

Obituary: R.R. Porter

Robert Rampton Porter died on 8th September, 1985, in Salt Lake City, Utah, at the age of 75.

Bob Porter was born in Salt Lake City in 1910, and he attended the University of Utah, where he obtained an M.Sc. degree in metallurgy. He worked as a metallurgical engineer in Utah, Arizona, and Canada, and in Cyanamid's Stamford Laboratory, before joining the Anglo American Corporation (AAC) in Northern Rhodesia in 1939, where he commissioned the NChanga concentrator as its first Superintendent. He became Chief of Metallurgical Research and Development for AAC's operations in Northern Rhodesia, being stationed at the Central Metallurgical Laboratory in Kitwe. He played a leading role in the development of Rhokana's electrolytic cobalt-recovery process.

In 1946, Bob Porter returned to the U.S.A., and joined the Atomic Energy Commission's (AEC) Watertown Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which was working on processes for the recovery of uranium from a wide variety of ores, including tailings from Witwatersrand gold ores. Because of his knowledge of Southern Africa and his expertise in hydrometallurgy, he was seconded by the AEC to the Government

Metallurgical Laboratory (GML, now Mintek) in Johannesburg. Shortly after, he became a member of the GML staff. His knowledge, enthusiasm, and leadership greatly influenced all stages of the development of South Africa's enormously successful uranium industry. In fact, he joined the Chamber of Mines to assume specific responsibility for the basic design of the ion-exchange and precipitation circuits of the first four commercial uranium plants, working in close collaboration with the mining companies concerned.

In 1955, he returned to the U.S.A. and established his own very successful consultancy practice in Salt Lake City. His services were utilized by mining companies in the U.S.A., Canada, Australia, and Africa. He invented many metallurgical devices and held patent rights for a number of continuous ion-exchange systems. For example, his process is used in the Rössing plant in South West Africa.

Bob is survived by his widow, Beverley, three sons and a daughter, and seven grandchildren.

He will be sadly missed by a host of friends throughout the mining world.

Galvanizing

In conjunction with the National Institute for Materials Research of the CSIR, the South African Hot-Dip Galvanizers' Association has organized the First International Conference on Galvanizing in South Africa. This event will take place at the CSIR Conference Centre in Pretoria from 3rd to 7th November, 1986.

Overseas speakers include Sir J. van Eijnsbergen and M. Peuch—the only two honorary members of the European General Galvanizers' Association. Messrs F. Porter, Director of the British Galvanizers' Association, and S.F. Radtke, former Head of the International Lead-Zinc Research Association and currently President of Cosmos Engineering Inc., will also be present. Dr D. de Villiers, Minister of Trade and Industry, will give the Welcoming Address, and Professor P. Robinson, of the University of the Witwatersrand, will give the Keynote Address.

A total of thirty-six papers will be presented (nineteen from overseas). The topics have been chosen to update all the organizations involved in combating the corrosion

of iron and steel. In other words, this is not a conference only for galvanizers, since it has a technical content of importance to anyone involved or affected by ferrous corrosion. Engineers, architects, material advisors, designers, and consultants will, for example, benefit from participating in the Conference. The aim is for these delegates to acquire a better understanding of ferrous corrosion, and to gain a perspective of the problems and developments within the field of hot-dip galvanizing. The Conference will therefore serve as a forum for all related disciplines concerned with ferrous corrosion to exchange scientific knowledge and expertise.

Potential delegates are invited to contact The Symposium Secretariat, S. 263 CSIR, P.O. Box 395, Pretoria 0001.

Telephone: (012) 86-9211 ext. 3576 (Mrs Rheeler)
ext. 2077 (Mrs Rhodes).

Telex: SA3-21312.

Environmental effects of mining

A one-day meeting entitled 'The environmental effects of mining and restoration' will be held on 23rd September, 1986, at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, Manchester, England. Jointly organized by The Institution of Mining and Metallurgy, The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, and the Mineral Industry Research Organisation (MIRO), the meeting will take the form of a state-of-the-art review of the 1981 minerals planning legislation. Topics to be covered at the meeting include ecology,

landscape architecture, planning and pollution control, industrial considerations, and landfill.

Full details of the meeting and the proposed technical visits are available from

The Institution of Mining and Metallurgy
44 Portland Place
London W1N 4BR
England.

Telephone: 01-580 3802, telex: 261410 IMM G.