

The Department of Earth Sciences of Memorial University of Newfoundland and the entire University Community are saddened by the death of an inspiring teacher and prominent faculty member. The loss is a personal one for he was a good friend and a dedicated teacher; members of the geological and mineralogical fraternity mourn the passing on June 23, after a year's illness, of Dr. V. Stephen Papezik.

Born in Brno, Czechoslovakia on February 5, 1927, Steve was a young lad when turmoil engulfed his homeland during the Second World War. During those dark days he fought for the survival of those high principles and standards to which he adhered in his personal and professional life. After Soviet occupation, when he was a third-year student at Masaryk University in Brno, he escaped to the United Kingdom and subsequently emigrated to Canada in 1951. He worked as an underground miner at Sudbury, Ontario and, in September 1952, entered the University of British Columbia from where he received a B.A. and M.Sc. in Geology. His Ph.D. from McGill University followed in 1961. Most of his early field work was with mining and mineral exploration companies and extended from British Columbia and the Yukon to Newfoundland and Labrador.

In 1961, he came to Memorial University as an Assistant Professor of Geology, specializing in mineralogy. He dedicated his energies to building up a first-class mineral collection and teaching courses in crystallography and mineralogy, with his research in the fields of mineralogy and volcanology. Perhaps more important was his work with graduates and undergraduates who had the good fortune to be associated with him. He always demanded maximum performance and inspired his students to excel. He was both impatient and forgiving with any who were at all inclined to be slack or careless. In addition to his teaching and research, he was very active in University affairs, serving on numerous committees and influencing many facets of university life. He served as President of the Faculty Association in 1966 and was instrumental in establishing the Academic Council of the School of Graduate Studies.

In his own research, Steve concentrated on unraveling the geological and metamorphic history of the Avalon Zone in eastern Newfoundland. He was particularly fascinated by the petrography of the many important volcanic rocks and by younger dykes injected during the later rifting events that created the North Atlantic Ocean. Several of his studies involved the mineralogy of the pyrophyllite deposits of the Avalon Peninsula. He related his research findings to similar rocks elsewhere in the Appalachians, Europe and Africa, and published over forty abstracts and papers on these problems.

Steve was an active member of many professional organizations, including the Mineralogical Associa-



V. STEPHEN PAPEZIK

tion of Canada. He served twice as a member of the MAC's Executive Committee (1968-1970, 1974-1975) and as an Associate Editor for *The Canadian Mineralogist*. He also organized the symposium on Low-Grade Metamorphism at St. John's in May, 1974 that was published as a special issue (volume 12, part 7, 1974).

One aspect of his European heritage was his appreciation of fine wines. An extremely knowledgeable oenophile, he was the founder of the St. John's branch of the Opimium Society, served as the first area secretary, and successfully competed in several regional and national wine-tasting competitions. More recently, he was instrumental in the establishment of the Italian Wine Society, Amici dell'Enotria, which has a thriving and growing membership.

He is survived by his wife Hope in St. John's and by his mother and brother in Brno, Czechoslovakia.

A special fund is being established in Steve's name to continue building the mineral collection and for special mineral exhibitions. Donations may be sent to the Anniversary Fund (Mineralogy), Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland A1C 5S7. Donations of mineral specimens may be sent to Dr. C.R. Barnes, Head, Department of Earth Sciences, Memorial University.

Heward R. Peters