

CHARLES FREDERICK DEISS (1903-1959)

Charles Frederick Deiss, State Geologist of Indiana and Chairman of the Department of Geology at Indiana University, died on June 13 after a brief illness and complications following major surgery.

Doctor Deiss was born March 18, 1903, in Covington, Kentucky. He completed the A.B. degree in 1925 at Miami University and continued his geologic training through the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Michigan in 1928. In 1929 he married Minette Davison, who survives him.

From 1928 until 1945, Doctor Deiss was a faculty member at Montana State University where he rose through the academic ranks to full professorship in 1937. From 1937 to 1940, he was Director of the Library. During various parts of his tenure at Montana, Doctor Deiss served as a consultant to the Montana Power Company and as a geologist for the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology. Beginning in 1940, he was also Assistant Geologist with the United States Geological Survey, and from 1942 to 1945 was Geologist in charge of exploration for dolomite in the western United States and for phosphate in Idaho in 1944 and 1945. In the final phase of his professional life, Doctor Deiss turned his attention to administrative duties when he took up his dual role in Indiana in 1945.

Of the many organizations in which Doctor Deiss held membership, he was notably active in the Geological Society of America, in which he became a Fellow in 1935, and in whose journals he published much of his research. In the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers, he served as Chairman of the Dimension Stone and Slate Committee from 1952 to 1954, as Vice-chairman in 1956, as a member in 1957-58, and as a member of the Executive Committee of the Industrial Minerals Division in 1957-58. In the Association of American State Geologists, he served as Secretary and Treasurer in 1950-51 and 1951-52, Vice-president in 1952-53, President Elect in 1953-54, and President in 1954-55. In the Paleontological Society, he was a Fellow. In the American Commission of Stratigraphic Nomenclature, he represented the Association of American State Geologists from 1948 to the time of his death. In the Interstate Oil Compact Commission, he was a member of the Research Committee from 1950 through 1958 and was Chairman of that committee at the time of his death.

Doctor Deiss made a distinguished reputation in teaching, research, and administration. As a teacher during his years at Montana State, he inspired an impressive number of students to follow geology as a profession, and the careers of these early disciples stand as a lasting tribute to the ability of their first teacher. Through more than a dozen summers, Doctor Deiss did extensive field work, mostly in the northern Rocky Mountains. His research was particularly notable in the fields of Cambrian stratigraphy and trilobite paleontology. To these diverse accomplishments, he added

proof of his ability to organize and administer when he assumed his duties at Indiana University and with the Indiana Geological Survey. Here he expanded the program of the Department of Geology to include a wide range of specialties and established the Indiana University Geologic Field Station in the Tobacco Root Mountains in southwestern Montana. The Indiana Geological Survey grew under his guidance to be one of the largest in the United States.

In the death of Charles Frederick Deiss, the profession of geology has lost one of its most vigorous and respected advocates.