

EDWARD L. CLARK, 1908-1962

Dr. Edward L. Clark, State Geologist of Missouri from April 1944 to June 1955, passed away suddenly at his home in Littleton, Colorado on March 7, 1962. At the time of his death, he was Director of the Department of Natural Resources of the State of Colorado.

Dr. Clark was born January 23, 1908 and reared in Springfield, Missouri. He graduated from Drury College in 1929, took his Master's degree in geology at the State University of Iowa in 1931, and his Ph.D. degree in geology at the University of Missouri in 1941. He was professor of geology at Drury College from 1932 to 1942, with the exception of 1935 and 1936 when he was on leave of absence to serve as a mining geologist for the Compania Unificada del Cerro de Potosi in Bolivia. He was a geologist with the Missouri Geological Survey during the summers of 1937-41.

From April 1942 until February 1944, he served with the War Production Board, first as Regional Technical Advisor with the Mining Division, later as District Manager in Joplin.

In February 1944 he became Assistant State Geologist of the Missouri Geological Survey and, following the death of "Chief" H. A. Buehler he was appointed State Geologist in April 1944.

In 1955, he joined the Four Corners Uranium Corporation at Grand Junction, Colorado, as Vice President in charge of exploration and remained with this company until he was named Director of the Department of Natural Resources of the State of Colorado in 1959.

Dr. Clark was a leader who inspired those who worked for or with him and was held in highest regard by his associates because of his capabilities, initiative, and versatility. As head of the Geology Department at Drury College he established one of the strongest college geology departments in the midwest. He assumed the position of State Geologist under wartime conditions—involving loss of personnel and funds and inadequate quarters—all of which would have been most discouraging to one of less initiative and fortitude. However, within a year he had restored the Survey to essentially normal peacetime functions. The projects initiated by him, particularly the cooperative financing of aeromagnetic mapping of southeastern Missouri by the Missouri Geological Survey, U. S. Geological Survey, and the mineral industry, have been major incentives to the greatly accelerated volume of mineral exploration now under way in Missouri. His knowledge of water resources and associated problems led to his appointment as a member of the President's Commission on Water Resources in the fall of 1954, a position which kept him in Washington for several months on an assignment to formulate a national water policy.

His versatility perhaps is best exemplified by the fact that he was an outstanding teacher of geology, a practical mining man, an able administrator, and a speaker who could captivate an audience without using a note. He was an ardent out-of-doors man and would hunt or fish under weather conditions discouraging to all but the most enthusiastic devotee. These qualifications fitted ideally to his position as Director of the Department of Natural Resources of Colorado—a position for which a successor has not yet been named. This vacant* position has been a fitting tribute and is a silent eulogy to “Ed” Clark.

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