

New Mexico Geological Society

Downloaded from: <https://nmgs.nmt.edu/publications/guidebooks/28>



Scenes from the past-IV

William L. Hiss

1977, pp. 57-64. <https://doi.org/10.56577/FFC-28.57>

in:

San Juan Basin III (northwestern New Mexico), Fassett, J. F.; James, H. L.; [eds.], New Mexico Geological Society 28th Annual Fall Field Conference Guidebook, 319 p. <https://doi.org/10.56577/FFC-28>

This is one of many related papers that were included in the 1977 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.

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.

SCENES FROM THE PAST-IV

WILLIAM L. HISS
U.S. Geological Survey
Menlo Park, California

TWENTY-FOUR YEARS AGO

The Fourth Field Conference sponsored by the New Mexico Geological Society, a tour of southwest New Mexico and southeast Arizona, began at El Paso Thursday morning, October 15, 1953. After examining Paleozoic and Cretaceous rocks in the vicinity of El Paso, the caravan passed northward to Las Cruces and Caballo and westward through Hillsboro and Kingston to Silver City. On Saturday, the conference visited the Tyrone, Santa Rita and White Signal mining districts and returned to Silver City for a banquet at the Murray Hotel. On Sunday, the fourth day, the group drove from Silver City to Lordsburg, then westward across Steins Pass to Wilcox and Dos Cabezas, Arizona, where the caravan disbanded.

Edward C. "Ed" Beaumont, then with the U.S. Geological Survey and now a consultant in Albuquerque and Honorary Member, NMGS, was general chairman. Ed's comments of April 1977, expurgated slightly, provide deeper insight into the conference ... "This was a four-day field trip as opposed to the usual three-day trip. We spent one day in the El Paso area and thus suffered from two nights of exposure to the Juarez influence. For some reason in 1953, the geologists in general seemed to be a little 'woolier.' I recognize that I was considerably younger, but I began to have serious doubts whether even a majority of those registered would ever make it aboard for the final caravan run out of El Paso the second day. I can't blame it all on Juarez because a certain service company managed to keep a portable den of iniquity going 24 hours a day from the night of registration right on through the end of the field trip. Reportedly, neither representative of this company ever made any pretense at sleeping other than an occasional 'catnap' while the other was driving. Another service company vied with the first to supply refreshments to the crowd, and provided all of the beer we could drink along the way. Except for the more intense competition between service companies, the situation was not much different from more recent trips. However, on this occasion, if beer wasn't sufficient, you could always go to the backseat of the truck of the number one service company to obtain whatever common or exotic form of hard liquor that you might desire.

"Lack of manpower was a major problem. One of the chairmen listed in the guidebook was never even seen. He and I later became good friends, but in the preparation period and during the trip I didn't even know what the man looked like. Four out of the other five trip arrangements chairmen, including both of the caravan chairmen, were unable to attend the field conference. Naturally, this placed a considerable burden on myself. Fortunately, I had made an intensive dry run through the route, and with the aid of Phil Hayes and some excellent flagmen we were able to handle the parking at the various stops along the route without any undue confusion.

"In the earlier years of our field tripping we were required by state law to have two state police patrol vehicles accompany us both in New Mexico and in Arizona. The two patrolmen from New Mexico succumbed early in the afternoon to booze supplied by the unnamed service company. Before long, we were receiving less than a lot of protection from our high-

way patrol escorts. One of the most frightening memories etched deeply into my mind is a recollection of the downhill race on the west side of the Black Range (this was before the road was paved) between the highway patrol lead car and one of the service company cars. I was riding with the patrolman and I must confess that I saw very little of what was happening because I was crouched on the back floor waiting for what I knew had to be the inevitable crash or roll. Somehow we managed to make it safely to the bottom of the mountain and to the town of Silver City.

