

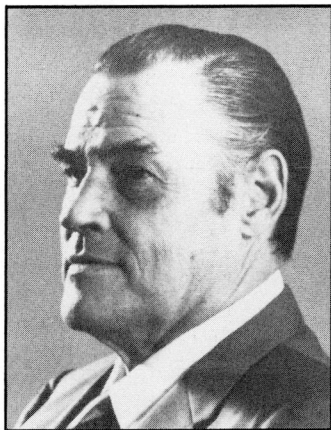
Memorial to John W. Harshbarger 1914–1991

EUGENE S. SIMPSON, ERROL L. MONTGOMERY

Tucson, Arizona

Professor John W. Harshbarger, founder of the University of Arizona Department of Hydrology and Water Resources, died Thursday, October 10, 1991, at the age of 77.

John Harshbarger was regarded as one of Arizona's and the nation's leading experts in the field of water resources. He provided guidance and leadership in the development of water supplies nationally and internationally, including work throughout the United States, Mexico, South America, and the Middle East, during a career that spanned nearly five decades. During his tenure at the University of Arizona, Harshbarger, with assistance from the U.S. Geological Survey, organized the first academic program in the United States that combines teaching and research in all aspects of hydrology. In 1971 the hydrology program became an independent and self-governing department. Under Harshbarger's direction, the Hydrology Department achieved a national and international reputation for excellence. This department, which grants Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, and Doctoral degrees in hydrology, remains the only one of its kind in the United States.



John Harshbarger was born in Lewistown, Pennsylvania, on May 13, 1914. In 1942 he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mining engineering from the Texas College of Mines; in 1948 he earned a Master of Science and in 1949 a Ph.D. in geology from the University of Arizona. In 1957 Harshbarger was awarded a professional degree in geological engineering from the University of Arizona.

He began his professional career in 1942, working as a mining engineer for Inspiration Consolidated Copper Company, Inspiration, Arizona. From 1943 through 1946 he was a geologist for Union Mines Development Company, Grand Junction, Colorado. He was a graduate assistant and teaching assistant at the University of Arizona Department of Geology under a Shell Fellowship Grant from 1947 through 1949, and an assistant professor from 1949 through 1950. He joined the U.S. Geological Survey, Groundwater Branch, in 1950 and became district geologist of the Groundwater Branch, State of Arizona, in 1955.

In 1959, Harshbarger left the U.S. Geological Survey to become a professor of geology at the University of Arizona. He served as geology department head from 1961 through 1966, and as hydrology department head from 1966 through 1967. He continued as a part-time professor until 1980, when he retired from the university and was given the status of Professor Emeritus. John and his wife established the first graduate fellowship award for the Department of Hydrology and Water Resources, the John and Margaret Harshbarger Fellowship, which aids outstanding doctoral candidates. In 1982, Harshbarger received the honor of Distinguished Citizen Award by the University of Arizona in recognition of outstanding service.

As Harshbarger's experience, academic qualifications, and professional activities became better known, he came under pressure to provide technical services in hydrogeology to the nonacademic community. In 1967 he began to devote a major part of his professional time to

consulting activities as founder and head of the firm of Harshbarger and Associates, and later in association with Errol L. Montgomery & Associates. During his career he was coauthor of two books, and he wrote 39 scientific published articles and more than 200 technical reports on geology and groundwater hydrology.

John Harshbarger had an outstanding professional impact on geology and hydrogeology. He will be remembered as one of a small group of eminent Arizona earth scientists, and as an important contributor and outstanding member of the worldwide earth science fraternity.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret; two daughters, Donna Rea of Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Mary Jane Makaio of San Diego, California; a son, R. Howard Harshbarger of Tucson; and numerous grandchildren.

Memorial gifts in John Harshbarger's memory may be made to the University of Arizona Foundation for the John and Margaret Harshbarger Fellowship. Contributors should address memorial gifts to: University of Arizona, Scholarship Development Office, Attention: Chad Hunley, 1111 N. Cherry, Tucson, Arizona 85721.

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