

H. Garland Hershey (1905 -2000)



Dr. H. Garland Hershey, State Geologist and Director of the Iowa Geological Survey from 1947 to 1969, and Adjunct Professor of Geology at the University of Iowa Geology Department from 1968 to 1969, died in Iowa City, Iowa on Sunday, January 23, 2000.

Garland was born October 1, 1905, in Quarryville, Pennsylvania, to Howard Risser and Pearl (Rhinehart) Hershey. In 1931 he married Erna Madelyn Eybs of Baltimore, Maryland, who died in 1975. In 1978 Garland married Isabel Spence of College Park, Maryland, who died in 1992. Survivors include two sons, H. Garland Hershey, Jr., of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and Timothy Hershey of Denver, Colorado, along with grandchildren Brooke, Dru, Paige, Chandler, Ali, Trip, and Summer Hershey.

Garland graduated from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and received his B.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Johns Hopkins University. He joined the staff of the Iowa Geological Survey in 1939, serving as Assistant State Geologist. He was appointed State Geologist and Director in 1947, the year when the Director of the Geological Survey and the Chairman of the University of Iowa's Geology Department were separated into two full-time positions.

In his 22 years as State Geologist, Garland greatly expanded the Survey's groundwater research and service functions, which led to numerous other appointments including: State Disaster Coordinator; Chairman of the Iowa Natural Resources Council, the Governor's Special Flood Control Commission, and the Governor's Commission of Social and Economic Trends; Vice- President of the Rivers and Harbors Conference and National Commission for the International Hydrologic Decade; Board of the Director's of the National Water Conservation Conference; and Trustee of the Midwest Research Institute. Garland was active in professional organizations as well, including the Geological Society of America, the Association of American State Geologists, the Iowa Academy of Science, Sigma Xi, and the Iowa Engineers Society. Those who recall his presence during these years of representing the Iowa Survey remember a private, polite, gentleman whose well-mannered and somewhat formal style was reminiscent of an earlier era.

I was hired by Garland as a Research Geologist in 1959. For my part, one of Garland's more significant contributions was in allowing staff to pursue their special area of interest, whether it be stratigraphy, paleontology, hydrogeology, or public education. That legacy continues.

Donald Koch
State Geologist of Iowa