geologist, recognized Frank's exceptional ability and arranged for him to work summers for the Indiana Geological Survey as a field assistant to Callaghan, who was at that time completing his doctoral dissertation. Callaghan subsequently joined the faculty at Indiana and served as Frank's major professor and Ph.D. advisor. Before Frank completed his Ph.D. though, Callaghan left Indiana to become the director of the New Mexico Bureau of Mines in Socorro. Upon reception of his doctoral degree in the summer of 1951, Frank, Florence, and their young daughter Karen left Indianapolis for Socorro, where Frank had accepted a position at the Bureau of Mines as an economic geologist, working for his former advisor. Frank's union with Florence was soon blessed with two more daughters, Janet and Dianna, as he began 50 years of dedicated service to the Bureau of Mines. After serving as assistant director (1967-1968) and twice as acting director (1968-1969 and 1973-1974), Frank became director of the Bureau of Mines in 1974, a position he

held until his retirement in 1991. He served as New Mexico State Geologist from 1974 until his retirement, after which he continued to serve as Emeritus State Geologist. The date of his retirement was declared "Frank Kottowski Day" by Governor Bruce King and "Frank and Florence Kottowski Day" by the mayor of Socorro. Frank retained an office at the Bureau after his retirement, where he continued to toil tirelessly on his favorite projects.

Frank was an enthusiastic field geologist, prolific author, voracious reader, skilled administrator, and talented manager. He was familiar with the history, economic geology, stratigraphy, and structural geology of all of New Mexico, and could easily recall the details and relevance of every significant outcrop in the state. Frank authored or co-authored more than 200 peer-reviewed technical articles, Bureau publications, and U.S. Geological Survey documents. In addition, he served as advisor, editor, and mentor to numerous graduate students and colleagues. The depth and breadth of Frank's knowledge and interests are reflected in the titles of his publications. Among his most significant are *Measuring Stratigraphic Sections*, "Stratigraphic Studies of the San Andres Mountains," "Strippable Low-Sulfur Coal Resources of the San Juan Basin," "Coal Resources of the Americas," and "The Mississippian and Pennsylvanian Systems in the United States."

In Frank's unexcelled service to his profession, he fulfilled numerous elected and appointed positions in state, national, and international associations. Frank served the AAPG as an associate editor from 1968 to 1982 and as *Bulletin* editor from 1971 to 1975. He also served AAPG as president of the Energy Minerals Division, and was awarded the Distinguished Service Award in 1981 and named an Honorary Member in 1985. Frank served as president of the New Mexico section of the American Institute of Professional Geologists, as a committee chairman for the National Academy of Sciences,

and as chairman of the American Commission on Stratigraphic Nomenclature. Frank served as chairman of the Coal Geology Division of the Geological Society of America, as president of the Association of American State Geologists, as chairman of the New Mexico Coal Surface Mining Commission, and as a director of the New Mexico Mining Association. Frank's record of service to the New Mexico Geological Society is distinguished and exemplary. Frank wrote numerous geological road logs and guidebook articles, served as guidebook editor for two fall field conferences, and received honorary membership in 1967. The mutually beneficial relationship between the New Mexico Geological Society (NMGS) and the New Mexico Bureau of Mines that exists today was fostered and nurtured by Frank. In 1987, NMGS established the Frank Kottowski Graduate Fellowship, designed to reward an outstanding scholar whose field-based research addresses geological problems of regional relevance. Frank's business and accounting background was essential in his effective guidance and growth of the Bureau of Mines through many legislatures and gubernatorial administrations, including those of Bruce King, Garry Carruthers, Jerry Apodaca, and Toney Anaya. Despite his voluminous professional obligations, Frank was never too busy to counsel a friend, student, or colleague.

Frank was rarely too busy for a trip to the field, where he taught that so many geological truths are clearly written for those willing to look at and listen to the rocks. He has embarked on one last geological journey, gathering God's air photos and field checking Our Father's geologic mapping. If we make it to heaven, Frank will already have the sections measured and described, the field relationships resolved, the faults and contacts mapped, and the relevant outcrops spotted for one more trip to the field. Frank is survived by his wife of 55 years, Florence, of Socorro, New Mexico and three daughters: Karen Harvey and her husband Albert of Brigham City, Utah, Janet

Wallace of Socorro, New Mexico, and Dianna Schoderbek and her husband David of Farmington, New Mexico. In addition, Frank's life was blessed with five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Frank's remains have been interred, with military honors, at Santa Fe National Cemetery.



