

Obituary: S.K. de Kok

On Friday, 18th April, 1986, Steffen Kenneth de Kok passed away peacefully at his home in Johannesburg after a short illness.

Steve de Kok was born in Johannesburg in 1920, and matriculated at Forest High School. He graduated from the University of the Witwatersrand in 1940, where he obtained a B.Sc. degree in metallurgy.

After a spell (1941 to 1946) in the South African Air Force, he joined Rand Mines, working at Crown Mines and later on at the first uranium pilot plant at Blyvooruitzicht. In May 1950, he joined the Anglovaal Group at Rand Leases, where he stayed until 1953.

After leaving Rand Leases, he was responsible for the design of the Hartebeestfontein metallurgical complex before being appointed Metallurgical Manager, a position he held until 1964. In May 1964, he was transferred to the Anglovaal Head Office as Assistant Consulting

Metallurgist, being appointed Consulting Metallurgist in 1976, the position he held until his retirement in 1980. After retiring from Anglovaal, he joined the Chamber of Mines as Metallurgical Consultant and also did private consulting both in South Africa and overseas.

During his working career, he played a major part in designing and installing the first plane table for gravity concentration. He was largely responsible for introducing cyclone classification into the mining industry, for which he received international recognition and, in addition, the coveted gold medal of The South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy.

The passing of Steve de Kok is indeed a sad loss that will be felt widely now and in the future by all who knew him. Steve is survived by his widow, Jean, one son, three daughters, and three grandsons.

New President of FSPE

Mr R.G. (Bob) St Leger took office as President of The Federation of Societies of Professional Engineers on 1st July, 1986.

Bob St Leger was born in George and educated at the Outeniqua High School in George and St Andrew's College in Grahamstown. He graduated from the University of Cape Town in 1956 with a B.Sc. degree in chemical engineering, and obtained his M.Sc. degree from the same University in 1958. He also holds an MBL from UNISA.

He started his career as a junior lecturer, and a year later entered the engineering contracting industry. His first post was with an international oil and petrochemical contractor in London, whom he served in process, commissioning, construction, and project engineering capacities. He returned to South Africa in 1964, and worked for a number of local organizations in the chemical, mining, and metallurgical fields. After a further spell overseas in construction and international marketing, he joined EMS in 1973 as a Project Manager of a major developmental project. He was appointed Managing Director of EMS Limited in 1978, a position he held until 1st May, 1986, when he was seconded by the Murray & Roberts group to the Central Energy Fund as Project Director.

He was President of the South African Institution of Chemical Engineers in 1982/1983, and was elected to serve a second term of office in 1983/1984. He is married and has three daughters. His outside interests include squash, jogging, hiking, and sailing.

