

Micromounters Hall of Fame

Milton Speckels

1911-2004

Inducted in 1991



Holding a Bachelor of Science Degree from Texas A & M, Milton, better known as “Speck” by his friends, worked for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation as a Materials Engineer on major dams and the Naval Weapons Center at China Lake, California where he retired in 1974. In between he attained the rank of major with U. S. Army Service.

Mineralogy became Milton’s hobby while at the Davis Dam, Arizona. He met William C. Oke, a member of the Micromounters Hall of Fame, in 1956 and began concentrating on micromounting.

Milton attended the very first Baltimore Micromount Symposium. He was the first Micromount Chairman for the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies. At that time he reinstated the Micromounter’s Trading List and started writing the column “Micro News” in Gems and Minerals magazine. This column became the basic source of information for his book, The Complete Guide to Micromounts.

In 1965 he received the A.F.M.S National Trophy for Micromounts. Milton was a charter member of the Southern California Micromineralogists and was Program Chairman for their first three Annual Conferences. He was also a member of the Northern California Micromounters Association, the Northwest Micro Mineral Study Group in the State of Washington, and was a Life Member of the Mineralogical Society of America. The major part of Milton’s micromount collection was found in the Western states. His micromount collection consisted of 4,000 cataloged and indexed specimens. Another 3,000 specimens awaited mounting and cataloging at the time of his death. He specialized in zeolites. He did considerable work using the scanning electron microscope. An accomplished 35- mm photographer, he presented slide shows of his minerals at club meetings, museums and mineralogical shows and symposia. Through his book, columns and a large volume of correspondence, he was known throughout the world as a master micromounter.