



New Mexico Geological Society - twenty five Years of progress

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This is one of many related papers that were included in the 1974 NMGS Fall Field Conference Guidebook.

Annual NMGS Fall Field Conference Guidebooks

Every fall since 1950, the New Mexico Geological Society (NMGS) has held an annual [Fall Field Conference](#) that explores some region of New Mexico (or surrounding states). Always well attended, these conferences provide a guidebook to participants. Besides detailed road logs, the guidebooks contain many well written, edited, and peer-reviewed geoscience papers. These books have set the national standard for geologic guidebooks and are an essential geologic reference for anyone working in or around New Mexico.

Free Downloads

NMGS has decided to make peer-reviewed papers from our Fall Field Conference guidebooks available for free download. This is in keeping with our mission of promoting interest, research, and cooperation regarding geology in New Mexico. However, guidebook sales represent a significant proportion of our operating budget. Therefore, only *research papers* are available for download. *Road logs*, *mini-papers*, and other selected content are available only in print for recent guidebooks.

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NEW MEXICO GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY- TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF PROGRESS¹

by

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FORMATION OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The original idea of founding the New Mexico Geological Society was conceived in early 1947 by Vincent C. Kelley, Professor of Geology at the University of New Mexico, and Saswell Silver and Gordon H. Wood, Jr., both UNM geology alumni (Northrop, 1969). On April 12, 1947 a group of 89 geologists met at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque and organized the Geological Society of New Mexico. The present Constitution and By-Laws containing major revisions to the original instruments were adopted by the Membership on November 17, 1967. The Geological Society was granted nonprofit corporate status by the State Corporation Commission and the name officially became The New Mexico Geological Society, Inc. on December 21, 1967 (New Mexico Geological Society, Inc., 1968, p. 202-205; Northrop, 1969, p. 15).

SELECTION OF OFFICERS

In amendments approved by the membership during Annual Meetings held in 1970 and 1972, the procedures for selecting the candidates for offices in the Geological Society were changed to provide for a single slate of candidates chosen by a committee appointed by the President rather than the two opposing slates previously offered to the membership through a similar process (Hiss, 1974). The continuity essential to the maintenance of the day-to-day affairs and the orderly planning of future activities is engendered by a careful selection of one slate of candidates representative of all areas of the State, who have a variety of experience in industry, education and government. Once elected (votes for write-in nominees are permitted), the officers thereafter generally progressively move upward through the ranks, thereby acquiring the functional knowledge and experience with NMGS operations necessary to a healthy, vigorous organization (Fig. 1). The Executive Committee, an enthusiastic, dedicated group of individuals, somehow manages to accomplish the aims and objectives of the Geological Society harmoniously with a minimum of meetings despite the communication difficulties resulting from both geographic distances and vocational differences. The Geological Society currently has about 450 active members, most of whom reside within New Mexico and nearby states. As a comparison, the New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources has estimated the population of geologists within the State of New Mexico to be approximately 550.

OBJECTIVES OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

As its principal objective, The Geological Society promotes interest in geology and allied sciences, fosters scientific research and publications, encourages cooperation among its members, and stimulates interest in the geology of New Mexico. The New Mexico Geological Society is affiliated with the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and in the past has cooperated with other geological societies within New Mexico and in the adjacent states and Mexico to sponsor field conferences and scientific meetings. A number of grants-in-aid of research for graduate students at the University of New Mexico and New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology are made each year. These grants are usually for thesis support. A savings bond is awarded annually to the winner of the Earth Sciences Division at the New Mexico State Science Fair.

