

# New Mexico Geological Society

Downloaded from: <http://nmgs.nmt.edu/publications/guidebooks/17>



## *Meteorites of Colfax, Union, and Taos Counties, New Mexico*

Stuart A. Northrop, 1966, pp. 103

in:

*Taos-Raton-Spanish Peaks Country (New Mexico and Colorado)*, Northrop, S. A.; Read, C. B.; [eds.], New Mexico Geological Society 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Field Conference Guidebook, 128 p.

---

*This is one of many related papers that were included in the 1966 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. Non-members will have access to guidebook papers two years after publication. Members have access to all papers. 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, maps, stratigraphic charts*, and other selected content are available only in the printed guidebooks.

### **Copyright Information**

Publications of the New Mexico Geological Society, printed and electronic, are protected by the copyright laws of the United States. No material from the NMGS website, or printed and electronic publications, may be reprinted or redistributed without NMGS permission. Contact us for permission to reprint portions of any of our publications.

One printed copy of any materials from the NMGS website or our print and electronic publications may be made for individual use without our permission. Teachers and students may make unlimited copies for educational use. Any other use of these materials requires explicit permission.

*This page is intentionally left blank to maintain order of facing pages.*

# METEORITES OF COLFAX, UNION, AND TAOS COUNTIES, NEW MEXICO

By

STUART A. NORTHROP

The University of New Mexico

In 1959 I reported that 18 New Mexico counties had yielded 31 meteoritic falls. Of these, Colfax County had yielded 5—more than any other in the State; Union County ranked second with 3 falls; and Taos County had only 1 fall.

In his recent "Catalog of the Collections of the Institute of Meteoritics, The University of New Mexico, as of October 1, 1965," LaPaz (1965) records 6 additional falls from Colfax County, but transfers the Gladstone fall from Colfax to Union County. Thus, Colfax County now has 10 falls; Union County has 4; and Taos County has 1.

In the following lists, aerolites (stony), siderolites (stony-iron), and siderites (nickel-iron) are distinguished; the name of the fall is given, followed by the date of recovery, and total weight, if known.

## COLFAX COUNTY

### *Aerolites (stony)*

\*Abbott, 1951-60. Total of 310 specimens cataloged.

Aurora, 1938, 2.2 lbs.

Chico, 1954, 231 lbs. New Mexico's heaviest stony meteorite.

\*Chico Hills, 1951-60. Total of 27 specimens cataloged.

Farley, 1936, 43.5 lbs. (2 pieces).

(Gladstone is now assigned to Union County.)

\*Palo Blanco Creek, about 1954.

\*Point of Rocks, about 1954.

\*Tafoya, about 1951.

### *Siderolite (stony-iron)*

\*El Rancho Grande, 1954.

\* Cited by LaPaz (1965). Specimens of these falls are now being studied.

### *Siderite (nickel-iron)*

Point of Rocks, 1956, 40 lbs. Seen to fall 2:30 p.m., March 6, 1951; recovered 1956.

## UNION COUNTY

### *Aerolites (stony)*

Beenham, 1937, 97 lbs. (many fragments).

Gladstone, 1936, 127 lbs. (3 pieces). Originally reported to have been found in Colfax County, near the Union County line.

Pasamonte, 1933, 9 lbs. (about 80 fragments). Originally called the Pasamonte Ranch aerolite, this was photographed in flight and seen to fall at 5:04 a.m., March 24, 1933.

Ute Creek, 1936, 4.5 lbs. (several fragments).

## TAOS COUNTY

### *Siderite (nickel-iron)*

Costilla Peak, 1881, 78 lbs.

See Northrop (1959, p. 301-312) for further details, including analyses of the Costilla Peak iron and references to published descriptions and illustrations of the Chico and Pasamonte stones.

## REFERENCES CITED

LaPaz, Lincoln, 1965, Catalog of the collections of the Institute of Meteoritics, the University of New Mexico, as of October 1, 1965: Univ. New Mexico Pub. in Meteoritics No. 4.

Northrop, S. A., 1959, Minerals of New Mexico: Univ. New Mexico Press.