**MARION LEON "M. L." RANDALL
(1914–2000)**

By Stephanie Hrabar
Houston, TX

Marion Leon Randall, known to his friends as M. L., died August 2000 in an automobile accident in Arcadia Florida. M. L. was widely respected as a pioneer that grew with the oil exploration industry. He joined the fledgling industry 67 years ago. "I did not know what I was getting into," Randall once said. "I was completing my training in radio—now called electronics—and I got this job offer in 1933 to develop vacuum tube amplifiers for two- to six-channel seismic signals. In 1936 I went into business for myself as a contractor drilling seismic shot holes. The next year I branched into seismic data acquisition after developing our own recording instruments."

During World War II, M. L. worked with Dow Chemical on patented valve

designs for the pumping of petroleum. Throughout his career he was a leader in incorporating new technology used in seismic exploration and data analysis.

Randall Exploration, Inc. was based in Houston, Texas. The company operated primarily along the coast of Texas and Louisiana, but did exploratory work in many other states and had a seismic crew in New Zealand for two years. In the past few years Randall & Associates applied their energy and knowledge of the oil industry to develop and promote bioremediation products to handle toxic wastes. M. L. was a founding member of the Texas Bioremediation Council. He was Certified Professional Geologist no. 13 with the Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists. Other professional memberships included the Society of Exploration Geophysicists, Geophysical Society of Houston, and AAPG.

With the support of his loving wife, Kathryn, Randall Ranches grew into a productive operation that bred Chianina cattle. The full-blood herd was rapidly expanded through embryo transplant using cattle imported from Italy. M. L. and Kathryn were active supporters of the American Chianina Association, the Houston Livestock Show, and youth working in 4-H and Future Farmers of America animal projects. Randall Ranches presented two prize Chianina bulls to Deng Xiaoping, as the leader of the Peoples' Republic of China, when he visited Houston in 1979. Cattle were also donated to Brigham Young University and Texas A&M animal research centers and to the West Texas Rehabilitation Center in Abilene, Texas.

M. L. actively encouraged young people to pursue higher education. He contributed generously to many scholarships, particularly programs designed to benefit Native American youth. He often provided financial aid for individual students anonymously.

At the suggestion of Red Duke, M. L. contacted his many friends in the oil industry to raise generous support for the Life Flight program in the Texas Medical Center.

M. L. was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1914. His parents moved to Kansas City, Missouri and later to Miami, Florida. After the Miami family home was destroyed in the hurricane of 1926, they moved to the Heights community in Houston, Texas. The loss of his father and economic Depression caused M. L. to stop his formal education and get a job to help support the family. Randall told his friends that starting his own business was the best way to keep employed. Doodlebugging was hard work but it did pay. Throughout his career M. L. made and honored deals with the shake of his hand or verbally. His formula for success was to "work hard and don't cut corners."

His lifelong sweetheart, Kathryn Lorraine, and daughter Deirdre preceded him in death. He is survived by his son Richard M. L. Randall and his wife Nina and his foster son Congressman Eni F. H. Faleomavaoega from American Samoa. He also leaves his three daughters: Anita Pilling and her husband Jerry, Faustine Bonham, and Erin Randall-Orgel and her husband Steven. Among his many loved ones are 18 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. His family, many friends, and community miss his love and generous spirit.

Because M. L. gave generously to educational causes, the family suggests contributions in his memory be made to the following programs: John Cooper School Development Office, M. L. Randall Memorial Fund, 1 John Cooper Drive, The Woodlands, Texas 77381; Brigham Young University Scholarship Fund, Provo, Utah; or the American Indian College Fund, 8333 Greenwood Blvd., Denver, Colorado 80221

In preparing this memorial I used the obituary Erin Randall-Orgel kindly provided; a *Houston Post* article dated November 11, 1984, titled "Pioneer grew with exploration industry" by Sam Fletcher, *Post* energy writer, that M. L. had given to me; and conversations we had. M. L. was a client and friend.