JOHN G. ROSCOE, P.E.

John G. Roscoe of Lookout Mountain, CO died Sept. 1, 2018. He was 96. Roscoe was born in White Sulphur Springs, MT. Following high school, he began prospecting with his father in the Nevada City area of California. After serving in the U.S. Army during World War II, he used the GI Bill to attend the University of Nevada’s Mackay School of Mines and graduated as a mining engineer. He joined SME in 1947 and was a Legion of Honor member.

Roscoe started his mining engineering career at the Bunker Hill Mine in Kellogg, ID. The uranium boom of the 1950s brought him to Colorado and Utah. Mining eventually took him to nearly every state in the American West exploring and developing copper, uranium and gold properties. He lived in Grand Junction, CO, followed by Tucson, AZ before moving back to Colorado in the 1970s.

After moving to Lookout Mountain in Golden, Roscoe became a founding member of the Lookout Mountain Water District, serving as president of the board of directors. He was instrumental in providing engineering and management services for the development of the Upper Beaver Brook reservoir and water-treatment facilities. Renamed the John Roscoe Reservoir and Dam, the development was dedicated in his honor in July 2017. The system now provides quality water to more than 500 homes in the mountains west of Denver, CO.

Roscoe’s endeavors always enabled him to be out-of-doors, preferably in the mountains. Family vacations often had an association with minerals, rocks and ore samples were typical souvenirs. He enjoyed hiking, hunting, fishing and golf. He also loved vegetable gardening, but gave it up when his engineering skills could not overcome the persistence of the neighborhood elk. He always gave his best and expected and encouraged others to do likewise. He is survived by his wife, Eugenie; his son, Robert Roscoe also a mining engineer; his daughter, Kathy Christy; stepson David Fulton; stepdaughter Eugenie Schlitten; four grandchildren and two great grandchildren, who inherited his love of rocks.

The people behind the awards

Over the past few months, SME has briefly profiled the engineers and miners who are remembered by the AIME-founded awards presented to SME members.

The Frank F. Aplan Award was established in 1989 in recognition of engineering or scientific contributions that further the understanding of the technology of coal and/or mineral processing.

Frank Aplan is among the most influential mineral processing leaders in both industry and academia. His studies of the processes involved in the preparation of coal and ores are acknowledged world-wide for their broad applicability. An authority on flotation, he is especially known for his studies of the wetting of solids and their control through the adsorption of surfactant films, and for his work on the effects of atomic defects on the properties and behavior of solid-liquid interfaces.

Aplan earned degrees from the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, Montana Tech and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Working at the Homestake, Climax, and Day mines grew the skill base for which he is now recognized, integrating theory with practice in the processing of coal, ores and industrial minerals. Aplan served as chair of the Mineral Processing Department at the Pennsylvania State University. He is a Distinguished Member of SME, an AIME Honorary Member and is a member of the National Academy of Engineering. He has received the Gaudin Award, the Richards Award, the Nichols Award and the Taggart Award.

The Percy W. Nichols Award, established in 1942, is jointly funded by AIME and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in alternating years and is given for notable scientific or industrial achievement in the field of solid fuels.

At a joint Fuels Meeting of the ASME Fuels Division and the AIME Coal Division in St. Louis, MO in 1942, the fall after Percy Nicholls died, the first Percy Nicholls Award was presented. This award was established by the two divisions to commemorate the outstanding contributions that Nicholls had made in the science and technology of fuels utilization. It is presented jointly by the Fuels and Combustion Technologies Division of ASME and the Coal & Energy Division of SME.