

**George V. Keller passed away
on April 17th. 2012.**

A memorial service was subsequently held in May at Mother Cabrini's Shrine followed by a celebration on his life at the library at Colorado School of Mines.

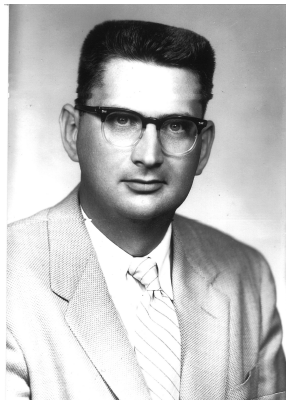
George was one of the true 'Giants' in Geophysics and shaped the use of geophysics in geothermal exploration, taught several thousand students while actively working and still after his retirement. George motivated with his charisma many, some of those became world class scientists.

George was a man of the world with work on almost every continent (USA, Latin America, New Zealand, Europe and Iceland, China, Kenya etc.). His last activity was teaching while floating between them.

George Vernon Keller was born in New Kensington PA on December 16, 1927 and passed away on April 17th 2012 in Evergreen CO. He married his childhood sweetheart Amber (top left below) in 1945; she passed away in 1995. He married Liudvika (bottom right below) in 1997. George is survived by his wife Liudvika, son George Stephen and wife, Chong, grandson Justin (center below), and daughter, Susan Diane.



Dr. George V. Keller received his Bachelor of Science (1949) and Master of Science (1952) degrees in Geophysics and his Doctorate (1954) in Geophysics and Mathematics from Pennsylvania State University. From 1945-46, he served in the U. S. Navy as a Seaman First Class. During his career he was employed by the U.S. Geological Survey (1952-1963) and by the Colorado School of Mines (1964 to 1993).



While with the USGS, Dr. Keller's assignments included management of studies of geophysical aspects of nuclear weapons testing for tests carried out within ConUS, impact of earth properties on Command and Control Communications (C31), surveys of the Arctic Ocean during the International Geophysical Year from Drifting Station Bravo (T3), and participation in the early USGS planning team for Deep Sea Drilling (AMSOC).

At the Colorado School of Mines, Dr. Keller's principal areas of interest were in development and applications of electrical geophysical methods to exploration for mineral and energy resources. He served as Head, Department of Geophysics, from 1974 to 1983. He retired from teaching May 1, 1993. One of his favorite toys was the 27 KVA generator Onan pictured with him above.

He received a distinguished service award from the U.S. Department of Interior in 1959, was awarded the first Halliburton Award for outstanding professional achievement in 1979, served as a senior Fulbright scholar at Moscow University in 1979, was invited on a distinguished lecture tour by the Japan Association for Advancement of Education during the summer of 1986, and served as a Senior NATO Scholar at the University of Pisa in 1991. He has served as a consultant to many companies and government agencies involved in the earth sciences. Most important among the government assignments were as a member of President Johnson's Blue Ribbon Committee on Mine Safety, as a member of President Carter's energy Research Advisory Board, subcommittee on Geothermal Energy, and as a member of and chairman of the Committee Advisory to the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory on the Hot Dry Rock (HDR) Project. In 1996, he was named a Centennial Fellow of the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences at Pennsylvania State University.



George with his wife Liudvika at the Grand Canyon



Dr. Keller (second from left) and students inspect the caldera of Mauna Kea on the island of Hawaii.

Geothermal Class Takes Field Trip to Hawaii

Dr. Keller formed Group Seven, Inc. in 1970 to provide electrical geophysical services to the energy industries. During the 1970s, Group Seven grew to a company with about 60 employees and carried out geophysical surveys for a large number of energy companies and government agencies, including Exxon, Chevron, Union Oil, Phillips Oil, Gulf Oil, the Governments of Indonesia and Nicaragua through the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Government of Kenya through the U.N. Development Program, the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Department of Reclamation, the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Department of energy. Group

Seven was integrated into United Syscoe Mines (Canada) in 1981.



In the Fall of 2004, he joined a floating campus for the Semester-at-Sea program. He taught three earth science classes to students from throughout the U. S. as the ship sailed around the world.

Dr. Keller has published extensively, including more than 200 technical papers in his own name, more than 2000 pages of translations of technical articles which originally appeared in the Russian literature, and 8 books and texts on the electrical methods of geophysical prospecting. He served as translation editor of the journal "Soviet Mining Science," published by Plenum Press from its inception in 1965 until 1994. During that period, he was responsible for supervisory editing of some 15,000 pages of technical articles originally published in Russian.



Most important among Prof. Keller's publications are 7 books dealing with the electrical geophysical methods.

One of these books became a classic reference and is regularly cited to this day. The book, first published in 1966, was co-authored with his colleague and friend from the USGS, Frank Frischknecht, and was titled "Electrical Methods in Geophysical Prospecting." Its popularity is emphasized by the fact that a second edition was published in 1982.





In 1994, Dr. Keller began research on the detection and identification of hand guns. This research led to the award of U.S. Patent 5552705 on September 3, 1996.

Dr. Keller's last position was president and Chief Scientist at StrataSearch Corp.

The last picture shows Dr. Keller with former graduate students and friends at his 80th birthday party in 2007.

[Pictures by HT Andersen, Steve Keller, and CH Stoyer. Contributions by Steve Keller and CK Skokan. Editing and layout by CH Stoyer](#)