Memorial to Deane F. Kent
1915–1988

STUART W. MAHER
Louisville, Tennessee

Deane Frederick Kent, chairman of the board and executive vice-president of Kenwill, Incorporated, succumbed to a sudden and massive seizure March 22, 1988, in Alcoa, Tennessee.

Deane was born in Boston, July 12, 1915. He spent his early years in Vermont and often spoke of himself as “a Down-Easter.” He graduated from Middlebury College (A.B.) in 1939. He attended the University of Wyoming’s field camp at Laramie in 1937 and spent the academic year of 1939 at Wyoming serving as a field assistant in geologic mapping. While there he met Billie L. Steneck, whom he married in 1938. She and their daughter, Sandra K. Williams, survive him, as does his mother, Pauline Stevenson.

Following a study of the Vermont marble district, Deane enrolled in Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. There he worked with Gilbert Cady studying coal resources and received the M.S. degree in 1942. From 1942 to 1944, Deane continued with Cady at the Illinois Geological Survey, studying the fuel resources of the Illinois Basin.

Work on strategic minerals for the U.S. Geological Survey took Deane to the East Tennessee zinc districts, then to Peru to investigate mercury deposits, and later, to work in Colorado. The Tennessee zinc work continued a relationship established at Northwestern with C. H. Behre. During 1956, Deane joined the American Smelting and Refining Company at the Flux-Trench mines, Arizona, as manager for geology. He also conducted exploration at Silver Bell and in the Northern Mexican Sonora. Deane returned to the Southeast in 1958 as ASARCO’s eastern United States manager. This led to renewed exploration for zinc in the Appalachians, heavy minerals and high-alumina clays in the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains, phosphate in Florida, and lead in southeast Missouri.


Deane F. Kent and Associates merged with Atek Labs, Incorporated, in 1976, to form Kenwill, Incorporated; Deane became chairman of the board and executive vice-president. Kenwill was (and is) structured to offer consulting in geology, engineering, and analytical chemistry. Deane was active in many of the company’s projects, both administratively and in the field. Right up to the time of his death, he never lost his zest for field work and the search for valuable minerals, or for solving problems posed by the geologic environment.

Deane possessed a keen curiosity about all things, a dedication to his Methodist church and to public service. At the time of his death, he was a church trustee and vice-chairman of the Alcoa Planning Commission. He was a registered engineer in Nevada and Tennessee. Professionally, he was a Fellow of the Geological Society of America and a member and past director of the Society of Mining Engineers, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Society of Testing Materials. He was a thirty-second degree Mason and commodore of the local yacht club.

Deane was a strong personality, an accomplished raconteur, a man of many interests. His
hobbies included sports, especially winter sports. He was an able hockey player and skier, an airplane pilot, and a philatelist. He also enjoyed woodworking. He brought an optimistic and positive attitude to all his endeavors. Deane died as he would have wished, suddenly and on active service.

**SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF D. F. KENT**