"However, our problems weren't over because we were met on the outskirts of Silver City by a representative of the Silver City Police Department who informed us that due to the press of traffic in the rush hour we would not be permitted to take the caravan into town. We were diverted to a parking lot on the outskirts of town some six or seven blocks from the hotel which was our headquarters and the stopping point for most of the field trippers. I argued with the city police, but I could not prevail and we were forced to make our way on foot or by thumb into town. Sometime after 8 p.m., as I recall, the cars in the caravan were allowed to come on into town. The next day was relatively uneventful, but that evening, thanks to the seemingly unlimited supply of booze, we had a 'rip-roaring' banquet. I am sure that several things of note occurred thereat, but I for one was beyond caring and don't remember too many of the details of the evening.

"A bit of a nightmare begins with the next morning. We were assembled around the town square on Sunday morning awaiting our police escort. They were late and I was sitting in the sound car assuring the assembled group, most of whom were hung over even worse than they had been in El Paso, that we would be getting underway momentarily. Then someone—I don't recall who it was—came along and announced that one of our state police officers had been thrown in jail and we would be delayed until such time as we could get him released. I was so stunned that I just sat there, demoralized, with the microphone open, and, to my chagrin, I exclaimed in a tone that was heard throughout downtown Silver City, 'Oh, --!.' Eventually we decided to send the caravan on ahead with the other state patrolman driving the lead car. Somehow, we then managed to get the incarcerated state cop released.

"The caravan was 30 or 40 miles down the highway driving toward Lordsburg by the time we got things straightened out and got underway ourselves. One of the service company cars had remained with us, and thus the two cars started off down the narrow road out of Silver City. Apparently, it seemed to the others involved (but not to me!) that this was a good time for another race. The service company boys took off down the highway at 'breakneck' speed with the state patrolman, who was, incidentally, hung over about as bad as a man can be and still live, in hot pursuit. We attained speeds in the vicinity of 100 miles per hour at which time even the bravest of the brave decided it was time to slow down. But, the bravest of the brave did not happen to include our state patrolman. He

decided that it would be fun to nudge the service company trucks at speeds in the vicinity, right at, or perhaps exceeding 100 miles per hour. I have never seen two guys blanch so completely as those service company boys when their car was being gently nudged ahead, and at the same time, they were trying to slow down. The state patrolman thought this was hilarious, and it actually seemed to revive his spirits. I might note that he had been jailed, so the story goes, for having gotten drunk and attempting to molest his ex-wife, who at that time was the current girlfriend of the sheriff. How we survived all of this I am not sure. But, I'm certain that I used up a few of my nine lives during the course of this trip.

"Perhaps it was the contrast, or, more probably, it was actually as good as I remember, but one of the real highlights of this trip was the feeding of the field trippers by the Women's Club of Wilcox, Arizona. A town like Wilcox offers very few facilities that can take care of several hundred persons on a trip like this. So, we were very fortunate to have the ladies of this small town undertake to provide the lunch for our group as a fund-raising project. They did a fantastic job; they had beans that I will never forget and hot fresh bread and many other tasty dishes including fresh pie for dessert.

"I had bad dreams for several years as a result of having been general chairman for this trip. But now, more than 20 years later, I am able to laugh again instead of cry when I think back to the Fourth Field Conference."

