

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS LEWIS DONOVAN CLARK

Professor Emeritus L. Donovan Clark, professor of mining engineering at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, during the years 1956 – 1972, died in Boca Raton, Florida, on September 29, 1997. Don was born on June 9, 1905, in Lewiston, Maine, and received his university education at Queens University, Kingston, Ontario, obtaining the B.S. degree in mining and metallurgical engineering in 1929 and the M.S. in mining engineering in 1930.

While still a graduate student, Don headed an exploration party into the Yellowknife river area of the Canadian Northwest Territories and subsequently continued to be involved in mining activities on the international scene for the next twenty years. From June, 1930, until December, 1933, he was employed by the Rhokana Corporation in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) initially as a field engineer and subsequently in operating the N'Kana mine. He then returned to Canada as an efficiency engineer with the International Nickel Company at the Creighton mine in Sudbury, Ontario, also spending time on assessing gold mining operations near Kirkland Lake. In 1935 Don was appointed mining engineer for the Honorable James W. Gerard of New York, mining financier and executor of the Marcus Daley Estate, his duties entailing mine evaluations in the western United States and in most Canadian provinces. Don believed that the Gerard mining interests had a major impact on the development of mining in North America and was very proud of his role in these matters. Later in his career, while at the University of Wisconsin, he summarized his recollections of these early years in "Raisins in the Rice", a book published by Renfrew Advance Ltd, Renfrew, Ontario, in 1983.

Don retained an active connection with the Gerard interests for several more years although he was on loan to the N. A. Timmins corporation in the Maritime Provinces in 1939, and then in 1942 he became associated with the exploration staff of the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company, Trail, British Columbia, remaining there until 1946 when he became assistant manager of Ontario Rock Company, Toronto. In 1949 he joined the staff of the Canadian subsidiary of Kennecott Copper in Toronto.

Armed with twenty years of varied practical mining experience, Don moved to academia in 1950, becoming assistant professor of mining engineering at Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania, followed by appointment to head of the mining department and to the John Markle Chair of Mining Engineering in 1953. In 1956 Don came to the University of Wisconsin – Madison as professor of mining engineering in what was at that time the Department of Mining and Metallurgy. During the next ten years it became apparent that mining as an academic discipline was changing in nature, and Don led the program expertly toward a more interdisciplinary character and with particular emphasis on geological engineering. At the same time, his extensive international mining experience was called upon in the form of starting a program, with Dean Henry B. Hill, for studying the mining industry in Chile, Peru and Bolivia. He visited these countries, and Tierra Del Fuego, a number of times. Don was the author of numerous publications on blasting, mineral economics and mining engineering education, and served on many university and other committees including the Governor's Committee on Conservation, the University President's Committee on Conservation Education, and a committee of the Wisconsin Department of Industry, Labor, and Human Relations revising the Code for Mines, Pits and Quarries.

Don was a demanding teacher, and is remembered for his insistence on the necessity of proper English grammar in the reports his students were regularly required to produce. Doubtless this was eventually greatly appreciated when they eventually moved into mining management careers.

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Don retired from the University of Wisconsin – Madison in 1972 and moved initially to Colorado and subsequently to Florida. He remained professionally active by working on, and subsequently publishing, historical records of early mining and geological mapping in the Rhodesias (Zambia and Zimbabwe), and pre-1929 mining exploration in Canada’s Northwest Territories. Don also tutored grade school children in his retirement years and presented talks in his area of expertise. He was also involved in minority student programs at the Colorado School of Mines.

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