

Ian Campbell, 1899-1978

Ian Campbell, State Geologist of California from 1959 to 1969, died in San Francisco February 11, 1978. He was 78. In 1965 Ian had fought off cancer, and continued his active career on all fronts, but he suffered a recurrence last fall that could not be beaten. One of the most active and widely known geologists of our time, Ian's death leaves many voids in the geological profession.

Ian Campbell was born in Bismarck, North Dakota in 1899, obtained his A.B. in geology from the University of Oregon in 1922, and his A.M. in 1924; and received his Ph.D., in Economic Geology, from Harvard University in 1931. Ian's academic life included an early stint at Northwestern (University Fellow, 1923-24); Louisiana State University (Assistant Professor, 1925-28); California Institute of Technology (Assistant Professor to Chairman, Division of Geological Sciences, 1931-59); and University of California, Berkeley (Visiting Lecturer in Mineral Technology, 1960-62). This full and distinguished academic career touched every geographic corner of the country, and ignited productive careers in hundreds of students and colleagues. Invariably, Ian's teaching approach was characterized by warm personal concern for students and colleagues, which he maintained through an extraordinary level of personal correspondence that was not to slow down until his last weeks.

Outside academia, Ian was "a man of many hats," as he often said, and none appeared so multiple as his astonishing portfolio of memberships, offices, and honors in professional societies. Among the most significant of his professional affiliations, among the 22 major associations listed in California Geology upon his retirement as State Geologist in 1969, were Geological Society of America, president 1968; Mineralogical Society of America, president, 1962; American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers, Hardinge Award, 1962; and American Geological Institute, president, 1961.

During his tenure as State Geologist, Ian guided the Division of Mines and Geology into our first "urban geology" program, producing environmental and engineering geology information for cooperating counties. He established new geochemical and geophysical sections, and a strong geothermal research program, among numerous enlargements and

Refinements of Division programs. Not surprisingly, the Division enjoyed an era of unprecedented close contact and smooth working relationships with other agencies during Ian's term as State Geologist. Partially as a consequence of that positions, he filled with distinction the Governor-appointed position of Director, California Department of Conservation, September 1955- February 1957.

Members of AASG remember well the unflagging verve with which Ian invested his membership in this Association from 1959 to 1969, continuing unabated as Honorary Member, until his death. He served as Editor (1960-63) and as President (1965-66), and but few of its members did not realize they were among Ian's close friends.

The genuine caring for people as people characterized Ian's career, in his many associations. He had the skill of guiding his fellows or his Division employees- with the spirit and confidence to be professionals, to care about their work, and to do it well as a credit to themselves. In the slang of today, he turned people on. His leadership was the quiet type, of which it could well be said

"A leader is best...

When his work is done, his aim fulfilled,

They will all say, "We did this ourselves.""