CREDITS FOR PHOTOGRAPHS AND CAPTIONS

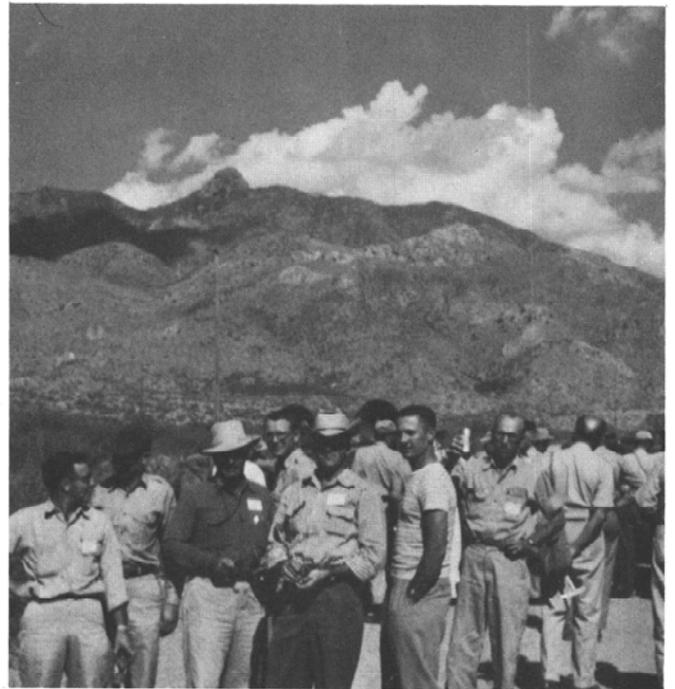
B. A. Belknap, Exxon, U.S.A., Midland; J. E. Allen, Portland State University, Portland; Brewster Baldwin, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont; R. H. Jahns, Stanford University; Enos J. Strawn, Bonita, California; T. A. Hendricks, USGS, Denver; Mrs. F. T. McCann, Auburn, Alabama; Mrs. Kirk Bryan, Santa Fe; Charles B. Hunt, Las Cruces; John T. Rouse, Billings; D. L. Ziegler, Standard Oil Company of California, San Francisco; John W. Mason, Amarex, Inc., Oklahoma City, and H. B. Jordan, Esso Middle East, New York.

T. R. Lyons, Albuquerque, and Neil M. Judd, Silver Spring, Maryland, helped with identification of the photographs of Chaco Canyon. 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.

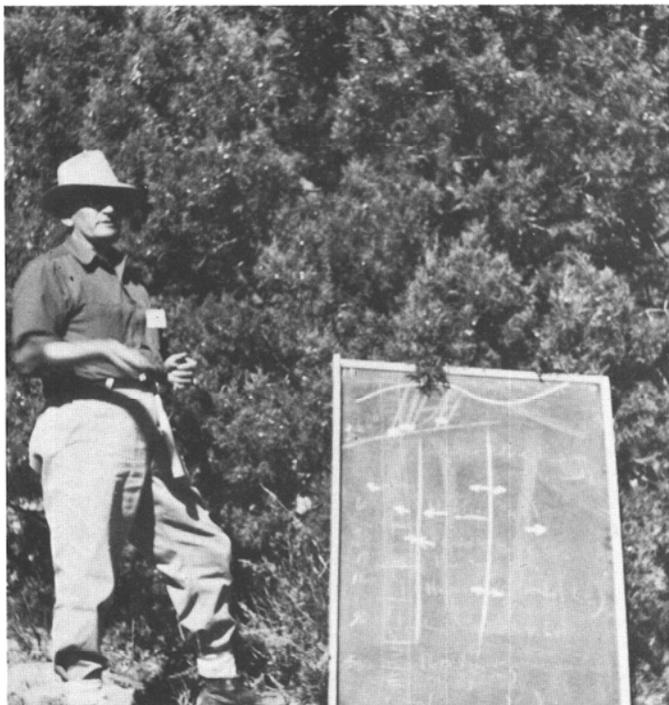
VIGNETTES



Dick Meyer, Jake Sax, Doug Garrott, Bob McLellan and Bart Belknap, Humble Oil and Refining Co., at El Paso, October 15, 1953.—H. B. Jordan. Richard F. Meyer is now with USGS, National Center, Reston, Virginia; D. G. Garrott, Executive Vice President, Esso Exploration, Inc., Houston; and Barton A. Belknap, Drilling and Evaluation Geologist, Exxon Co., USA, Midland—(Jordan photo).



Bob Dubose, Jim Adams, Dick Holt, Dick Meyer, Doug Garrott, Jake Sax and Gene Greenwood, Humble Oil and Refining Co. Dos Cabezas Mountains, Arizona, October 18, 1953. Dubose, Adams, Garrott and Sax are still with Exxon, USA. Greenwood is a consultant of Midland and Holt is consulting in Denver—H. B. Jordan—(Jordan photo).



Harrison Schmitt, Santa Rita.—J. E. Allen. Probably taken on NMGS 4th FCC October 6, 1953. Harrison A. Schmitt, now deceased, was an Honorary Member of NMGS and father of Harrison E. Schmitt, also an Honorary Member of NMGS, and U.S. Senator from New Mexico—(Allen photo).



