

IN MEMORIAM

FRANK CLINGAN FOLEY
1906-1985

Frank C. Foley, State Geologist of North Dakota (1938-1941) and Kansas (1954-1970), died March 25, 1985, at age 78 years and 8 months.

Clarke Wescoe, former Chancellor of The University of Kansas, once described profession as a way of life of service developed from a multitude of experiences, a well-rounded program of formal education of high standard and a highly developed code of ethics. By all these measures, Frank Foley exemplified profession, especially as a way of life of service in the area of water resources and public policy.

A preacher's son, Frank was born in Belleville, Ontario, on August 8, 1906, and lived variously in such places as Centerton, Brooklin, Uptergrove, Orillia, Colborne, and Coburg in Ontario until he entered Victoria College of the University of Toronto, where his experiences began. He graduated in 1929 with honors in geology, but university life was interspersed with summer assignments for the Canadian Geological Survey in the shield areas of Ontario and Quebec. Travel in the shield was constrained to canoe, and Frank developed a love affair with the canoe and the north country during some 5,000 miles of travel.

Then followed a year's stint as Instructor at Dartmouth College until he was admitted to Princeton University in 1930 and received a teaching assistantship. In 1933, his Ph.D. dissertation not yet completed, he accepted an appointment as Instructor at the University of North Dakota, and became associated with the North Dakota Geological Survey. Rising through the ranks in both institutions, in 1938 he was appointed State Geologist, Chairman of the Department of Geology, and Professor upon receipt of his Ph.D. degree from Princeton University. During this period, he also married Adelaide Kirk of Niagara, North Dakota, in 1934, served as party chief for the Geological Survey of Newfoundland in 1936, and became a naturalized citizen of the United States on February 20, 1937.

A short tour of duty with the U.S. Geological Survey in Salt Lake City, Utah, and Cheyenne, Wyoming, preceded entry into the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a First Lieutenant in August 1942. Duty for the next 37 months was concerned mainly with reconstituting destroyed water supply installations at Rabat and Casablanca in Morocco and at Naples and Leghorn in Italy. He returned with the rank of Major and a Bronze Star, and rejoined the U.S. Geological Survey as District Chief of the Ground Water Branch in Madison, Wisconsin, in 1946. Also, in 1949, he served for four months as a consultant to the Battle Monuments Commission on water supply problems in France, England, Belgium, Luxembourg, Italy and Tunisia. In 1951, he became Head of the Ground Water Section of the Illinois Geological Survey and Research Professor at the University of Illinois.

On August 1, 1954, he was appointed State Geologist and Director of Kansas Geological Survey and Professor of Geology and remained in Kansas until his retirement on June 30, 1970. From 1958 to 1963, he also was Chairman of the Department of Geology at The University of Kansas. He served as U.S.

representative to the International Association of Hydrogeologists, president of the Association of American State Geologists in 1964-65, and chairman of the Geological Society of America annual meeting in Kansas City in 1965.

Beginning in 1963, he undertook a series of consulting arrangements on water supply problems in Africa. The first was at Abidjan in the Ivory Coast for Ralph M. Parsons Company under contract to the U.S. Agency for International Development. This was followed two years later by an assignment to Saudi Arabia, again with Ralph M. Parsons Company. In 1968, he travelled to 15 countries in West Africa under the auspices of the United Nations, including a stop in Ouagadougou in what was then Upper Volta. Following retirement in June of 1970, he studied water supply problems in Uganda for a year, again under the auspices of the United Nations.

Interestingly enough, I can find no record of formal academic training in groundwater hydrology at the University of Toronto, Dartmouth, or Princeton. I suspect there was none, for few schools offered preparation in the field at that time. In fact, Frank's Ph.D. dissertation was a spectrographic study of lead sulphantimonides. Expertise in groundwater hydrology must have been gained in North Dakota and with the U.S. Geological Survey. Frank often regretted his lack of mathematical training in this field. No matter, really, for his major contributions were in the area of water resources and public policy. Even service in the Army was concerned with the rehabilitation of water supply systems that had been destroyed in Rabat, Casablanca, Leghorn, and Naples. Service with the Battle Monument Commission in Europe during 1949 was in the policy area. The trips to the Ivory Coast and Saudi Arabia again were to assist these countries in developing policy for water supply, and later trips to West Africa and Uganda had similar objectives. The report *Water in Kansas*, produced in 1955 with Dwight Metzler and Robert Smirha, is identified as a landmark document, and rightly so. The report is not a research document, but its recommendations set the stage for major water policies in Kansas. Some policies are only now being implemented in the 1985 State Water Plan and accompanying legislation.

There remains a code of ethics to complete Clarke Wescoe's description of profession. This part is easy, for Frank Foley was one of the most thoroughly decent people I have know. I found no meanness in him. He was what he seemed to be.

But what about Frank Foley apart from profession. I first knew him on automobile trips to annual meetings of the Association of American State Geologist, traveling with Adelaide and my wife, Nancy. Frank claimed that the AASG was twice as exclusive as the U.S. Senate, for each state could have only one official representative.

He was of medium height, slender, possessed of a strong straight nose, and fair, speckled hair. More precisely, each strand of hair exhibited alternating bands of slightly different color. This is an inherited characteristic; daughter Barbara's hair shows the same unusual banding.

Foley had an ear and memory for language, stories and song. He was fluent in French, probably learned in Ontario and Quebec, but strengthened in French Morocco, West Africa, and France. He gained a working knowledge of Italian,

enough to direct workmen in Leghorn and Naples. He could mimic any accent, ranging from English to Scandinavian.

Foley had a love and facility for music. He could play a harmonica, ukelele, piano, and autoharp, largely by ear. He was a charter member of the Lawrence Society for Preservation and Expansion of Barber Quartet Singing in America. For many years he sang in the Plymouth Congregational Church Choir in Lawrence, Kansas.

He was a beekeeper in Ontario, and only last year advised a friend on how to handle an unwanted swarm. He built the first radio receiver in the county as a youngster. He was good with a Heath kit, and put together the first Foley television set. He was a more than passable cabinetmaker, and restored a player piano. He kept an aquarium in his office for years, and his pond in Adelaide's garden was host to night-blooming lilies and a muskrat. He liked students, and was a fraternity advisor for many years.

More recently, Frank was content and proud when the Kansas Board of Regents agreed to our request to name the Kansas Geological Survey groundwater research facility *Foley Geohydrology Center*. He and Adelaide graced the dedication on May 23, 1980. Adelaide died during April 1982.

In a way, matters came full circle because thoughts returned to things Canadian. He attended the fiftieth reunion of his class at the University of Toronto in 1979, and renewed acquaintances with old and dear friends. We talked of the merits of canoes in the north country and discussed with nostalgia the north woods and lakes, which, I believe, represented for Frank some of the happiest of times. Frank Foley died March 26, 1985, and his ashes were placed in Pioneer Cemetery on the West Campus of the University of Kansas.

As so, for Frank, his sisters Laura Love and Mary Gardiner, his daughter Barbara, and for Nancy and me, who have shared the sound of the north country on a clear still night, I closed his memorial service on April 13 with an excerpt from "Voices of the Loon" by William K. Barklow set to Edward Elgar's "Elegy," a work so evocative of Ontario that I feel it all the way to my toes.

William W. Hambleton
State Geologist
Kansas

(Revised by Editor)