

William Clifton Hayes, Jr. (1920-1991)

Former State Geologist and Honorary AASG Member William C. Hayes, Jr. died in Springfield, Missouri on May 29, 1991. He is survived by his wife, Verna Lee, and three children, Christina, John Randolph, and Ralph William.

Bill was born on February 24, 1920, in St. Louis, Missouri, and moved with his parents to Springfield in 1921. He attended school in Springfield, and graduated from Drury College in 1941. He pursued graduate studies in geology, earning an M.S. at the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy in Rolla in 1947, and a Ph.D. at the University of Iowa in 1951. Bill began work in copper mining in Nevada in 1941, but entered the U.S. Army Air Corps a year later, and spent four years in that service, rising to the rank of captain.

After he completed his Ph.D. dissertation on the Precambrian of Missouri, he accepted a faculty position at Texas Tech in Lubbock, but soon moved on to consulting for a period of four years. Bill Hayes returned to Rolla in 1956 to work as an economic geologist for the Missouri Survey under State Geologist Thomas R. Beveridge. He did some work on the brown iron ore deposits, but quickly became involved in research that would assist in defining the Viburnum Trend, the most productive lead-producing region in the world at the time. Bill was appointed Beveridge's assistant in 1958, and succeeded him as Missouri's fourteenth State Geologist on September 1, 1964. Ground- and aerial-magnetic mapping by the Survey played a big part in the lead-mapping project, and he recognized the potential genetic relationship between the Precambrian and the ore deposits. Bill initiated "Operation Basement" as a long-term investigation of Missouri's Precambrian rocks. During his tenure as State Geologist, William C. Hayes obtained funding

for a second building which now houses the offices of the Land Survey, the archives of original land surveys, and a major portion of the McCracken Core Library. He oversaw production of the state's first Mineral Resources and Industry Map in 1965, and was instrumental in establishing the Missouri Mining Industry Council in 1966.

Hayes brought about a state land survey, regulation of dams, protection of ground water, and a ban on subsurface hazardous waste disposal. He arranged the cooperative program with the USGS Water Resources Division, and gained authority for the Survey to regulate water-well construction in Missouri.

Bill was a charter member of the American Institute of Professional Geologists, a Fellow of the Geological Society of America, and served as president of the Association of Missouri Geologists and the Association of American State Geologists. He hosted the AASG annual meeting in Missouri in 1970. He was active in civic and community organizations, including the Rotary Club and the Rolla Area Chamber of Commerce. He was a Deacon and Treasurer for the First Presbyterian Church in Rolla.

When Hayes retired as State Geologist in 1971, he moved back to Springfield and became the first city geologist. He was responsible for developing improved approaches to environmental problems for cities like Springfield that are located on limestone terrain. He participated in 15 major projects for the city, and completed 114 environmental assessments representing \$30 million in grants for Springfield. After a second retirement from the City of Springfield, Bill and his wife Verna Lee cared for their parents through their later years.