ANNUAL EVENTS

Each year the New Mexico Geological Society sponsors two major events, a fall field conference with an accompanying guidebook, and a spring meeting with orally presented papers. Abstracts of papers given at the spring meeting are published in the guidebook associated with the following field conference. The first field conference took place in October 1950 in the San Juan Basin. The year 1974 marks the twenty-fifth consecutive field conference, each field conference having its guidebook. (A tabulation of the various guidebooks and other maps and reports published by the Geological Society can be found near the front of this guidebook.) A few areas of the State have not been covered by the NMGS due to lack of good rock exposures and (or) inadequate housing and other support facilities inherently required for a good field trip. In addition, other organizations have previously described the geology of some areas, i.e., extreme southeastern New Mexico where the Roswell and West Texas Geological Societies have intensely studied the excellent Permian outcrops.

The routes of the field excursions (Fig. 2) are carefully selected to demonstrate the significant geologic features of a particular area, thus prolonging the usefulness of the guidebook as a research tool. The validity of this concept is proven by the continued brisk sales of guidebooks originally printed more than two decades ago. Several years ago, a policy of reprinting a guidebook when the original edition became exhausted was adopted. Eight of the 25 consecutive guidebooks published by the NMGS now have been reprinted to meet the continued demand for these books.

¹ Publication approved by Director, U.S. Geological Survey

NEW MEXICO GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY FUNCTIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

