



## Raymond Lowrie

Ray Lowrie started his mining career as an underground miner at the Climax mine in Colorado for Climax Molybdenum Company before graduating from Texas Western College (now the University of Texas at El Paso) in 1960 with a B.S. degree in mining engineering. He became an engineer for underground coal mines near McAlester and Bokoshe, Oklahoma, that produced metallurgical coal for Lone Star Steel Company. He was licensed as a registered professional engineer in Texas (now retired).

A Korean War navy veteran, Lowrie joined the U.S. Bureau of Mines and did technical studies while stationed in Denver, Colorado, and Washington D.C. He earned an M.S. degree in mineral economics from the Colorado School of Mines in 1972.

He enforced regulations to mitigate the environmental effects of coal mining as Chief of Reclamation for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources in Columbus. He was instrumental in developing the Ohio statute governing mining industrial minerals. He became Chief of the Intermountain Field Operations Center for the Bureau of Mines, which collected salient mineral industry data and conducted engineering and economic studies. After Congress passed the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, Lowrie was appointed as the Regional Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) in Kansas City, Missouri. He continued serving OSMRE as Administrator of its Eastern Technical Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Assistant Director of Western Field Operations in Denver, Colorado.

Lowrie was honored by the Secretary of Interior for meritorious service. He became professional engineering coordinator for the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration, Inc (SME). As such, he assisted the SME Committee responsible for developing the P.E. examination for the various States to administer. Lowrie received the SME President's Citation for incorporating constructive changes to the P.E. exam format during challenging times and for being editor of the award-winning first edition of SME's Mining Reference Handbook. He has numerous other mining industry publications. He was honored in 2007 as a Distinguished Member of SME. He served as President of Carbon Energy Reserve, Inc., to market a large coal deposit.

In retirement, Lowrie has written an historical novel (*The Elephant's Grip*) featuring the Pikes Peak gold rush of 1859.