ANNOUNCEMENT

THE CLAY MINERALS SOCIETY

18th Annual Meeting — 30th Annual Clay Minerals Conference

University of Illinois — Urbana, Illinois

October 4 to 8, 1981

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM:	Symposium on the Transformation of Smectite to Illite General Sessions Poster Sessions
FIELD TRIP:	Sedimentary Structures in Shale (including a stop at the Fithian cyclothem locality) and Soil Formation on Glacial Till (October 8)
COSPONSORS:	Department of Geology and Illinois Geological Survey
FURTHER INFORMATION:	Dr. John Hower Conference Chairman Department of Geology University of Illinois Urbana, Illinois 61801
	Dr. D. D. Eberl Program Chairman Department of Geology University of Illinois Urbana, Illinois 61801
	(Title deadline–April 15, 1981; Abstract Deadline–May 15, 1981)

OBITUARY

PAUL F. KERR

Professor Paul F. Kerr, former Newberry Professor of Mineralogy at Columbia University and more recently Consulting Professor of Geology at Stanford University, died of a heart attack on February 27 at age 84. Still engaged in professional activities, Professor Kerr was stricken just before he was scheduled to go to Chicago to deliver the keynote address at a meeting of the American Institute of Mining Engineers. A pioneer in clay mineralogy, Kerr initiated X-ray studies of clay minerals soon after he became Lecturer in Mineralogy at Columbia University in 1924. From that time forward his interest, enthusiasm, innovative research, and active suport of clay mineral studies, and of students, colleagues, and institutions engaged in those studies, never flagged. By the time of his Columbia retirement in 1965 he had guided 113 graduate researchers in their M.S. and Ph.D. studies. The feelings of these students toward their professor were well expressed by Ralph J. Holmes in a special issue of *The American Mineralogist* (Vol. 50, No. 10, p. 1524) dedicated to Kerr at that time: "The pages of the late informal departmental journal, 'Dinosaur Dust,' are sprinkled with light verse bemoaning the hard fate of being a PFK assistant. But the affectionate nickname 'Pappy' used by generations of students—amomg themselves—speaks most eloquently as a student appraisal." During his so-called retirement at Stanford Professor Kerr taught a course in clay mineralogy, advised students, and, in 1978, turned out another edition of *Optical Mineralogy*. An ardent supporter of The Clay Minerals Society, he received its Distinguished Member Award in 1970. He will be fondly remembered and sadly missed by his innumerable friends and associates.

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