

Geologist Bowles Dies In Virginia

Oliver Bowles, 81, internationally known geologist and mining engineer who worked for the United States Bureau



Mr. Bowles

of Mines for 44 years, died Friday at his summer home in Hillsboro, Loudoun County, Va.

An authority on asbestos, building stone and other mineral commodities, Mr. Bowles retired from

the Bureau of Mines in 1947 but continued to receive special assignments. He was appointed chief of the nonmetal division in 1942.

Mr. Bowles strongly influenced the growth of the Bureau's work in the technology and economics of the nonmetallic minerals. In 1926 he perfected a wire saw which immediately began saving the slate industry a quarter of a million dollars a year by speeding up production and reducing waste.

During World War II, his division was responsible for furnishing war agencies with information on mica, graphite, quartz crystal, cement, asbestos, magnesia and other vital materials.

Mr. Bowles was the author of "The Stone Industries" on quarrying in the United States and numerous Government bulletins, circulars, reference texts and professional papers. In 1948, the Department of Interior honored him with its Distinguished Service Award.

Born in northern Ontario, Mr. Bowles received his bachelor and master's degrees from the University of Toronto and a Ph. D. from the George Washington University in 1922.

A member of the Church of Christ, Scientist, Mr. Bowles believed that the world needed a rising "humanitarian consciousness, and spirit of Christianity." He once said, "What we need is a spirit of brotherhood. When one looks for evil motives, he can always find them."

He was a member of the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers, Society of Economic Geologists, Sigma XI, Cosmos Club, charter member of the Mineralogical Society of America, and honorary member of the British Institute of Quarrying.

Mr. Bowles is survived by his wife, Eva, of the home address, 5000 Massachusetts ave. nw., to whom he was married for 50 years; two sons, William G., chemical engineer with DuPont in Baltimore, and Edgar O., consulting geologist here and former professor of geology at American University, and a brother.

A brief memorial service will be held at 11 a. m. Monday at the Gawler funeral home chapel, 1756 Pennsylvania ave. nw.