

MEMORIAL OF PHILIP KRIEGER

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On August 18, 1940, while driving through the Adirondack Mountains, Philip Krieger was killed in an automobile accident. He was returning from North Creek, New York, where he had been visiting his wife and daughter at their summer home, to Gouverneur, New York, where he was engaged in summer field work. His sudden death was a severe shock to his family and many friends.

Philip Krieger was born in Portland, Oregon, November 22, 1900, the son of Philip and Katherine Elizabeth Hahn Krieger. He was one of a family of ten, having six sisters and three brothers. His parents were born in Russia, descended from Bavarian Germans who had migrated into the Russian Ukraine near Kiev about 1690. These emigrants maintained their own schools, churches, and laws, with little interference from Russian rulers. Eventually, around 1900, they emigrated to the United States, across the Pacific, and now form small groups, living in several widely separated communities along the west coast. To this day, these people speak German among themselves with a Bavarian dialect.

Philip Krieger became interested in mining at an early age, and for a short time before entering college he worked in the Slate Creek mining district of Alaska. His summer vacations, while attending Oregon State College, were occupied with work at the Bunker Hill and Sullivan mines in the Coeur d'Alene district of Idaho.

After obtaining his B.S. degree in 1925, he worked for two years as a mining engineer for the Phelps Dodge Corporation in Sonora, Mexico, and one year as chief engineer for the Ahumada Lead Company in Chihuahua, Mexico. This valuable experience was followed by a brief association with the St. Joseph Lead Company in southeastern Missouri before coming to Columbia University in 1928 as a graduate student in geology.

From 1928 to 1930, Dr. Krieger combined graduate study with departmental assistance work in mineralogy, and in the summer engaged in field work in the west. In 1930 he was granted a University Fellowship following which, in 1931, he was given an appointment as instructor in mineralogy. The Ph.D. degree was conferred upon him in 1932. In 1935, the chair of economic geology became vacant and Dr. Krieger was given the opportunity to take over the work in this field. He assumed this work with enthusiasm and vigor, being so successful that he was promoted to the rank of assistant professor in 1937.



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PHILIP KRIEGER
1900-1940

From 1931 to 1937, a period of increasing responsibility and attainment, Philip Krieger published his most important contributions to the study of mineral deposits. It was only natural for him to make economic geology his specialty, and with his early training in mining, he achieved a remarkable proficiency in the field within a comparatively short time. His publications were concerned mainly with silver, lead and zinc deposits of economic value. They were assisted materially by the excellent laboratory in mineralography which he had succeeded in building up at Columbia. In fact, the background that had been established presaged a brilliant future of scientific contribution when his career came to such an untimely end.

His summers during this period were spent in reconnaissance and exploration work for the American Metal Company in both Mexico and Canada, and in conducting student field trips in regions of economic importance. The summer of 1937 he attended the 17th International Geological Congress in Russia, making excursions to many Russian mineral deposits.

Philip Krieger became a member of the Mineralogical Society of America in 1931 and was elected a fellow in 1933; in 1934 he was elected a member of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers; in 1936 he was elected to fellowship in the Geological Society of America. He was a fellow of the Society of Economic Geologists and was particularly active in the affairs of that organization, being a member of the Council at the time of his death. He was also a fellow of the New York Academy of Sciences.

Philip Krieger was prominent in the affairs and meetings of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers. He was a member of the Papers and Publications committee, the Mining Geology committee, and the executive committee of the New York local section. He was often called upon to assist in the work of the committee in charge of the annual meeting of the Institute in New York.

In 1931, he married Medora Hooper, a graduate student in the Department of Geology at Columbia University and a daughter of Frank C. Hooper, manager of the Gore Mountain garnet mines at North River, New York. Many of their vacations and weekends were devoted to studies and recreation in the vicinity of North Creek, and in recent years they had become ardent devotees of the winter sport of skiing. While the University was in session Professor and Mrs. Krieger made their home in Scarsdale, New York, where their daughter, Katherine Elizabeth, was born in 1939.

Students and colleagues who worked with Philip Krieger always respected his appreciation of the broad principles involved in the study of

mineral deposits, his quiet insistence upon accuracy and detail in the solution of problems, his patience in the examination and determination of minerals; nor will they soon forget his cheerful mien and love of fun. His was a charming personality that captivated all who came to know him. His passing is a deep loss to his family, friends, and science.

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