Presentation of O. E. Meinzer Award to Charles Lee McGuinness

Citation by S. W. Lohman

The O. E. Meinzer Award is made to the author or authors of a published paper judged to be a distinguished contribution to hydrogeology. This year's recipient, Charles Lee McGuinness, was selected for his magnum opus, The role of ground water in the national water situation, published by the U.S. Geological Survey in 1963 as Water-Supply Paper 1800.

Mac, or Lee, as he is variously called, was born on September 16, 1914, at Santa Fe, New Mexico. After graduation from the Albuquerque High School in 1930, he attended the University of New Mexico, and received the degrees of B.S. in geology in 1934 and M.S. in geology in 1936, with minors in chemistry.

In depression year 1936, he played the field by taking and passing Civil Service examinations for Junior Geologist, Junior Chemist, and Junior Soil Technologist. One of the three paid off in January 1937, when he was appointed Junior Soil Technologist by, and served a year and a half with, the Soils Division of the Soil Conservation Service, at Albuquerque.

In August 1938 he received a transfer to the Ground Water Division (now Branch) of the U.S. Geological Survey, as Junior Geologist. During his first four years with the Survey, he was in charge of ground-water investigations in Indiana and Michigan. The next three years were spent in coordinating the Survey's investigations and reports on ground water for war-related agencies. Then came a year of field work and report writing on Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. From 1946 to 1961 Mac was Chief of the Technical Reports Section of the Ground Water Branch, and personally reviewed most of the ground-water reports prepared in the Geological Survey. Although at times this must have seemed a thankless task, it was very broadening and valuable training, as it kept him abreast of investigations and problems in all 50 States and many foreign countries, and set the stage for the preparation of his award-winning paper, which was written during 1961 and 1962. Dur-
ing the last four years, he completed important assignments as Interior Department representative to assist an ad hoc Task Group or Coordinated Water Resources Research in the Federal Government, was detailed to the new Office of Water Resources Research to assist in the evaluation of proposals from the States to set up their new institutes, and, as a Research Geologist, he performed miscellaneous duties related to the research program of the Water Resources Division. During these various duties and assignments, Mac found time to prepare some 30 reports for publication and numerous others for the open files or administrative use. Last, but not least, after 28 years of distinguished service in the Survey, last spring he was appointed Chief of the Ground Water Branch—thus, 1966 is indeed a banner year for Mac.

But enough about the author—let's take a look at the award-winning paper, if indeed, you can call a 1,500-gram, 1,121-page report a paper! If that isn't large enough to impress you, you should have seen the 3,500-page manuscript! It is without question the most comprehensive report ever published on the Nation's ground-water supply and problems, and is an outgrowth and updating of several earlier comprehensive reports. The first of these was the late O. E. Meinzer's The occurrence of ground water in the United States, with a discussion of principles (U.S.G.S. Water Supply Paper 489, 1923). Next was another report by McGuinness, prepared in 1950 on The water situation in the United States, with special reference to ground water (U.S.G.S. Circular 114, 1951), which was prepared as a part of the Survey's contribution to the President's Water Resources Policy Commission. Then in 1951 and 1952 came Harold E. Thomas's The conservation of ground water and Ground-water regions of the United States—their storage facilities (respectively, a book for the Conservation Foundation and Part III of a series on "The physical and economic foundation of natural resources, Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, House of Representatives").

The first 120 pages of McGuinness's award-winning report, which in itself is a major contribution, is an updated concise review of the occurrence of ground water in the Nation by regions, with a timely section on prospects and needs of the future. Then follows a 1,000-page detailed account of the ground-water situation in each of the 50 States plus Puerto Rico, the American Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa, based upon 1961 contributions by district and subdistrict offices of the Ground Water Branch with the help of sister branches and cooperating agencies. Thus, although the bulk of the report is a compilation, the fine Irish hand of McGuinness is apparent throughout. All in all, it is an outstanding contribution to hydrogeology in the true Meinzer tradition.

Mac, on behalf of the Hydrogeology Division of the Geological Society of America, it gives me great pleasure to present to you the second O. E. Meinzer Award for your monumental contribution.
RESPONSE BY CHARLES LEE McGUINESS,
RECIPIENT OF THE MEINZER AWARD

It seems to be the practice for recipients of awards such as this to make acceptance
speeches long enough to take up anywhere from half a page to three or four pages
fine print in the Proceedings issue of the particular Society’s bulletin. Those who
know me well—and I am happy to see that this includes many of those here—are
care that I could easily talk that long while waiting to think of something to say,
but instead I’ll make it short and sweet.

For the record: I sincerely appreciate this award. I sincerely believe that I don’t
serve it—and I sincerely resolve to break the arm of the first one who tries to take
away from me.

Seriously, to me, as one of the last of Meinzer’s “babies”—I received my basic
training in ground water under Meinzer, and worked directly under him during
the last eight years of his career in the Geological Survey—there could be on other
nor that would mean as much, and all I can say is, thank you.