Memorial to Horace Winchell 1915–1993

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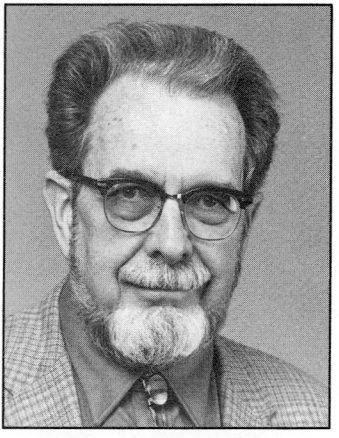

Horace Winchell, Professor Emeritus, Department of Geology and Geophysics, Yale University, and scion of a distinguished scientific family, died in New Haven, Connecticut, on Tuesday, July 20, 1993.

Horace Winchell was born on New Year's Day, 1915, in Madison, Wisconsin; he was descended from Robert Winchell, emigrant from Britain, who resided in Windsor, Connecticut, from 1635 to 1669. Some of Robert Winchell's descendants moved from Connecticut to eastern New York and then, in the 19th century, from New York to Minnesota and Michigan. Among the Winchells who moved west from Dutchess County, New York, was Newton Horace Winchell (1839–1914), grandfather of Horace, who became a distinguished geologist. Alexander Newton Winchell (1874–1959), son of Newton Horace and father of Horace, was also a distinguished geologist.

Horace followed the trail blazed by his forebears, completing his B.A. and M.A. degrees in mineralogy and geology at the University of Wisconsin in 1936, his M.A. at Harvard University in 1937, and his Ph.D., also at Harvard, in crystallography and mineralogy, in 1941. From 1938 to 1940 Horace worked for the Board of Water Supply, Honolulu, Hawaii. His doctoral thesis on the volcanic rocks of Oahu, Hawaii, was a product of this period, as was his lifelong interest in the systematics of the compositionally complex minerals found in volcanic rocks, especially the pyroxenes. From 1941 to 1946 Horace was employed as a research crystallographer by the Hamilton Watch Company, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where he improved the efficiency of diamond dies used to draw hair-spring wires, developed ways to grade diamond powder, and pioneered in the use of sapphire bearings for ship chronometers.

In 1945 Horace moved to Yale University. Considering his lineage and his research interests, the move to Yale was hardly surprising. His first appointment was as instructor in mineralogy (1945–1946) in the Department of Geology (subsequently the Department of Geology and Geophysics), where he spent the rest of his professional career, advancing from assistant to associate professor in 1951, and from associate to professor in 1983. Horace retired from the faculty in 1985. Throughout most of his years at Yale he was not only a faculty member, but also, from 1951 onward, the curator of mineralogy in the Peabody Museum and curator of the Brush Mineral Collection.

Horace's many talents and interests are manifested in the papers and books he published. Among these are the classic volumes on the properties of minerals, a series of volumes started by grandfather Newton Horace Winchell, subsequently carried on by Alexander Newton, and finally by Horace together with his father.

Horace was a skilled and patient worker with complex laboratory equipment. He was among the first to use computers for mineralogical problems, and as computers became more and more accessible, he delighted in writing programs to solve the problems that had presented barriers to research in earlier years.

Horace Winchell was a Fellow of the Geological Society of America, a Life Fellow of the Mineralogical Society of America, a Life Fellow of the Society of Economic Geologists, and a member of the Mineralogical Association of Canada and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He served as associate editor of the *American Journal of Science* from 1951 to 1988.

Horace and his wife Jean, whom he married in 1937, did not have children of their own, but they invested so much time, care, and love in their interactions with students, particularly foreign students, that they built a close family network that brought joy to all included. Horace was a mild, gentle, fair, and ever-concerned man. Those fortunate to have known him have lost a gracious friend.

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