

Frank E. Kottlowski (1921 -2001)



Dr. Frank E. Kottlowski, 80, passed away on Wednesday, April 18, 2001. He was born on April 11, 1921, in Indianapolis, Indiana. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Florence Jean, and his three daughters and their spouses, five grandchildren and their spouses, and three great-grandchildren.

Frank began his higher education at Butler University as a business major, but World War II interrupted and he served as an aerial navigator and photographic interpreter for the 8th Air Force from 1942 to 1945. After the war, he attended Indiana University and was one semester away from completing his certified public accountant degree when he took a geology course from Charles Deiss. That exciting teacher sold Frank on geology, who received his B.A. in 1947 in geology. Within his next four years at Indiana, Frank received his M.A. in structural geology (1949) and Ph.D. in economic Geology (1951).

In 1951, Frank accepted a position at the New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources as an economic geologist. From 1951 until 1974 he became familiar with the history, geography, economic geology, stratigraphy, and structural geology of all of New Mexico, and friends say that he could easily recall the details and relevance of every significant outcrop in the state.

Frank was the Director of the Bureau, and later State Geologist, from 1974 to 1991, and his administration was marked by substantial growth in personnel, budget, and influence of the organization. His early CPA training came in handy as Director, and his colleagues at the Bureau recall Frank's attention to budget numbers.

Upon retirement in 1991, Frank received Emeritus status from New Mexico Tech. Even in retirement, his work ethic required him to put in many hours in his Emeritus office, tying up those loose ends that were acquired in the more than 50 years of geological work, especially those in New Mexico.

Frank's passion for geology produced more than 200 significant papers, many reports, and a textbook, *Measuring Stratigraphic Sections*. His interests in economic geology, particularly coal, Paleozoic and Mesozoic rocks in southern New Mexico, and Cenozoic and Quaternary rocks in the Rio Grande rift, are well known. Within New Mexico he served on numerous boards, commissions, and panels that supervise, advise, oversee, and otherwise offer advice on a wide variety of mineral resources or **extractive** or environmental activities. Nationally, Frank served on many committees, a large number within the Geological Society of America and American Association of Petroleum Geologists as councilor, chair, or editor, and he received numerous awards and several honorary memberships.