

## **J. Robert Van Pelt**

Former Montana Tech president, Dr. J. Robert Van Pelt, 95, died May 3, 1991, in Sarasota, Florida.

A native of Denver, Colorado, Dr. Van Pell became the sixth president of the Montana School of Mines, forerunner to Montana Tech, on April 2, 1951, and served through September 15, 1956. He also was Director of the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology.

He graduated with bachelor's degrees in science and mining from Michigan Tech in 1922 and received an honorary doctorate from that school in 1942. From 1928 to 1945, Dr. Van Pelt was affiliated with the Rosenwald Industrial Museum in Chicago, now the Museum of Science and Industry. In 1945, he joined the Batelle Memorial Institute of Columbus, Ohio. He came to Montana School of Mines directly from Batelle in 1951.

While at Montana School of Mines, he served as a representative for then Governor John W. Bonner on the Western Governors Mining Advisory Council. From 1953-54, he was chairman of the Secretary of the Interior's Committee on organization of the U.S. Geological Survey.

Dr. Van Pelt was a life member and past director and vice-president of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers (AIME).

-Edward T. Ruppel  
Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology