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Scenes from the past-III

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This is one of many related papers that were included in the 1976 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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SCENES FROM THE PAST-III

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TWENTY-FOUR YEARS AGO

A former field-trip chairman detected an error in the author's arithmetic made when determining the time between field conferences for captions of previous articles. The span of years was purposely inflated with artistic license in view of the commotion that occurs well in advance of the event. However, the difference does become 24 years, when rounded by scientific techniques, and is, therefore, adopted as the new standard.

STATISTICS

Of the 230 registrants for the Third Field Conference, 133 belong to either the AAPG or GSA (34 were members of both organizations). Letters requesting photos taken on the Third Field Conference were sent to each person not previously contacted. Photographs or other useful information was received from only 9 persons and friendly, encouraging replies were received from another 21 individuals.

THE THIRD FIELD CONFERENCE

E. J. Foley described the field conference held 24 years ago thusly in "At home and abroad" in the December, 1952, issue of the AAPG Bulletin. "The New Mexico Geological Society had its third annual field conference on October 3-5. The conference was concerned primarily with the geology of the Rio Grande country. The group assembled at Santa Fe and ended the trip at Elephant Butte Dam. There were 230 geologists in the party, and the caravan consisted of 95 automobiles.

"From Santa Fe the tour led south through the old coal-mining camp of Madrid and past the placers at Golden and the copper mine at San Pedro. Along the back slope of the Sandia Mountains, the geologists saw a variety of features of stratigraphic and structural interest, and they drove to the crest of the mountains for a good panorama of the entire region.

"On the second day, the group studied the route from Albuquerque south along the east side of the Manzano Mountains. Wildcat oil wells have been drilled in the basins east and west of this range, but so far they have been unsuccessful. Lunch was served at the historic old Abo Mission. The caravan then continued to Mountainair, Abo Pass, and on to Bernardo and Socorro. That night a tasty smorgasbord was served at the New Mexico Bureau of Mines. After dinner Wallace Bejnar gave an interesting illustrated lecture on tin mining in Nigeria.

"On Sunday, the geologists visited the old Carthage Coal Mining district and drove south through the Rio Grande Valley toward Truth or Consequences (Hot Springs). Several deep oil tests have been drilled in the Valley here, and in the adjoining Jornada del Muerto, but they were dry. After lunch at the Country Club in Truth or Consequences, the geologists proceeded to Caballo Reservoir and Elephant Butte Dam ..."

Dr. John Eliot Allen, Field Trip Chairman, then with the New Mexico Bureau of Mines, and now Emeritus Professor of Geology, Portland State University, has contributed the following recollection of the Third Field Conference. "I agree

completely with Clay Smith, who, in commenting on the Second Field Conference (Guidebook 26, p. 75), said "Field trip chairmen are the poorest people in the world to ask 'what happened?' " I am sure that many other members of the 20-man conference committee for the Third Field Conference could do better; my 24-year-old-recollections are a haze of problems-to-be-solved-yesterday!

"Fortunately, after watching Clay struggle with two jobs, the year before I was able to get Charley Read and Ross Johnson to edit the guidebook, and Brewster Baldwin and Bob Bieberman to take the caravan and trip arrangements off my hands. But even then, the multitude of timing deadlines and complicated logistical planning for many months before the trip takes precedence over the trip itself to the extent that in reading over the guidebook roadlog, I have almost no recollection even of the stops (except one where I gave the lecture).

"In going through my slide collection, I find that, since I was relatively new to New Mexico, nearly all my pictures were of geological features, carefully avoiding people. Perhaps there is a lesson to be learned from this!

"What I do remember is how impressed I was with the willingness, competence, and expertise of all those involved in planning and running the trip! Deadlines *were* met, the guidebook *did* come out in time, and the well-organized talks by the eleven speakers at the sixteen stops gave rise to the usual lively discussions."

