

## JOSEPH T. SINGEWALD, JR. (1884-1963)

Joseph T. Singewald, Jr., retired State Geologist of Maryland and Director of The Department of Geology, Mines, and Water Resources, died on October 20, 1963, at his home in Baltimore after a long illness.

Joe Singewald was born September 25, 1884, in Baltimore. He received his A.B. degree in 1906 and his Ph.D. degree in 1909 at The Johns Hopkins University. His dissertation was on the iron ores of Maryland, prepared under the auspices of the Maryland Geological Survey. After receiving his doctorate, he began a long career of travels: first a year to Freiberg, Germany, and later to South America on several expeditions, some of which were extraordinarily adventuresome and dangerous.

The Lincoln Ellsworth Expedition to Brazil and up the Amazon and over the Andes to Peru was Singewald's greatest adventure. The expedition started at Salaverri, traversed eastward to the Huallaga River near the town of Pachiza. From here it returned home by floating down the Huallaga River on "Balsa" rafts to Yurimagnas, and thence by wood-burning river boat to the mouth of the Amazon.

On another occasion, he plane-tabled the awesome canyon. The Pongo de Manseriche, whose whirlpools and rapids few white men have survived. He also reached the land of the Jivaro Indians who are known for the manufacture of shrunken heads.

Singewald was on the staff of the Geology Department, Johns Hopkins University, from 1913 to 1952 when he became Professor Emeritus of Economic Geology.

When E. B. Mathews retired as State Geologist in 1943, Singewald became his successor and also Chairman of the University of the Geology Department. He remained State Geologist until his retirement in 1962. He served as President in 1955. He also was on the Finance Committee of the Geological Society of America and in that capacity frequently displayed his common sense and shrewdness in financial matters. His philosophy was sound; given a good investment, the only one who profits by changing it is the broker. He held to it personally and his fortune grew.

**\* Note—**The authorship of The Memorial to William McGill, appearing in the October Issue of the Journal, was not available at press time. It was prepared by Linwood Warwick, a retired employee of the Virginia Division of Mineral Resources and edited by James L. Calver, State Geologist.

At home, Joe Singewald became Chairman of the House Committee at the Johns Hopkins Club and together with a loyal and devoted staff turned the club into an outstandingly successful enterprise which has operated in the black now for over 25 years due to Joe's vigilance, hard fight for the club's rights, and practical operation.

Singewald published 87 scientific papers aside from routine annual reports and similar contributions to state publications. They are mostly concerned with economic geology and his travels. His most productive years were up to 1930, when the publication record declined as he was much sought after as a consultant, especially on limestone.

In the State administration, he caused the adoption of the well-driller's licensing and reporting and the water allotment legislation which has furnished the data for the bulletins on water information covering all Maryland counties. He was rightly proud of this progressive and very useful legislation. Of course, it became very time-consuming to administer and since Singewald disliked to ask for public funds beyond the absolutely essential he worked on Saturdays, evenings, and many a holiday. He was well known for his frugality, and his budget was rarely, if ever, questioned.

With Joe Singewald an era has passed. He was outspoken, frank, and utterly honest. His logic could drive students and colleagues to desperation. His frugality saved public funds for the State and for the University; and, as in all such cases, made increased budgets necessary afterwards. But he was generous with his own funds and anyone who cared to penetrate the somewhat crusty exterior would find one of the kindest human beings who had no selfish thought. So then, he leaves a host of devoted friends who mourn his passing.

Ernst Cloos