

New Mexico Tech: Alumni and Friends Obituaries June-Nov. 2001

Dr. Frank E. Kottowski, 80, passed away on Wednesday, April 18, 2001. He was born on April 11, 1921, in Indianapolis, Indiana. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Florence Jean, and his three daughters and their spouses, five grandchildren and their spouses, and three great-grandchildren.

Frank began his higher education at Butler University as a business major, but World War II interrupted and he served as an aerial navigator and photographic interpreter for the 8th Air Force from 1942 to 1945. After the war, he attended Indiana University and was one semester away from completing his certified public accountant degree when he took a geology course from Charles Deiss. That exciting teacher sold Frank on geology, who received his B.A in 1947 in geology. Within his next four years at Indiana, Frank received his M.A. in structural geology (1949) and Ph.D. in economic geology (1951).

In 1951, Frank accepted a position at the New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources as an economic geologist. From 1951 until 1974 he became familiar with the history, geography, economic geology, stratigraphy, and structural geology of all of New Mexico, and friends say that he could easily recall the details and relevance of every significant outcrop in the state.

Frank was the director of the Bureau, and later state geologist, from 1974 to 1991, and his administration was marked by substantial growth in personnel, budget, and influence of the organization. His early CPA training came in handy as director, and his colleagues at the bureau recall Frank's attention to budget numbers.

Upon retirement in 1991, Frank received status from New Mexico Tech. Even in retirement, his work ethic required him to put in many hours in his office, tying up those loose ends that were acquired in the more than 50 years of geological work, especially those in New Mexico.

Frank's passion for geology produced more than 200 significant papers, many reports, and a textbook, *Measuring Stratigraphic Sections*. His interests in economic geology, particularly coal, Paleozoic and Mesozoic rocks in southern New Mexico, and Cenozoic and Quaternary rocks in the Rio Grande rift, are well known. Within New Mexico he served on numerous boards, commissions, and panels that supervise, advise, oversee, and otherwise offer advice on a wide variety of mineral resources or extractive or environmental activities. Nationally, Frank served on many committees, a large number within the Geological Society of America and American Association of Petroleum Geologists as councilor, chair, or editor, and he received numerous awards and several honorary

memberships.

Frank had a longtime association with the American Association of State Geologists. Over the 17 years he was director of the New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources, he attended many meetings of the AASG and served on the AASG Liaison Committee that meets with the government entities in Washington, D.C. Frank clearly saw the power of this organization to influence geologic thought and policy in the United States. In this regard, the AASG and its few members, just one person from each of the states, exert tremendous influence when they speak with one voice.

To close friends, as well as those who knew him slightly, Frank Kottlowski was a caring, humble man. Regardless of the awards and honors heaped on him, Frank would respond with the names of so many others who helped him. David Schoderbek, one of his sons-in-law and a geologist, summed up Frank's life this way, "In every way, Frank was exceedingly generous. Not only of his highly sought-after time, but also of his ideas, his credit, his praise, his listening, and his material possessions. Frank gave freely of whatever he had to give, whether it was the last sip of water in his canteen or his valued editorial advice. Frank's personal and professional integrity was unexcelled. Frank was consistently fair and even-handed, always extending the benefit of the doubt to those in need. His door was always open, and he was often sought-out for advice by his friends and colleagues."

What a world this would be if these words could be said of us all.

A memorial endowment has been established in memory of Frank Kottlowski. Details are at Frank E. Kottlowski Memorial Endowment. Contributions may be sent to: Advancement Office, Brown 111, New Mexico Tech, 801 Leroy Place, Socorro, N.M. 87801. On your check, in the "memo" section, please write "Kottlowski Endowment."