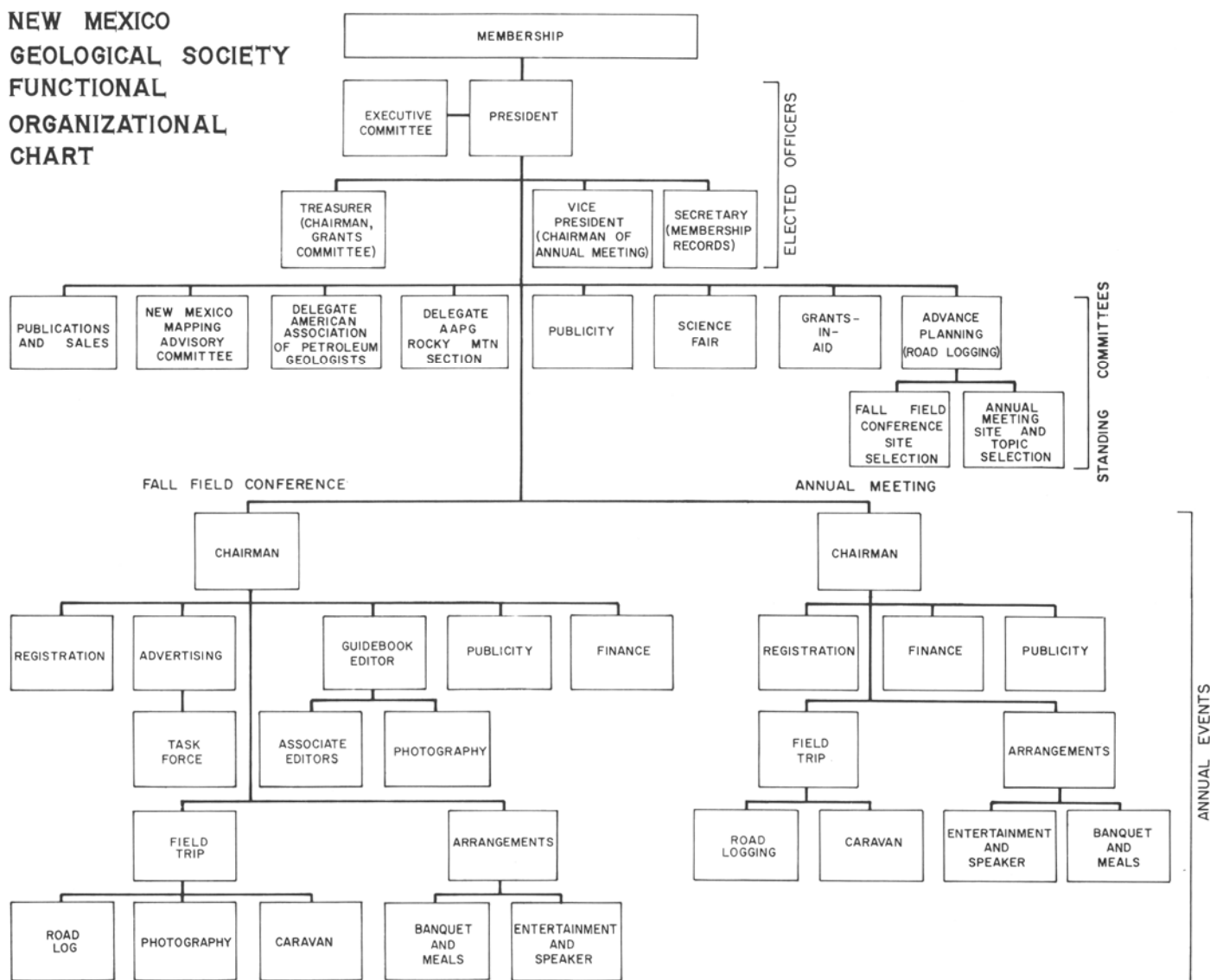


Figure 1. Functional organization of the New Mexico Geological Society.

FUNCTIONAL ORGANIZATION OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

An organizational chart of the New Mexico Geological Society is shown in Figure 1. One of the salient features that emerges from the chart is that the operation of the Geological Society is a team effort dependent upon numerous volunteers. For example, more than 60 members of the NMGS have contributed time and effort to the success of the Silver Anniversary Field Conference. The future growth and health of the NMGS are dependent upon a continuous influx of new people into the work of preparing for the spring meetings, annual fall field conferences, and guidebooks. An invitation is extended to all of you to help in the future field conferences and other activities of your Geological Society.

PLANNING

Long-range planning by the Executive, Road Logging, Annual Meeting and Fall Field Conference Site and Topic

Selection, and Publication and Sales Committees contributes greatly to the well-honed operations of the Geological Society. Normally, the site and principal leaders of the fall field conferences are selected from 1 to 3 years in advance and the location, theme, and chairman for the spring meetings are usually chosen at least 1 year in advance. Attempts have been made to establish a 10-year plan for the fall field conferences and considerable progress has been accomplished in this respect.

SUPPORT OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY BY OTHERS

In addition to the enthusiastic efforts of the members, the NMGS has been solidly and consistently supported by the New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Geology Departments at the University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University, and New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, other State and Federal agencies and institutions, and many companies within

