

A LETTER SPARKS A TREASURE TROVE OF MEMORIES

In September 2021, The NMT President's Office received an email seeking help in finding information about a former NMT employee, **Marvin Lamar Kempton**. For 40 years Lamar Kempton was the Director (and in many ways the architect) of the Terminal Effects Research and Analysis (TERA) organization, better known today as the Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center (EMRTC).

Dear President Wells,

*While completing a 4th grade school project, my nine year-old son and I came across the [2013 Summer Gold Pan] while searching online for my grandfather, **Lamar Kempton** (1920-1994). Lamar was referred to as the "original King of the Mountain" in the 2013 Gold Pan piece by Valerie Kimble about NMT President Daniel Lopez and others.*

I have many fond memories of rocks and minerals in Lamar's office there at Tech, and informally exploring tanks and other war relics near M Mountain. Lamar would gain access to these areas by a flick of the hand at the guarded gates.

My grandparents lived up on the hill above campus at 1201 Apache Drive. Lamar hauled in a large mushroom shaped rock [photo]. Socorro is where my parents attended high school and met. The original hand-made Chief in the high school floor was crafted by my uncle Stuart, Lamar's eldest son.

If there are still people there who can share any literature or stories about my grandfather, my kids would love it. As would my nephews. And my first cousins and their children. Some of us first cousins are becoming grandparents ourselves.

Lamar passed away before the internet really took hold of the world's stories. Thus it is lovely to see him on the internet, but I'm sure there is much more. Other than my experience as his granddaughter and the few very special newspaper articles clipped into the family album, I don't know much about his career.

*Sincerely,
Stephani Crespin
Granddaughter to Lamar Kempton*



"He hauled in a large table-shaped rock to the front yard where his family gathered for decades to enjoy a picnic and some cold watermelon on a warm summer evening."