Rousseau Flower, Frederick J. Kuellmer and Frank E. Kottlowski, Lookout Point, El Paso, October 15, 1953—Brewster Baldwin—(Baldwin photo).

THE LATE HOLOCENE



Frank E. Kottlowski and Ming-Shan Sun ("Jim") near Silver City, October 18, 1953—Brewster Baldwin. Kottlowski, Honorary Member of NMGS, was compiler and editor of the 4th FCC Guidebook—(Baldwin photo).



Back row. D. L. Ziegler, Charles Read, Edward C. Beaumont, Al Read and Louis Gardner (Chief, USGS Fuel Branch office, Albuquerque). Front row. Pumwarn Komalarjun, Thailand, and Ruben Pesquera, Mexico, at Newcomb, New Mexico, about 30 miles south of Shiprock, summer 1951 ('52?)—from Don Ziegler and Ed Beaumont. Ziegler is now Chief Geologist, Exploration Department, Western Operations, Inc., Standard Oil Company of California, San Francisco—(Ziegler photo).



Frank H. H. Roberts, Jr., Dr. C. S. Scofield (U.S. Dept. of Agriculture), Monroe Amsden, O. C. Havens (standing), unknown authority on Pima-Papago agriculture who accompanied C. S. Scofield, Karl Ruppert, W. H. Jackson (holding book), Lynn Hammond (standing), Neil M. Judd, Kirk Bryan (Harvard and USGS). Chaco Canyon (1925), at edge of the arroyo in front (south) of Bonito. Judd comments . . . "1925 was the last of my three efforts to organize a multi-discipline study of Indian agriculture to help explain Pueblo Bonito . . ." For background on the archaeological exploration of Chaco Canyon by the National Geographical Society, see "Everyday Life in Pueblo Bonito" by Neil M. Judd, National Geographic Magazine, September 1925.

William Henry Jackson was a pioneer photographer, who, using cumbersome equipment under primitive conditions, made remarkable photographs of the American west including Mesa Verde cliff dwellings in Colorado and Pueblo ruins in Arizona and New Mexico. Karl Ruppert, archaeologist and assistant to Neil Judd, was in charge of the excavation of Pueblo del Arroyo during 1921-26. Later, he joined the Carnegie Institute of Washington and dedicated himself to Maya archaeology. (*American Antiquity*, 1961, v. 27, no. 1, p. 101-102). Frank H. H. Roberts, Jr. joined the NGS expedition to Pueblo Bonito in 1926, also working for Neil Judd. His doctoral dissertation at Harvard was, "The ceramic sequence in the Chaco Canyon, New Mexico, and its relation to the cultures of the San Juan Basin." Subsequently, he joined, and eventually became Director of the Bureau of American Ethnology, Smithsonian Institution (*op. cit.*, 1967, v. 32, no. 1, p. 84-91). Neil M. Judd was Director of the National Geographical Society's exploration of Chaco Canyon and later curator of archaeology for the U.S. National Museum. Kirk Bryan, born in Albuquerque, was professor of geology at Harvard. He participated in the exploration of Chaco Canyon during 1923-25—(Bryan photo).



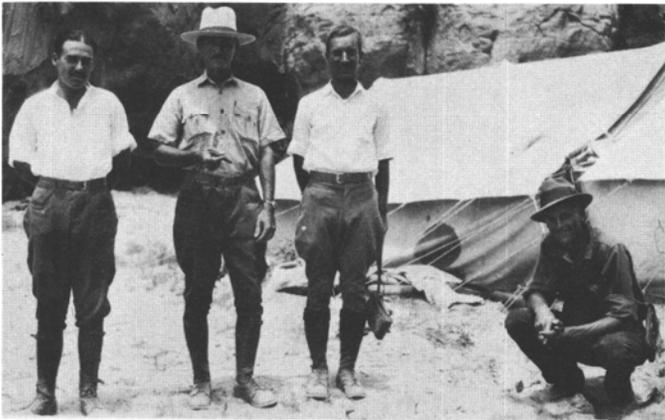
Karl Ruppert, Kirk Bryan, unknown person who accompanied C. S. Scofield, W. H. Jackson (wearing cap), Lynn Hammond (standing at rear), Neil M. Judd, Frank H. H. Roberts, Jr. (standing, rear), C. S. Scofield, Monroe Amsden, archaeologist (seated). Chaco Canyon (1925), east wing kiva cluster of Pueblo Bonito—(Bryan photo).



