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MEMORIAL OF WILLIAM JOHN MILLER

April 26, 1880-July 27, 1965

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William John Miller divided his lifetime rather evenly between the eastern and western parts of the country. He was born in Red Bluff, California in 1880, and died in San Diego on July 27, 1965.

His early life was spent in Red Bluff, a frontier town close to the foothills of Mount Lassen, in the upper Sacramento Valley. Here he became expert as a fisherman, wilderness explorer, and amateur natural historian. Although his father died when Miller was young, he was determined to study some phase of natural history, and the nearby and varied geologic phenomena of Mount Lassen directed his energies toward the earth sciences. He helped finance his education by working in the lumber mills of the northern Sierra Nevada. At the age of 16, he entered the College of the Pacific at San Jose (the predecessor of the present University of the Pacific at Stockton), majoring in chemistry and geology, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa on his graduation in 1900. The College appointed him instructor in geology and chemistry, and his teaching here continued until 1903. During his summers, he was a field assistant to the late Ralph Arnold, who was doing field work in the Santa Cruz Mountains for the United States Geological Survey. During this time he completed work on a geological study in the Oak Hill region of the Santa Clara Valley of California. In addition, he began graduate study at Stan-

ford University, continuing this until he resigned from the College of the Pacific.

During this time, he was admitted to candidacy for the Ph.D. in Geologic Science at Johns Hopkins University, being designated in 1904 as University Fellow for his outstanding work, and receiving his degree in 1905.

Dr. Miller began a long and distinguished career as college teacher, lecturer, and field geologist with his appointment in 1905 as Professor of Geology at Hamilton College, in Clinton, New York; remaining in this position until 1914. During these years he began his studies of the crystalline rocks of the New York Adirondack area—studies which continued until 1924, and which pioneered mapping of the Adirondack crystalline massif. Much of this work, published as Bulletins of the New York State Museum, with geologic maps and text, was prepared over a period of nearly twenty years, during which, in addition to his teaching, he was employed as field geologist for the New York State Geological Survey.

During this time, he developed a very considerable skill as a lecturer, and travelled widely over the Northeast, speaking to teachers, students, community groups—anyone whom he could make contact with, and to whom he could hold forth on the natural wonders of the geologic world. He was a most eloquent and persuasive speaker on these subjects, and was able to arouse a most lively interest in his audiences.

While at Hamilton College, he began the preparation of the first of a long series of geologic textbooks, for which he became noted. His *Introduction to Historical Geology* was first published in 1916 and continued in extensive use through its 6th edition in 1952. In addition, he wrote a number of interpretive articles dealing with geologic subjects for the general public as well as for geologists. The best known of these are: *Geologic History of New York State* (1914 and 1924); *the Adirondack Mountains* (1917); *Geologic History of the Connecticut Valley of Massachusetts* (1921); and *California Through the Ages* (1957).

In 1914, Miller became Professor of Geology and head of the Department at Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts, remaining in this position until 1924. During this period many of his research studies on the petrology of the Adirondack igneous and metamorphic rocks were completed.

Leaving Smith College in 1924, Dr. Miller went West to the Southern Branch of the University of California, as Professor of Geology and head of the newly organized Department of Geology, continuing here until his retirement in 1948. Joining the faculty when total enrollment in the Southern Branch was about 1500, he participated in the growth of this



William John Miller

portion of the University until it reached its present status as a major campus of the University of California complex. He was responsible for the growth of the Department of Geology to include the granting of graduate degrees, and the expansion of its staff from a handful to a considerable group of leaders in the various divisions of the science.

In this California setting, he transferred his research to the crystalline rocks of the southern portion of the State, and many of the results of this study were published by the Geological Society of America in 1946. University recognition of the value of his activity came in 1932, when he was selected as Faculty Research Lecturer for that year. This selection is the highest honor which can be awarded by the University of California Faculty. His lecture on this occasion, *Magmatic Intrusion*, was published by the University of California Press.

When I joined the staff of the Geology Department in 1928, I was fortunate in starting my teaching career under his able tutelage. I shall always remember with pleasure how helpful and gracious he was to me, and to my family when they joined me after the first year. I think this kindness was perhaps his outstanding trait, and though he was a man of decided views, with no hesitation in expressing them, I do not ever remember ever hearing him say a harsh word about anyone. In his teaching of historical geology he naturally encountered disbelievers in the theory of evolution; he always treated them with appropriate firmness, but never with severity!

In addition to his geologic studies, he was one of the earlier observers of the relationship of geologic structure to human habitations, and argued vigorously against the building of houses on unstable slopes, in "dry" washes, or along the line of a fault!

One of the incidents coming to mind, showing his character to fine advantage, occurred after his retirement from active service. It happened that he was on the San Jacinto tramway, above Palm Springs, at the time the car became stuck part way up, and his cheerful talk about the kinds of rocks which could be seen from the swaying car, and his calm discussion of the circumstance of the breakdown, prevented a possible panic among the other passengers.

"W. J.'s" personal life revolved about his home and family. He is survived by his son, Dr. Willis Hamilton Miller of San Diego, his wife, (Eva Pearl Breniman) having died in 1964.

Professor Miller was a Fellow of the Geological Society of America (1909), and served in 1927 as Chairman of the Cordilleran Section of that Society. He was also a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Mineralogical Society of America, the Seismological Society of America; the American Geophysical Union, the American Association

for the Advancement of Science, and of the Pacific Geographical Society. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi societies, being past President of their chapters on the University of California, Los Angeles campus.

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MEMORIAL OF JOSEPH JAMES RUNNER

July 17, 1885-August 29, 1970

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Over fifty years of dedicated service to the Department of Geology, University of Iowa, terminated in the recent death of Joseph James Runner. Numerous alumni will remember Dr. Runner as the versatile instructor who introduced them to phases of geology ranging from mineralogy through economic geology to the summer field course. Colleagues will recall a loyal friend who cheerfully accepted a disproportionate share of the teaching load and other faculty assignments.

Joseph James Runner was born on July 17, 1885, in Aurora, Illinois. In 1907, he received the A.B. degree in Mathematics and Economics