

REMINISCENCES OF PAUL F. KERR

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In June 1927, Professor Paul F. Kerr looked me up at Occidental College, Los Angeles, where I was an instructor and where Paul had taken his undergraduate work. Previous to Paul's visit I told Dr. F. J. Smiley, head of the geology department, that I was meeting Dr. Kerr. He remembered that when Paul arrived at Occidental he was a very naive freshman but one who soon demonstrated his great interest and superior ability in the field of geology.

Dr. Kerr's 1927 visit to the west coast from Columbia University was the result of his duties as director of the Stanford geological summer camp, but he generously spent several days with me in the San Jacinto mountain area, which was the area of my doctorate dissertation. We spent not only the entire daytime together but shared a room at night. (Both of us were younger then and I believe neither of us snored.) During these days of close association I began to learn two basic characteristics of Dr. Kerr which have persisted throughout the years: his thorough approach to geological problems and his natural kindness to his students.

Now, nearly thirty-eight years later, I look back with pleasure on my association with Paul in the field, in his courses at Columbia and in numerous discussions with him where he has been helpful in solving geologic problems.

I believe I was Professor Kerr's first doctorate student, and in those early years there must have been times when he wondered if the effort to educate some individuals wasn't a losing cause.

In 1928, Helen Kerr was in Palo Alto when Paul was again in charge of the Stanford Summer Camp and Mrs. Fraser and I had the pleasure of meeting her. No one could have done a more generous and more helpful thing than Dr. and Mrs. Kerr when they offered us their apartment in New York for several weeks while we were finding a place to live.

I remember many pleasant gatherings with the Kerrs but space is limited for my mental wanderings, so, may I close by wishing Paul and his family, the very best of everything.