"Plane table picture is of me on top of Mt. Taylor (1930), at the age of 24." See USGS Prof. Paper 189-B—C. B. Hunt—(Hunt photo).



W. S. Pike, Jr., J. B. Reeside, Jr., J. Williams and R. W. Brown, working in the Mancos Shale. Sec. 13, T. 14 N., R. 9 W. McKinley County, New Mexico (1930)—(From C. B. Hunt collection, USGS Library, Denver. Courtesy: Hendricks).



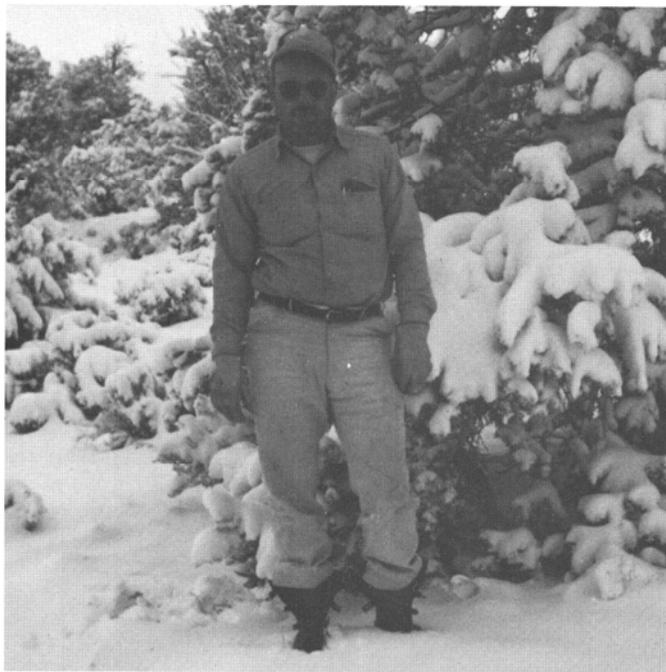
Bill Pike, Julian D. Sears, Dave Andrews, Charlie Hunt. Mt. Taylor (1930)—C. B. Hunt—(Hunt photo).



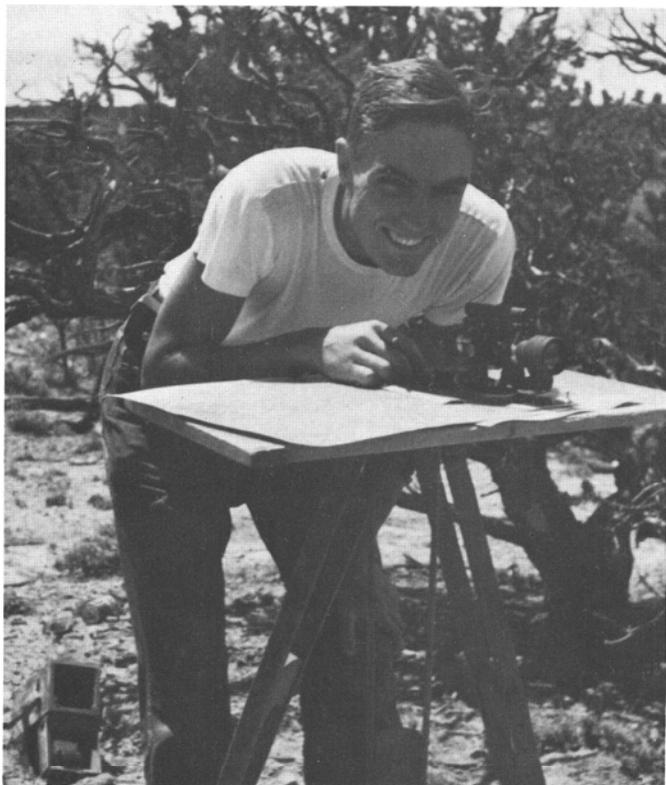
R. L. Nichols, H. T. U. Smith, Carleton A. Chapman. Taken during the summer of 1934. "I was working on my thesis with Carleton under Prof. Bryan, H. T. U. Smith visited Carleton and myself. Carleton has for many years been a professor in the Department of Geology, University of Illinois. I sure enjoyed my work near Grants. Grants contained 11 families. The Santa Fe called it 'Grants,' and the post office 'Grans.'"—R. L. Nichols. Photo taken about July or August (1934), a few miles east of Laguna, New Mexico—C. A. Chapman. Nichols was head of the Geology Department, Tufts University, now retired. Smith was professor of geology at the University of Massachusetts, now deceased—(McCann photo).



