Memorial to Francis M. Van Tuyl
1887-1975

L. W. LeROY
Department of Geology, Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Colorado 80401

The passing of Dr. Francis M. Van Tuyl, February 25, 1975, at the age of eighty-seven, ended a long and illustrious career as a geologist, administrator, and educator at the Colorado School of Mines. "Van," as his co-workers knew him, faithfully served Mines for thirty-six years, of which thirty-four were devoted to the guiding, building, and stabilizing of the Department of Geological Engineering. He first joined the faculty of Mines in 1917; two years later he assumed the departmental head responsibilities, which continued until his retirement as professor emeritus in 1953.

Van was born October 15, 1887, on a farm near Denmark, Iowa. He completed his B.A. and M.S. degrees at the University of Iowa; then in 1915, he fulfilled the Ph.D. requirements at Columbia University.

Through the years this dedicated, tolerant, and understanding man contributed greatly to educating and developing many outstanding geological engineers now occupying high-level positions with petroleum, mining, and engineering firms throughout the world. These men will always recall his dry, subtle, encouraging humor, his ability to instruct in diverse areas of geology, and his interest in preparing students for responsible assignments.

When Van assumed the department head position in 1919, his staff consisted of two men, another and himself. At this time, only the Engineer of Mines (E.M.) degree was offered by the school. In 1922 he formulated the Geological Engineering Degree—the first to be offered to geologically oriented students with an engineering background. This categorized him as the "Father of Geological Engineering." Since the establishment of this degree, a dozen or more schools across the nation have accepted the basic philosophy of the program, which includes such courses as mathematics, physics, chemistry, strength of material, fluids, and thermodynamics. The Geological Engineering Department of Mines still retains the Van Tuyl philosophy.

In addition to a demanding teaching load, Van participated in many professional societies—Geological Society of America, American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists, American Geophysical Union, Colorado Scientific Society, American Association for Advancement of Science, Paleontological Society, Colorado-Wyoming Academy of Science, Iowa Academy of Science, and the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers. His record stands in Who's Who in America, American Men of Science, Who's Who in Education, and Who's Who in Engineering. He served as Rocky Mountain Editor for the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, was editor and contributor to the Annual Review of Petroleum Geology, worked on the Subcommittee on Sedimentation of the National Research Council, was president of Plains Exploration Company, served on
the Interstate Oil Compact Commission and on the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, contributed to *Encyclopaedia Britannica Book of the Year*, and managed two general-purpose ranches in northeastern Colorado. On campus, Van participated in programs of Phi Beta Kappa, Tau Beta Pi, Sigma Xi, Sigma Gamma Epsilon, Scabbard and Blade, and Kappa Sigma honorary societies and fraternities.

Through the years he contributed papers relating to problems of origin, migration, and accumulation of oil and gas, the origin and thermal alteration of coal, the correlation of Mississippi Valley formations, the dolomite problem, the ore deposits of the Cripple Creek area of Colorado, the geomorphic history of Colorado's Front Range, the possibilities of oil recovery from oil shale, and the water-flooding of oil sands. He was the author or co-author of a grand total of 103 publications.

Van is survived by his wife Euphama Jane of Golden, Colorado; two daughters, Euphama Jane Lucus of Golden and Catrina Frances Allen of Salt Lake City; four grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF F. M. VAN TUYL


1919 *The Cripple Creek district of Colorado, a re-survey*: Colorado School Mines Quart., v. 14, no. 3, p. 5-10.