Gordon H. Wood, now Chief, Branch of Coal Resources, Office of Energy Resources, USGS, Reston, Virginia, was one of the stalwarts of the NMGS during the formative years and Road Log Chairman of the Third Field Conference. His comments on the foundation of the Geological Society are worthy of note, "Shortly before Christmas in 1946, Caswell Silver and I, during an evening of visiting, came up with the idea of a society for the geologists in New Mexico. The next day we consulted with V. C. Kelley and C. B. Read. They gave us lukewarm support, suggested that we were doomed to failure, but endorsed the idea if we wished to go ahead. Silver and I, therefore, consulted associates in Albuquerque and within several weeks the so-called "Albuquerque Committee" was formed. Under Kelley's leadership, the society subsequently had its first meeting, and a youthful idea was successfully implemented.

"The road log for the first field conference (1950) on the segment from Albuquerque to Piedra was written by Harley Barnes and myself. I was acting for C. B. Read and neither Barnes or I, for some reason not now remembered, were acknowledged as being part of the Conference Committee.

"With respect to the second field conference (1951), V. C. Kelley and I did the road log from Albuquerque to Grants and I was responsible for continuity of the entire road log. In addition, I took all the poor quality pictures with the then new Polaroid camera, acted as Field Conference Treasurer and vividly remember carrying throughout the trip several thousand dollars in cash, tickets, vouchers, etc.

"For the third field conference (1952), I did the road log for the first and second days with help principally from V. C.

Kelley. In turn, I helped him and Caswell Silver on the third days log. I compiled all maps for the first and second days and integrated the maps for the third day. Finally, I was the principal writer of the article "Stratigraphy of Paleozoic, Mesozoic, and Cenozoic Rocks in Parts of Central New Mexico." However, it should be recorded that Kelley and members of the USGS staff contributed to and criticized this article. Again, most of the poor quality photographs were mine with the same Polaroid camera, but using a new film.

"My first assignment for the NMGS was to run in 1949 a GSA road log from Ragland, New Mexico through Santa Fe to Belen for a trip *prior* to the National meeting at El Paso, Texas. I was helped by V. C. Kelley and Harley Barnes. Kelley and C. B. Read edited the entire NMGS (Ragland to El Paso, Texas) log and forwarded it to the GSA editorial committee. Out of this GSA Guidebook the first (1950) field conference of the NMGS grew as a logical consequence.

"Since 1953 ... [many individuals] ... have carried on a labor of love that has now become engrained in New Mexico geology. An organization has a birth, perhaps a flourishing period, perhaps a decline, and a death. Through the work of many people the NMGS is approaching its 30th birthday, with luck it will continue to a 60th and perhaps a 100th birthday. Silver, Kelley, Read, and I all feel proud of how an idea took off and became a coherent force in southwestern geologic growth.

"... My years with the Society were professionally fruitful, resulted in many new friendships, and were rewarding in seeing an idea grow to fulfillment."

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

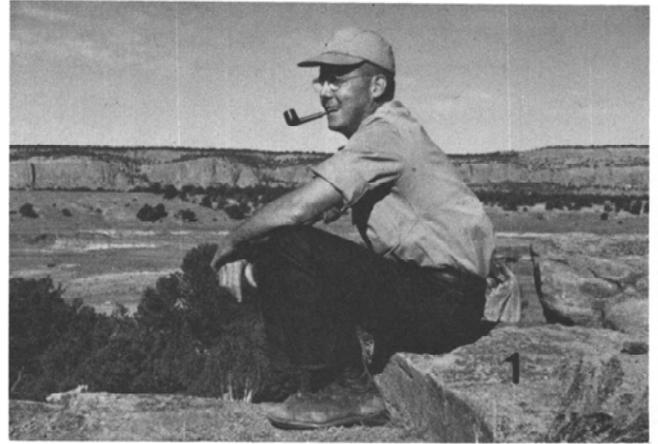
Ross Johnson, Consulting geologist, Denver, formerly USGS, assisted the author by locating reviews of the 3rd field conference. John Eliot Allen, Portland State University; Gordon H. Wood, USGS, Reston, Virginia; and Brewster Baldwin, Middlebury College, contributed notes of interest. Stuart A. Northrop, Professor Emeritus, University of New Mexico, helped with locations of people shown. Robert A. Bieberman, New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources provided a list of conferees and helped to locate current addresses.

