

## Obituary

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### **WILLIAM J. BRONKALA 1922-1989**



The mining industry has recently lost a good friend. William Jennings Bronkala, a consultant and a widely published writer on magnetic separation equipment died at the age of 67 on August 28, 1990. Bill is survived by his wife Sally and children Mary Jo, Joan, Beth and Jay.

Bill was a native of St. Paul, Minnesota and graduated from the University of Minnesota School of Mining and Metallurgy in 1946. Bill was a teaching assistant from 1946 through 1948 at the University of Minnesota as an instructor in mineral dressing.

Bill started his industrial carrier at Stearns Magnetics, Inc. in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1948 and was responsible for initiating a metallurgical laboratory for quantitative testing of products for commercial purposes on magnetic separators available at the time. The department was also responsible for research and development, as well as start-up and field service on mining-associated magnetic separators.

In 1956, Stearns were purchased by Indiana Steel Products, the first U.S. producer of ceramic magnetic material, and Bill's testing group became intimately involved in converting the existing electromagnetic equipment into equivalent permanent magnet designs, utilizing the barium ferrite blocks.

He became a sales manager for the group in 1964 and was responsible for the expansion of Stearns into the use of the newly developed magnets into coal preparation area as well as taconites.

In 1970 Bill left Stearns and was employed as a manager of marketing for Carpco, Inc. which has an international reputation for its magnetic and electrostatic separators. His tenure was short and in 1972 he left to work for Mineral Services of Cleveland, Ohio.

After leaving Mineral Services and during the past ten years, Bill had been active in his own business, Mineral Processing Equipment, as well as acting as a consultant for Applied Magnetic Systems, Inc. located in Wisconsin where Bill ultimately resided until his death.

Bill started his carrier as an instructor and continued to provide a wealth of knowledge on magnetic separation equipment, both in design and performance capabilities on a practical hands-on basis. During his carrier, he presented literally hundreds of papers on magnetic separation applicable to beneficiation of ores, at various conferences. These conferences included one as recent as 1987 in South Africa on utilization of magnetic separation to fly ash.

The mining industry will miss him and his many contributions.

D. Morgan