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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dr. Fred S. Honkala, chairman of the Geology Department at Montana State University, has been appointed Graduate Dean of the University and Research Director of the MSU Foundation, it was announced today by President Robert Johns. The appointment is effective July 1. The post of Graduate Dean has been administered during the past three years by Dr. Frank C. Abbott, academic vice-president, in addition to his other duties.

"Dr. Honkala has been given the responsibility for planning, developing and expanding the graduate program at the University. As Research Director for the Foundation, he will be responsible for coordination and development of research contracts for the University," according to President Johns.

While the latter assignment is a new one at the University, it is a very logical step at this time and is keyed in directly with the graduate program, it was stated by MSU authorities. Plans for expansion of this program are dependent to a very considerable degree on the success of the Foundation's campaign to secure research grants and contracts.

A native of New Hampshire, Honkala received his BS degree in geology from that state's University in 1940. He earned his MA at the University of Missouri in 1942 and his Ph.D at the University of Michigan in 1949. He served with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from 1942 to 1946, entering service as a private and emerging as a captain. His career as a teacher at MSU dates from 1948 when he was appointed a geology instructor. He became assistant professor in 1950, associate professor in 1955 and chairman of the department in 1956.

(more)
Under Dr. Honkala's direction, the geology staff and program at the University have been expanded. His department was the first to receive fellowships under the National Defense Education Act, and has received various research grants from the Atomic Energy Commission, the Office of Naval Research, the National Science Foundation and the NASA. Honkala has been active in professional and civic affairs and is a member of numerous professional societies. He was married in 1951 to the former Rose Marie Fraher. They reside at 419 Westview Drive with their three children, Eric 11, Lisa 8 and Karl 2.