

MORRIS M. LEIGHTON
1887-1971

Dr. Morris M. Leighton, widely-known geological scientist and administrator, died Thursday, January 7, 1971, at Urbana, Illinois, at the age of 83, after a long illness. He was Chief of the Illinois State Geological Survey from 1923 until his retirement in 1954, during which time the Survey came to a preeminent position among state surveys.

Dr. Leighton was born in 1887 at Wellman, Iowa, a son of Stephen T. and Jane Leighton. He was educated at the University of Iowa, where he received B.A. and M.S. degrees in 1912 and 1913, and at the University of Chicago, where he received his doctorate in 1916.

Between 1915 and 1923, Dr. Leighton was on the geology faculty at the University of Washington, Iowa State Teachers College, Ohio State University, and the University of Illinois. During the period 1919-1923 he was also on the staff of the Illinois State Geological Survey. After his retirement he remained active professionally until shortly before his death.

Dr. Leighton published numerous scientific articles over the past 53 years and is recognized especially for his publications on Pleistocene glacial deposits. Particularly noteworthy was his contribution on the concept of a state geological survey as a research institution. The Illinois State Geological Survey was the first state survey to emphasize a coordinated research effort to bring together the various disciplines, e.g., geology, chemistry, physics, and engineering, and apply them to natural resources for the shaping of sound policies of conservation.

Dr. Leighton was a member of many scientific and technical societies including the Society of Economic Geologists of which he was past president and honorary member; the Geological Society of America, fellow and counselor; the American Association of State Geologists, hon-

orary member and past president; the American Geological Institute, director and past president; Illinois State Museum Board, member and chairman; Illinois Postwar Planning Commission, member and vice chairman; Advisory committee, U. S. Geological Survey; Coordinating Committee on National Water Policy; Chicago Geographic Society, fellow; American Association for the Advancement of Science, past vice president; Illinois State Academy of Science, past president; and Illinois Mining Institute, past president.

Dr. Leighton was also made an honorary member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the Chicago Academy of Sciences, and the Illinois Mining Institute. He also served as business editor for "Economic Geology" for many years, and as editor of the State Geologists Journal.

Among his awards and honors, he was named Distinguished Alumnus at the University of Iowa in 1947, was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1952, was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science Degree from Southern Illinois University in 1954, and was a member of the United States Delegation to the Twentieth International Geological Congress held in Mexico City in 1956.

He was a member of the Wesley United Methodist Church and of the Chaos, Dial, and University Clubs.

Dr. Leighton was preceded in death by five brothers and one sister. He leaves his widow, Ada B. Leighton; a sister, Mrs. Golda Jenkinson of Tulsa, Oklahoma; three sons, F. Beach of Hacienda Heights, California; Morris W. of Seaforth, New South Wales, Australia; and Richard T. of Rockford; and 10 grandchildren.—*Boris Musulin, Department of Chemistry, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois.*

Manuscript received March 1, 1971.