

Robert G. Doyle (1926-2018)

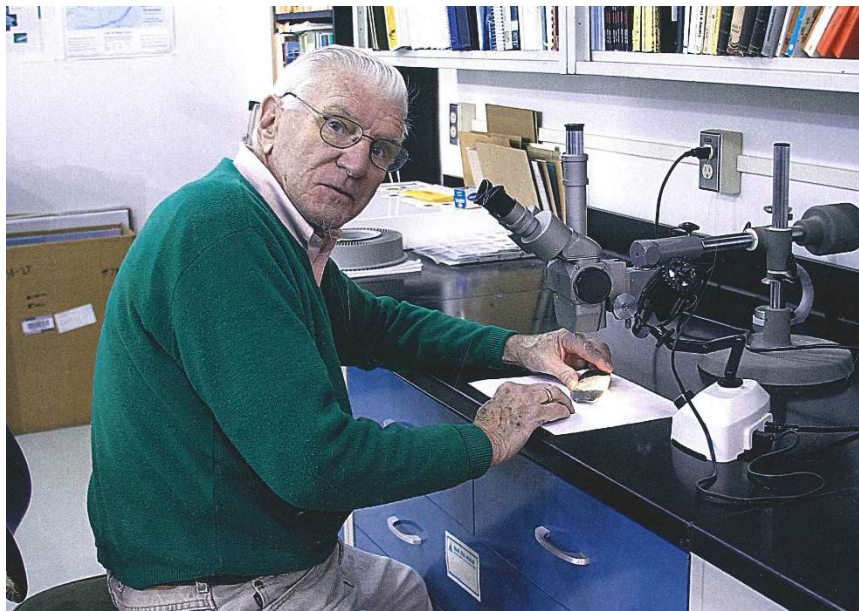
On August 13, 2018, the Maine geological community lost yet another large personality – Robert G. Doyle. Bob hailed from Boston where he earned a degree in geology from Harvard, and then worked as an economic geologist in South America before joining the Maine Geological Survey in the late 1950s. He first applied his expertise in economic geology to the compilation of a series of mineral resource maps in 1959. In the summer of that year, Bob assumed the role of State Geologist, a position he held into 1978.

During his tenure, the Maine Geological Survey continued programs in basic geological mapping and expanded the mineral resources program in response to the exploration frenzy that led to and followed the opening of metallic mineral mines in coastal Maine. To promote Maine's economic geology, Bob attended the International Geological Congress in Prague in August of 1968, but after a few days of meeting the conference was abruptly

canceled when the Soviets invaded Czechoslovakia. In a Bangor Daily News article at the time, Bob noted that the Czechoslovaks were “very protective” of the delegates and saw to their safety.

Among Bob's many achievements in his 20 years at MGS were the more than thirty reports and maps that he authored or co-authored, many focusing on the detailed geological context of Maine's mineral resources. Perhaps his crowning achievement was his oversight of the project to compile the *Preliminary Geologic Map of Maine* published in 1967. This was the first truly modern map that presented Maine's bedrock in a consistent and integrated manner statewide at a scale of 1:500,000. To accomplish this enormous task, Bob strengthened and expanded collaborations with academic and federal geologists, dozens of whom contributed to the map.

As large bureaucracies are wont to do, during the Doyle years the Maine Geological Survey was shuffled from one institutional setting to another no fewer than four times as each administration sought “organizational efficiencies.” Bob did well to preserve the Survey's programs and in 1973 guided the Survey's inclusion into the newly formed Department of Conservation.



Bob Doyle at work at the Maine State Museum Archaeological Laboratory in preparation of his report “Identification of the lithic artifacts from central coastal Maine archaeological sites” 2008.

Bob was a supporter of the Association of American State Geologists, frequenting meetings of the Association during his tenure as Maine State Geologist. In May of 1971, he hosted the AASG Annual Meeting in Kennebunkport, Maine.

After leaving MGS, Bob introduced dozens of students to Maine geology through courses he taught at the University of Maine at Augusta. He was a frequent participant in geological fieldtrips, last leading a trip in 2000. He also indulged his archaeological interests, identifying the source materials for and distribution of stone tools throughout the region. Bob remained a frequent visitor to the MGS offices up until shortly before his death, always offering sound advice on the political issues of the day.

Geologist Safe, Well

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at some Russian tanks, and fires had broken out in Prague.

Doyle, who is director of the Division of Science and Technology of the Maine Department of Economic Development, said Russian delegates at the international Geological Congress moved Thursday for adjournment, and he presumed the congress had been cancelled. The conference originally scheduled to last two weeks, opened earlier this week attended by 1,000 delegates from 30 countries.

Doyle said the Czechoslovaks had been "very protective" of the delegates and had seen to their safety.

Dr. Russell said his son had telephoned him from West Germany to say that he would try to return to his embassy post in Prague Saturday.

Theodore Russell and his wife, Sarah, had left Prague earlier in the week to take their eldest son, who is 4, to a hospital in the Bavarian city of Koenigsberg. The younger boy had stayed behind.

A Columbia University specialist on Communist affairs said at his summer home at Northeast Harbor Thursday that the United States should retaliate against Russia for invading Czechoslovakia. He called the invasion an act of "international gangsterism."

Prof. Zbigniew Brzezinski said in a telephone interview that Americans could invoke economic measures against the Soviets as well as cancel the new U. S.-Soviet air agreement.

Yet he warned that Americans cannot be "fanatically anti-Communist."

"We must try to build bridges to Russia and the Iron Curtain countries," he said. "This is the only way we can eventually bring them back to civilization."

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Bangor Daily News, August 1968.



ROBERT G. DOYLE
(1958 photo)