CREDITS FOR PHOTOGRAPHS AND CAPTIONS

1, 10, 17, and 23—Brewster Baldwin, Geology Department, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont; 4 to 7—Sherman A. Wengerd, Professor of Geology, University of New Mexico; 3, 8, 9 and 18 to 22—Hugh B. Jordan, Esso Middle East, New York City; 11 to 14—Donald F. Toomey, Chairman, Earth Sciences Department, University of Texas of the Permian Basin, Odessa, Texas; 16—Philip T. Hayes, U.S. Geological Survey, Denver; 24—John J. Gill, Delray, Florida; 15—John W. Mason, Amarex, Inc., Oklahoma City; and 2—American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Tulsa.

Names of the persons shown in the photographs are given in left to right order of appearance unless otherwise noted. In some instances, the author has supplemented the captions furnished by donors of photographs with the present locations and titles of the persons identified.

VIGNETTES



1. John Eliot Allen, New Mexico Bureau of Mines, now Emeritus Professor of Geology, Portland State University. Sitting on conglomeratic limestone in the Chinle Formation, October 3, 1952. Allen received the Neil Miner Award for "excellence in the teaching of geology" in October 1975 (*Geotimes*, December 1975, p. 28).

2. Vincent C. Kelley, University of New Mexico, and William B. Hoover, Humble Oil and Refining Company and President, New Mexico Geological Society.

3. William B. "Bill" Hoover, Humble, and President, New Mexico Geological Society, Elephant Butte, October 5, 1952. Hoover is now retired from Exxon and is a consultant in Midland, Texas.



4. Usual morning wait for the third day caravan to assemble finds Frank Schrempf (ex-Chicago taxi driver, UNM student, and draftsman for Sherm Wengerd), Profs. Paul Fitzsimmons, Stu Northrop (head of UNM Geology Department) and the peripatetic Sherm Wengerd trying to figure out why it takes some people so long to get on the road.

5. After the field trip, the late Ron Johns, Denver Post reporter, and State Geologist Dick Spurrier get together in Santa Fe, where the 3rd Annual Field Trip had started several days before.

6. Inevitable first beer stop shows Sherman Wengerd, Bob Munoz, and V. Zay Smith enjoying a Coors at Stop No. 2 of the first day near the Santa Fe-Sandoval County boundary.

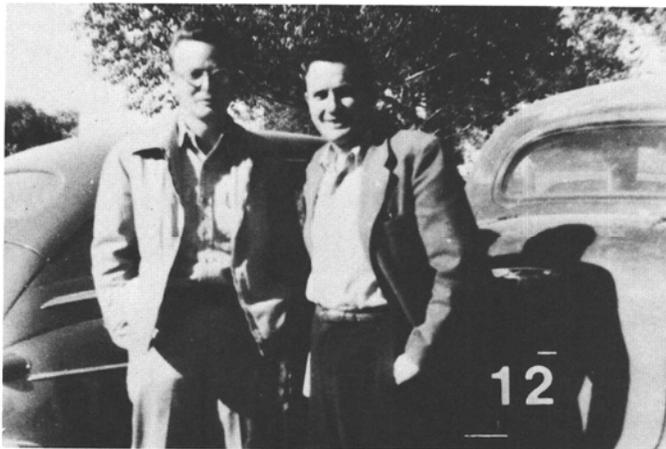
7. A. I. "Lev" Levorsen and Stuart "Stu" Northrop discuss such weighty matters as Pennsylvanian stratigraphy and "Just where is that beer truck?" Second day late afternoon.

8. Abe Phillips, now Manager, Southeast Asia Division, Esso Exploration, Inc., Singapore; Baird B. Mason, now Vice President, Esso Exploration, Inc., Houston; Bart Belknap, and Dick Meyer, at Elephant Butte, October 5, 1952. All were with Humble Oil at the time the photo was taken.