Personnel of Fuels Project No. 5. D. A. Andrews, W. S. Pike, Jr., R. W. Brown and C. B. Hunt. McKinley County, New Mexico (1930)—(From C. B. Hunt collection, USGS Library, Denver. Courtesy: Hendricks).



R. E. Murphy northwest of Star Lake, New Mexico, San Juan Basin, November 15, 1946—J. T. Rouse. Bob Murphy was District Geologist for Mobil in Roswell. He is now retired, but is a consulting geologist—(Rouse photo).



J. P. D. Hull, Jr. plane tabling off of air photos north of Crownpoint in central San Juan Basin. Hull was working for Humble with Bart Belknap during the summer of 1953 while doing his Ph.D. at Columbia. Hull is now President of Impel Energy Corporation, Denver, Colorado—from Hull and Belknap—(Belknap photo).



Frances and Dick Jahns at the U.S. Bureau of Mines camp, Harding mine, 1943. At the time this was by far the longest unbroken diamond-drill core recovered from a U.S. pegmatite—R. H. Jahns. Jahns was with the USGS then and is now Dean, School of Earth Sciences, Stanford University. See NMGS Guidebook 25—(Jahns photo).



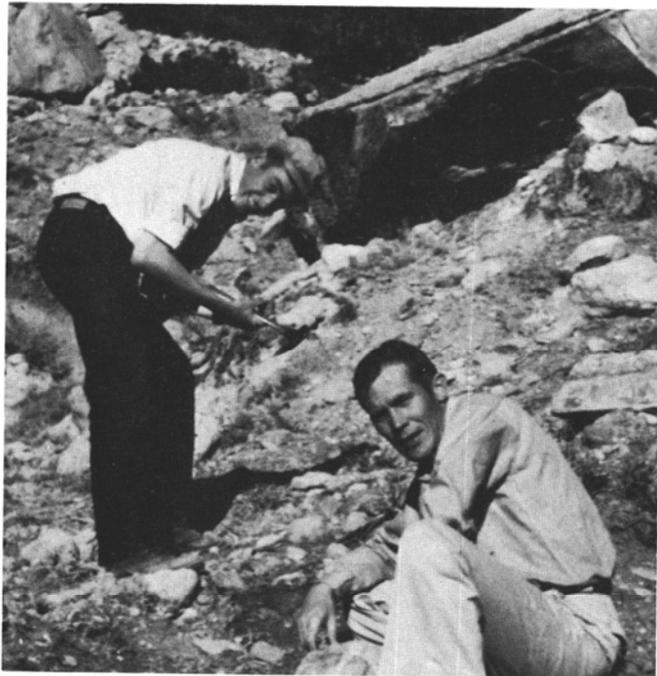
Sampling cores from Fruitland and Pictured Cliffs gas pays at Ignacio gas field southeast of Durango, Colorado, February 1953. Riley Carlton, Petroleum Engineer, and John Mason and Enos Strawn, geologists, Stanolind—Enos Strawn—(Strawn photo).



