

**Robert V. Kesling**

1917-2005

~

**Robert Vernon Kesling** was born on September 1, 1917, and grew up on a farm in Cass County, Indiana. He studied at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, where he became interested in both geology and paleontology before graduating in 1939. Robert then moved to the University of Illinois, where he received a Master's degree in geology in 1941.

As World War II approached, Robert enlisted in the Army Air Corps and studied meteorology at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He then served in Idaho, Yukon Territory, and the Philippines. Following the war, Robert returned to the University of Illinois and completed his Ph.D. in paleontology in 1949. The same year he moved to Ann Arbor to become an assistant professor and curator of micropaleontology, and he served on the University of Michigan faculty for the next thirty-five years. During this time he edited the *Journal of Paleontology* for many years, and he served as director of the Museum of Paleontology from 1966 to 1974. He retired in 1984 as Professor of Geological Sciences, and as Curator of Micropaleontology in the Museum of Paleontology.

Professor Kesling is best known for research and teaching on the Paleozoic paleontology and stratigraphy of the Michigan Basin. He was energetic and personable, and maintained an active and rewarding relationship with amateur paleontologists in Michigan and surrounding states, who assisted him in many phases of research. Professor Kesling co-authored papers and monographs with many colleagues, students, and amateurs over the years. He was a gifted artist with a sense of humor— and both enlivened his professional publications.

Professor Kesling is survived by his wife of sixty-three years, Amelia Bradham Kesling, and their three children.

*Philip D. Gingerich, Museum of Paleontology*