

Jasper Leonidas Stuckey, 1891-1979

Jasper L. Stuckey, State Geologist of North Carolina from 1925 to 1926, and from 1940 to 1964, died at Raleigh, North Carolina, on August 1, 1979, after an illness of three months.

Jasper was born on a small farm in Johnston County, North Carolina on July 24, 1891. During his boyhood he attended the local rural school, earned a license to teach and taught all of the grades in a one-room school for two years. He graduated from Smithfield high school in 1914 and entered the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill that fall. He earned a Bachelor's degree in geology from the University of North Carolina in 1918, a Master's degree from the same university in 1920, and a Ph.D. degree from Cornell University in 1924. In 1965 he was awarded the Honorary degree of Doctor of Science by North Carolina State of the University of North Carolina.

Jasper joined the North Carolina Geological and Economic Survey in 1924. In 1925 he became State Geologist in the newly formed Department of Conservation and Development and also served as Acting Director from August to December 1925. In September 1926 Jasper was appointed Associate Professor of Geology in the Agronomy Department at North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering. He later became Professor of Geology and head of the Department of Geological Engineering and served in that capacity until his retirement from the university in 1955.

In 1940 Jasper again became State Geologist in the Division of Mineral Resources, Department of Conservation and Development. During the period 1940-1955 Jasper served as State Geologist and head of the Department of Geological Engineering, North Carolina State College of Agricultural and Engineering, and during the period 1946-1954 he was also Director of the Minerals Research Laboratory in Asheville, a State of North Carolina and Tennessee Valley Authority cooperative facility. After retiring from the University in 1955, Jasper assumed the responsibility of State Geologist on a full time basis and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1964.

After retirement from the Department of Conservation and Development, Jasper continued with the department in a consulting capacity until he completed work on a comprehensive publication entitled, "North Carolina: Its Geology and Mineral Resources," published in 1965. For several years after his retirement as State Geologist, Jasper was engaged by Carolina Power and Light Company as a consulting geologist and carried out extensive geologic investigations at two nuclear power plant sites. He also retained an active interest in the work of the geological survey by completing a report on pyrophyllite, a mineral commodity of long interest to him, and a summary of iron ore investigations carried out by the State and Bureau of Mines during the early 1940s.

Jasper was an active member of numerous civic and professional organizations. He served as president of the Association of American State Geologists in 1958-1959. In 1977 he was elected an Honorary Member of the Association of Engineering Geologists.

Jasper was a deeply religious man in an unobtrusive way. He had great faith that events would work out for the best. He taught a Sunday School class for many years at a Methodist Church in Raleigh, but later became converted to the Mormon faith. He

served as an elder in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, a Patriarch of the Raleigh Stake after 1962, and was District Councilman and District President in the Central Atlantic States Mission. Between June 1975 and July 1976 he and Mrs. Stuckey served a missionary term as temple workers in Washington, D.C.

Jasper devoted essentially his entire adult life to the study of North Carolina geology and to the development of its mineral resources. For nearly sixty years he was a state investigator and administrator, a college professor, and an author whose work focused on his native state. No other person has had so great an effect on publicizing and promoting the use of North Carolina's mineral wealth.

Jasper was a distinguished citizen and geologist who will be deeply missed by his many friends and colleagues. We extend to Mrs. Stuckey, their son Bill, and other members of the family our deepest sympathy.

Stephen G. Conrad