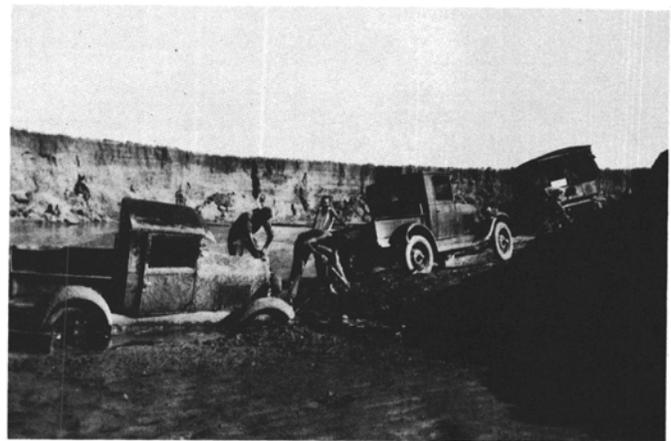
"Chuck Peters, Sherm Galloway and myself, student outing in the Sangre de Cristos, probably in the summer or fall of 1949"—D. L. Ziegler. Peters is now consulting in Denver, "Pinky" Galloway is with the New Mexico State Engineer's Office in Roswell—(Ziegler photo).



Thomas R. Lyons, Stanolind, at Canyon del Muerto, northeast of Chinle, Arizona in 1950. Lyons is now with the Chaco Center, U.S. National Park Service, Albuquerque—(Mason photo).



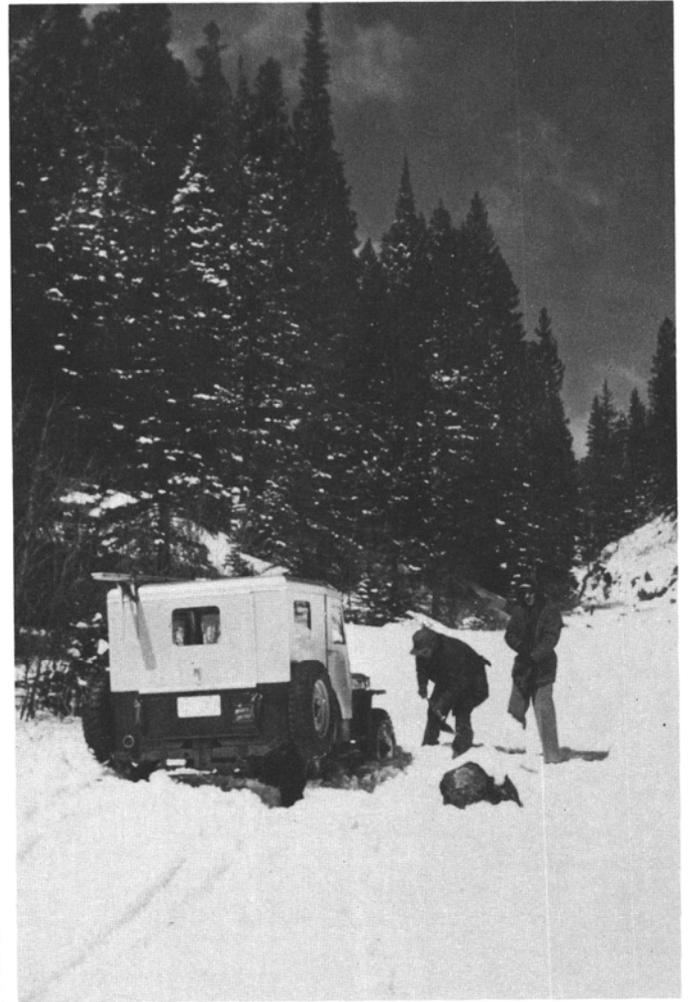
John Dyer and John Simons, Stanolind geologists, near Hoshpah oil field, west central New Mexico, April 1950—Enos Strawn—(Strawn photo).



Stuck cars along the Rio Puerco (1931). USGS Bull. 860—C. B. Hunt—(Hunt photo).



Doug Garrott and stuck jeep near Starvation Peak, south of Las Vegas, New Mexico, May 1952—(Jordan photo).



Bart Belknap and Bill Hoover, Humble, with stuck jeep 10 miles north of Ocate, New Mexico, March 1952—(Jordan photo).