

Frederic F. Mellen (-1989)

Frederic F. Mellen of Jackson, Mississippi, died at the age of 78 on Monday, November 6, 1989. Mellen was born on the campus of Mississippi A & M, the son of Professor F. D. Mellen and Frances M. R. Mellen. He spent his childhood on campus and received his bachelor's degree in geology in 1934. Fred developed an enthusiastic interest in the fossils of the Cretaceous Selma Chalk. He received his master's degree in geology at the University of Mississippi in 1937. Fred worked at jobs in the field of geology from 1937 until he was appointed state geologist and director of the Mississippi Geological Survey in June, 1962. He remained in this office through 1965 when he resigned to organize Mellen Geological Associates, Inc. .

Working in connection with the Mississippi Survey and the WPA in the late 1930s, Fred Mellen conducted a thorough geological investigation of Yazoo County in Mississippi. Through his geological mapping there, he discovered a 250- foot structural uplift that was of significant interest to the Mississippi Survey; an announcement about the Tinsley dome was issued in 1939. By 1988, 218,553,120 bbl of oil and over 6 bcf of natural gas had been produced at the Tinsley dome. Fred examined bentonite deposits in Pontotoc County, and his work for the Agricultural Adjustment Administration ushered in the first lime plant in Mississippi. He worked for the Jackson Ready-Mix Concrete Company and identified requisite deposits to use for lightweight aggregate production in the Jackson vicinity.

Fred Mellen published the results of his work in numerous geological and trade journals. He received the Outstanding Mississippian Award from the governor in 1976 for outstanding achievements as a prominent geologist in his home state. He is survived by his wife, Esta, six children, 16grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Memorials may be sent to the Development Foundation of Mississippi State University.