9. Barton A. "Bart" Belknap, and Pete Johnson, Humble Oil and Refining Company, now with Exxon USA, Midland, Texas, and Denver, Colorado, respectively; the late E. J. "Ed" Foley, Humble; and Richard F. "Dick" Meyer, Humble, now with USGS, National Center, Reston, Virginia. October 5, 1952.



THE LATE HOLOCENE



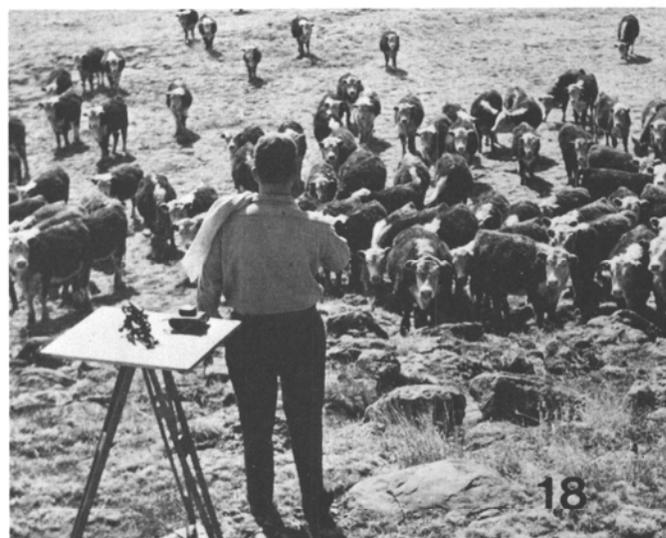
10. Zane E. Spiegel, USGS, Ground-Water Branch, Albuquerque, Stop 1, October 3, 1952. Spiegel is now a consulting hydrologist and resides in Santa Fe.

11. Ernie Szabo, Sinclair (still frowning), recently with Texas and Pacific Oil Company, Inc.; Lowell Bogart, Standard Oil of Texas (?), now with Kerr McGee in Oklahoma City; and Gene Caprio, also at breakfast on the field trip, October 1952.

12. Don Toomey, undergraduate at the University of New Mexico, now Chairman of Earth Science, University of Texas of the Permian Basin, and Gene Caprio (formerly with Sinclair and now Madison, New Jersey High School science teacher) October 1952 on the field trip.

13. Wengerd and his damn cornflakes for breakfast, October 1952.

14. Gus Armstrong, "the good Dr. Augustus K. Armstrong; formerly of Shell, Portland State University, and now USGS, Menlo Park" with Don Toomey, then an undergraduate at UNM, now Chairman, Earth Science, University of Texas of the Permian Basin, in Nacimiento Mountains. "Gus had just made his important Mississippian discovery before the photo was taken in 1951." Armstrong was recently named the "Limestone Cowboy" of Pick and Hammer-1976.

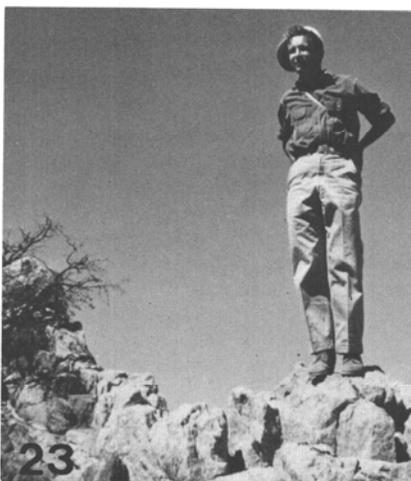
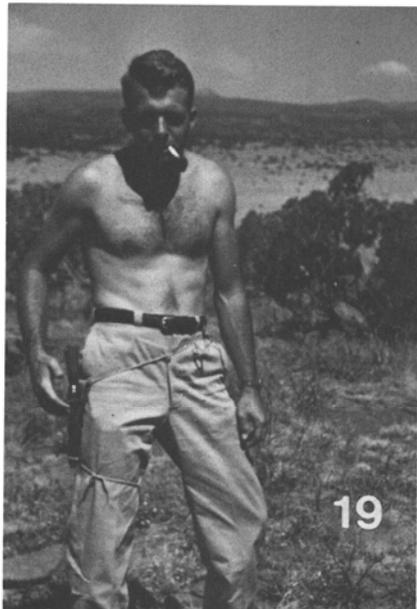


