Memorials

Elliot (Bud) Gillerman was a vital and versatile man. He will be missed.

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Memorial of William T. Granquist
1923–1974

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On 30 September 1974 the scientific community lost a good friend, an esteemed colleague, and Editor-in-Chief of the journal Clays and Clay Minerals. Dr. William T. (Bill) Granquist lost an eighteen month battle with cancer, during part of which time he participated in the experimental program of the M. D. Anderson Institute for Tumor Research of the University of Texas. In typical fashion Bill referred to himself as an extension of the Anderson laboratory apparatus. He leaves his wife, Norine, and three children, Beth, Victor, and Erik, as well as a host of close personal friends and associates.

Dr. Granquist, by education a physical chemist, had devoted his entire career to the clay minerals field, first with attapulgite at the Floridin Company laboratories; later with the smectite group at Mellon Institute as Baroid Fellow and at Baroid Division, N L Industries, laboratories as Assistant Technical Director. He was an ingenious experimenter and a prolific and most articulate idea man, as attested by numerous publications and
patents primarily in the field of clay mineral synthesis. A working tribute to his ingenuity is the unique high temperature-high pressure clay mineral manufacturing plant currently operating in Houston, Texas.

Born and raised in Warren, Pennsylvania, Bill remained in that area through a portion of his professional career after a four year stint at Case Institute in Cleveland, Ohio, where he received a B.S. degree in Chemistry. During his undergraduate years he served as an assistant in the Department of Chemical Engineering. Years later while employed as a Fellow at Mellon Institute, he furthered his educational career by enrolling in graduate work at the University of Pittsburgh, receiving a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry in 1962.

After his graduation at Case, Bill became a research chemist with the Floridin Company in Warren, advancing to Technical Director in 1949. His technical output reflects his direct involvement with clay mineralogy during his 10 years with Floridin, covering such things as adsorption of methane and other hydrocarbons on fullers earth, and rheological studies of attapulgite suspensions.

In 1954 Bill migrated to Pittsburgh to continue his research in the clay field by investigating the idea of synthesizing clay minerals, this time as Fellow on the Baroid Division (National Lead Co.) fellowship at Mellow Institute of Industrial Research. While his goal was the controlled synthesis of high purity montmorillonite as a substrate for organo-clay gellants, Granquist was quick to recognize the potential of these synthetic clay minerals in hydrocarbon catalysis, and with Bob Capell of the Gulf fellowship he collaborated in the patenting of a new family of fluid cracking catalysts.

We can only theorize that Bill’s mental capabilities needed additional outlet for stimulation, considering that while employed full time he simultaneously completed work for his Ph.D. at Pitt, still staying with the clay theme, and studying rheology of hectorite dispersions through application of streaming birefringence. Some six publications resulted from this work.

In 1969 Bill was transferred to Houston, Texas, to become Assistant Technical Director of the Baroid Division, N L Industries, Inc. In this capacity he directed the work of a group involved in development of catalytic materials based on a randomly stratified synthetic montmorillonite-mica through lab, pilot plant, and plant operations. Some twenty-seven publications and five patents resulted from his work in the clay minerals field.

Bill’s wide professional interests are indicated in his professional associations which included memberships in AAAS, American Chemical Society, American Institute of Chemists (fellow), Mineralogical Society of America (fellow), Society of Rheology, New York Academy of Sciences (fellow), American Ceramic Society, and the Clay Minerals Society (Editor). In his off-hours he was an avid outdoorsman, which generally involved packing the family and family dog into the bus, along with a canoe or two, and heading for the nearest or farthest navigable waters. As an old Pennsylvanian, the northern waters often won the toss whereby he headed for Minnesota lakes, Maine’s backwoods, or a forest preserve in Canada.

Bill Granquist was well known in his chosen field (and at a height of 6’6” easily spotted), and
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well regarded. As Editor of Clays and Clay Minerals he was conversant with practically the entire membership, including professional activities. He will be remembered as a good friend, an entertaining conversationalist, a brilliant researcher, and a warm, interesting person.

Patents


Publications of W. T. Granquist


Theory of measurement of flow birefringence by use of

the Senarmont compensator, with C. A. Hollingsworth.

1963 The gelation of hydrocarbons by montmorillonite organic complexes, with J. L. McAtee, Jr. J. Colloid Sci. 18, 409-420. (CA 59:5815e)

Rotational diffusion of some polydisperse clay mineral sols, with C. A. Hollingsworth. J. Colloid Sci. 18, 538-554. (CA 59:12222c)

Streaming birefringence decay of some clay mineral sols, with C. A. Hollingsworth. Trans. Faraday Soc. 59, (489), Pt. 9, 2192-2199 (CA 60:44a)


1966 Sorption of water at high temperatures on certain clay mineral surfaces. Correlation with lattice fluoride, with J. V. Kennedy. Clays Clay Minerals, 15, 103-117. (CA 71:95220x)