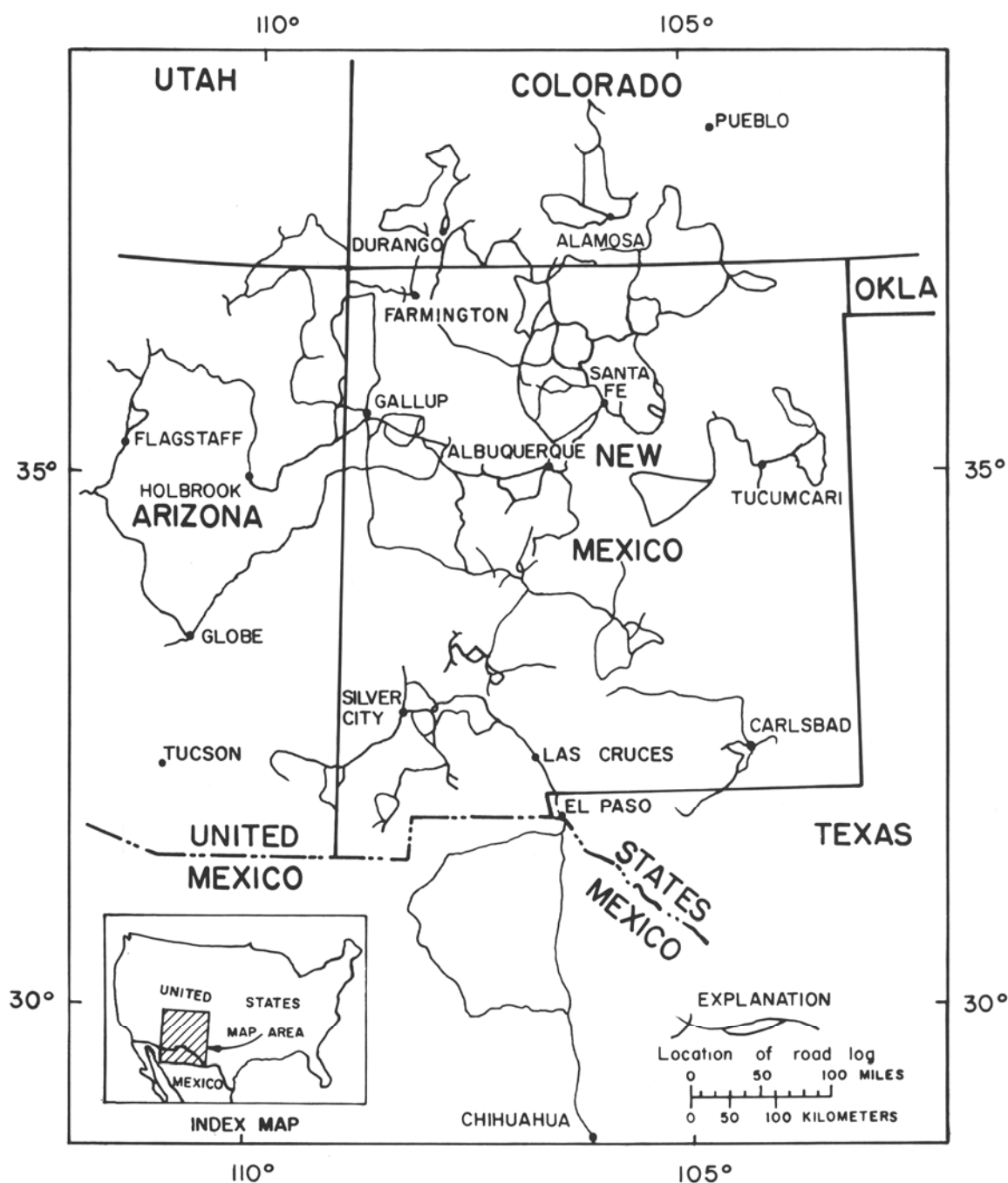


Figure 2. Routes of road logs contained in guidebooks published by the New Mexico Geological Society. [More detailed descriptions of the routes of the first 14 road logs are available in Ash (1964).]

the energy and mineral industries, who have willingly made both professional talent and secretarial and technical services available. The petroleum and mineral exploration and production industries, service companies, banks, merchants, consultants, and others have contributed vitally needed capital by purchasing advertising, or in some instances, extending grants.

SUMMARY

The members of the New Mexico Geological Society can take pride in the fact that this Silver Anniversary Guidebook marks a quarter century of solid growth and service to the geological profession.

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THE 1973-74 TRANSITION



The newly elected officers of the New Mexico Geological Society and other committee members are shown as they attended a meeting held in Albuquerque. The officers and committee members shown in the photograph are, left to right, back row, Mr. Frederick D. Trauger, Trauger Enterprises, Albuquerque, Publications Chairman; Mr. John W. Shomaker, Consulting Geologist, Albuquerque, Chairman of the 1973 Energy Crisis Symposium; Mr. Jack L. Ahlen, Consulting Geologist, Roswell, Treasurer; Mr. Harold L. James, New Mexico State Highway Department, Albuquerque, 1974 Fall Field Conference Cochairman; Dr. Charles E. Chapin, New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources, Socorro, Past-President; and Mr. Russell E. Clemons, Earth Sciences Department, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, Vice-President; front row, Mr. William L. Hiss, U.S. Geological Survey, Albuquerque, President; and Mr. James E. Fassett, U.S. Geological Survey, Farmington, Secretary. Photo taken November 8, 1973.