15. John W. Mason, Stanolind Oil & Gas Co. (now Amoco Production Co.) in the field near Dulce, N.M., 1951. Mason is now President of Amarex, Inc., Oklahoma City.

16. Sitting on rocks: Taken on University of New Mexico Geology Club picnic at Juan Tabo picnic grounds in Sandias on 21 May 1949. Front row—John Lee “Johnny” Stoops, now District Development Geologist, Getty Oil Company, Bakersfield, CA; Mrs. Stoops; Mrs. Zabel; and Victor “Vic” Zabel, now Head, Reserves Evaluation Section, Bureau of Natural Gas, Federal Power Commission, Washington, D.C. 2nd row—William B. “Bill” Cashion, now at USGS, Denver; Elaine Cashion, Helen Hayes with son Richard in front of her; Thomas A. “Tom” Fitzgerald, now Exploration Advisor, Production Department, Exxon Corporation, New York City; and Mary Helen Fitzgerald (mostly hidden by Vic Zabel). Back row (standing)—Philip T. “Phil” Hayes, now USGS, Denver; and Ernest I. “Ernie” Rich, now Associate Professor, Department of Geology, Stanford University.

17. Alan Disbrow, Zane Spiegel, USGS; Frank Kottlowski, NMBMMR; C. A. Anderson; and Eugene Callaghan, NMBMMR, June 11, 1952. Volcanic breccia east of Cerrillos in background. “Alan E. Disbrow is working for a mining company out of Arizona City, AZ; for a while he was a USGS Conservation type in Carlsbad. Charles A. Anderson worked many years for USGS on Jerome area; served as Director of USGS for a short term; he is now retired and working harder than ever on the Earth Science Board, for the University of California at Santa Cruz, CA. The picture was taken in a field review of the Cerrillos project being done by Disbrow, and partly of the Santa Fe project by Baldwin, Spiegel, and Kottlowski”—Frank Kottlowski, March 31, 1976.

18. Bart Belknap, Humble, and his audience. “They walked $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to get here.” William Salmon Ranch, La Cueva, New Mexico, April 1952. Belknap is now Drilling and Evaluation Geologist, Exxon Company, USA, Midland, Texas.



19. D. G. "Doug" Garrett, Humble, now Executive Vice President, Esso Exploration, Inc., Houston. The "gunfighter" at Starvation Peak, New Mexico, May 1952.

20. Hugh B. Jordan, Humble, now Public Affairs Advisor, Esso Middle East, New York City, at Ojo Feliz, New Mexico, May 1952. Photograph taken by Bart Belknap. This Post Office was closed in one of the cost (service?) reductions made by the USPS in 1976.

21. Hugh Jordan, Humble, set-up on jeep northwest of Anton Chico, New Mexico, November 1952.

22. Hugh Jordan at Santa Rosa asphalt deposit (see Stop 5, road log for second day, Guidebook 23) Santa Rosa, New Mexico, December, 1952.

23. Frank Kottowski, now Director, New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources, standing on Mesaverde (?) east of Cerrillos. When asked for positive identification, Frank replied, "worn field shoes, sew-in cuffs, wrong-size belt, torn, green field shirt, big nose, crumpled hair, side-ways hat; yep, that's me." June 11, 1952.

24. John J. Gill, Stanolind Oil & Gas, somewhere in the northeastern part of the San Juan basin, late 1952 or early 1953. Gill was field assistant to John Mason who took the photograph. Gill is now retired and lives in Delray Beach, FL.