

JOHN B. PATTON
1915-1988

John Barratt Patton, longtime member of the geology faculty at Indiana University, died on September 16, 1988 at Bloomington (Indiana) Hospital at the age of 73. He was also a member of the professional staff of the Indiana Geological Survey and served for many years as its Director and State Geologist. He formally retired from these positions in June 1986 after nearly 40 years of devoted service to the State of Indiana.

John was born in Marion, Indiana on July 1, 1915. After graduating from high school in Anderson, he attended Indiana University, where he earned a bachelor's degree with honors in chemistry in 1938. Two years later he obtained a master's degree in geology and accepted a position in exploration and development with Magnolia Petroleum Company. In 1947 he returned to IU as head of the Industrial Minerals Section of the Survey and continued his graduate studies. In 1951 he was named Principal Geologist of the Survey. He was awarded the PhD degree in 1954.

Patton joined the IU faculty as an Assistant Professor in 1948, was promoted to Associate Professor in 1952 and to Professor in 1955. In 1959 he was appointed Chairman of the geology department and also State Geologist and Director of the Indiana Geological Survey. (Although located on the IU campus, the Survey is a Division of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and is not formally a part of Indiana University.) In 1971, John relinquished the department chairmanship but continued in his roles as Professor of Economic Geology and State Geologist until his retirement in 1986. He also served as Associate Dean of Research and Advanced Studies for two years.

John's expertise in geology was in the field of nonmetallic mineral deposits. He had a very special interest in natural building stone, an interest that he pursued both professionally and as a hobby, and he was an acknowledged authority on the geology and uses of one of the most widely used dimension stones in the country, the Salem Limestone (commonly called "Indiana limestone") of Mississippian age. His interest in this area was apparent immediately to anyone who had the opportunity to observe the exterior architecture of his home in Bloomington.

Patton was a member of the Geological Society of America, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists, the Society of Economic Geologists, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Sigma Xi, the Indiana-Kentucky Geological Society, the National Association of Geology Teachers, and the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers. He was a past president of the Association of American State Geologists, the Indiana Academy of Science, and Indiana University chapters of Phi Beta Kappa and the American Association of University Professors. He served on many professional committees and was the recipient of numerous honors, awards, and citations.

John B. Patton will be remembered by his friends, his colleagues, and his students as a reserved and gracious man who respected the judgment and values of others. He was a gentleman in the finest sense of the word. John is survived by his wife Jean, three sons, and five grandchildren.

-Allan F. Schneider
University of Wisconsin-Parkside