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Memorial of Philip Moore Orville 1930-1980

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The day Phil Orville died a little bit of the fun of living was lost to all who knew him. His friends, when they learned this article was to be written, offered their help and memories, and without exception their memories carried the same message—friendship with Phil Orville was an exceptionally rewarding experience. He was an adventurous, fun-loving, open-hearted man whose concerns and efforts on behalf of his friends knew no limits. How typical it was that among the activities of his last day he sent out invitations for a party at which graduate students

and other friends would gather at his home for an evening of high spirits and good humor. He had signalled the mood of the party by adding the footnote, A.B.D.—anything but disco. On the day of the party we gathered instead for a moving memorial service.

When Phil tackled anything, he did it whole heartedly, no holds barred. He started long distance running in 1967, for example, in order to get into shape for field work in the Alps, but soon competitive marathon races became his goal. Tall, lean and full of energy, no one who saw his long strides bearing him through the trails of his beloved East Rock Park in New Haven or along the city streets of a marathon course, could imagine that such vibrant good health could be struck down so suddenly and so unexpectedly. There was, in his paternal lineage, a history of middle-life heart trouble, but no one, least of all he and his family, had any inkling that he would extend that history by suffering a massive and fatal heart attack during his sleep on Wednesday, April 2, 1980.

Philip Moore Orville was born in Ottawa, Illinois, on the 24th of February, 1930, the son of Harold C. and Lorene Moore Orville. Much of his schooling was in California where he attended the Santa Monica High School and later the California Institute of Technology (B.S., 1952). Following Caltech, he spent the academic year 1952-53 as a Fulbright student at the University of Copenhagen prior to entering into graduate studies at Yale University where he earned his M.A. in 1954 and Ph.D. in 1958 with a thesis titled "The composition of some unzoned pegmatites in the Keystone District, South Dakota."

Orville's professional career was directly and increasingly distinguished as his talents and abilities were recognized. During 1956-57, in order to complete the necessary research for his Ph.D. thesis, he was a Predoctoral Fellow at the Carnegie Institution of Washington's Geophysical Laboratory; this was followed by an appointment as Postdoctoral Fellow for the years 1957-60. The years at the Geophysical Lab. were happy and productive ones as he investigated



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