MEMORIAL OF FRANK CHARLES SCHRADER


Widely known throughout the west as the prospector’s friend, Frank Charles Schrader passed away in April, 1944. He was ever ready to help the individual miner and prospector in identifying his various rocks and minerals and to supply him with publications that would help in his search for metals and ores.

Born in Sterling, Illinois, on October 6, 1860, he received the degrees of Bachelor of Science and Master of Science from the University of Kansas and Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts from Harvard. Before joining the U. S. Geological Survey in 1896, he served as entomologist in Kansas (1889-1891), on the State Board of Agriculture, Massachusetts (1893-1894), and taught geology for a year at Harvard (1895-1896). He was one of the first Federal geologists to make explorations in Alaska, reporting on the Copper River district, the Cape Nome gold region, and other areas. Later, he reported on the mineral resources of Kansas, New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, Idaho, Nevada, and other western states, publishing many papers on ore and mineral deposits in these States. In 1917 he assisted in the revision of an earlier bulletin of the Survey on “Useful Minerals of the United States.” During the First World War he examined and reported on many mineral deposits in the East and became the Mineral Resources specialist on antimony. His interest lay largely in the West, however, and he soon returned there for field work, particularly in Nevada.

He examined and reported on many mining properties and was chief witness in important mining cases in the Federal courts.

A keen mineralogist, he always brought back from the field any minerals that seemed unusual or worthy of further study, and gladly contributed both material and his time to others. The writer has benefited greatly by Schrader’s generous contribution of material and by informal discussions of problems with him. He was always pleased to be of help to others and gratified that, indirectly perhaps, he had contributed to the work of others.

He was a member of many scientific societies: American Association for the Advancement of Science, Society of Economic Geologists, American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, Mining and Metallurgical Society, American Forest Association, Geological Society of Washington, Washington Academy of Sciences, Washington Petrologists Club, and a Fellow of the Geological Society of America and Mineralogical Society of America.
Long a bachelor, he married Kathrine Batwell in 1919. In 1932 he was retired from active service on account of age but for five more years he continued to turn out geological reports.

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