

James Donald Forrester, 1906-1979

James Donald Forrester, State Geologist of Idaho from 1954 to 1956 and of Arizona from 1956 to 1970, died at Tucson, Arizona on December 31, 1979.

J. D. or Don, as he was variously known to his friends, was born in Salt Lake City. He received a Bachelor's degree in Geological Engineering from the University of Utah and a Master's degree and Ph.D. degree (1935) from Cornell University.

Don worked as a geologist for Anaconda Copper Mining Company from 1929 to 1932 and from 1935 to 1939. During the three-year lapse in employment he was at Cornell working on his doctorate. In 1939 he joined the faculty at the University of Idaho as Professor and Head of the Department of Geology. In 1944 he accepted the Chairmanship of the Department of Mining Engineering at the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy. In September 1954 Don returned to Idaho to become Dean, College of Mines, University of Idaho, and Director of the Idaho Bureau of Mines and Geology. In this last capacity Don Forrester first became a member of AASG.

In 1956 Don moved again, this time to the University of Arizona where he became Dean of the College of Mines and Director of the Arizona Bureau of Mines. He remained a member of AASG until his retirement in 1970.

Not one to remain idle, Don joined Phelps Corporation in 1970 to establish a Division of Environmental Engineering and Research. He served as Director until his second retirement in 1976.

Don was active in many engineering and scientific organizations, serving for many years on the Board of Directors of the Arizona Mining Association. He was a member of AIME, SEG, Mining and Metallurgy Society of America, American Society of Engineering Education, Newcomer Society of North America, and several local geological and civic organizations. He and his wife, Lisle Keele, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in September. He is survived by his wife; a daughter, Lisle Jean Johnson of Kearney, Arizona; a sister, Avy Steward of Salt Lake City; and five grandchildren.

Donald T. McMillan