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Reminiscences of a half century

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This is one of many related papers that were included in the 1999 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.

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REMINISCENCES OF A HALF CENTURY

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INTRODUCTION

It almost seems as though I (ECB) am writing for someone else, someone from the historical past who has tales of how life was for the geologist when the fledgling New Mexico Geological Society undertook the first field conference and the first guidebook. We, as a nation and as a profession, were still on the emergent curve from WW II. We were filled with confidence and ambition. Geology, although not a new field, was definitely in its ascendancy—especially in the West. For one thing, there seemed to be no limit to the need for geologists, and there seemed to be no end to the discoveries that were being made. Among petroleum geologists in particular, and most who weren't teaching or employed by governments were in oil and gas exploration, there was a camaraderie born of the feeling that there was surely enough to go around.

The upbeat, positive attitude of the industry geologists was infectious and extended to the college and university professors and the state and federal agency geologists. It was in this atmosphere that the leadership of the infant society decided to undertake a major field trip and produce a guidebook. The principal organizers of the 1950 venture were Vincent C. Kelley, UNM professor, Charles B. Read, USGS Fuels Branch, Clay T. Smith, professor at New Mexico Tech (at that time NM Institute of Mining and Technology) and Caswell Silver, oil and gas entrepreneur. The support staff such as myself was drawn largely from the USGS and UNM—not so much because they were talented as because they were available.

In my own case, I was only a couple of years out of school, but I was “volunteered” for several jobs by my autocratic boss, Charlie Read. Our comparatively small Fuels Branch office supplied about a half dozen

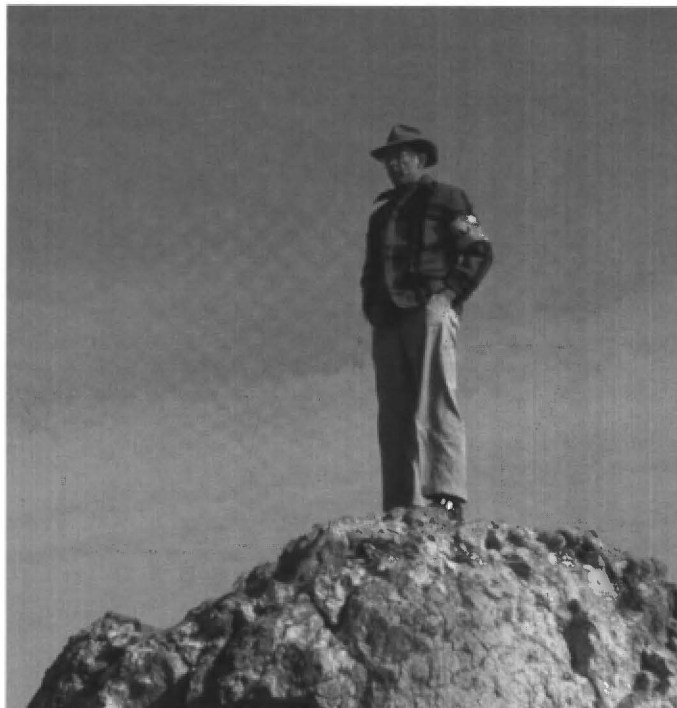


FIGURE 1. Stop 1, Day 1 on the first NMGS field conference. Gordon Wood, seen here atop a gypsum boulder alongside state road 44, found out only moments before that he would be the speaker at this stop (photo courtesy Florence Wengerd).

workers, which was also true of NMT and UNM. I happened to have one qualification shared by no one else in that group. In the summer of 1947 I had attended the Wyoming Geological Association's first Bighorn Basin field trip—the granddaddy of the large western field trips. I found myself to be a “resource,” and my WGA guidebooks suffered severely during the preparation phase.

A flood of memories come back to me of not only the first field trip and guidebook but of several with which I was closely involved in those early years. But I have had my opportunities to relate anecdotes from the Fourth Field Conference for which I served as general chairman and Frank Kottowski served as editor of the guidebook (San Juan Basin III Guidebook, 1977, p. 57–64). I am glad Frank, in his section of this paper, remembers the great lunch in Wilcox. It is about the only good thing, aside from the guidebook, that I can recall about that entire trip.

The following comments from the other contributors provide variety of recollections of events, from the past 50 years. They are organized in alphabetical order and I have made a very few, minor changes in style. The co-authors initials are used in places for the purpose of cross-referencing.

A TUTORIAL IN PROFESSIONALISM

Jock A. Campbell

My first experience with a professional field conference was in 1960, at the New Mexico Geological Society, Rio Chama Country Field Conference. Two other UNM students and myself were to be flagmen, and would be stationed at critical turns and intersections with bright-colored flags, in order to keep vehicles from being separated from the caravan. That was a time long before New Mexico Geological Society Field Conference Scholarships! Other flagmen helping with the field conference would be from New Mexico Tech. The Geology Department at New Mexico State was not formed until 1965.

The other two UNM flagmen were Don McLeroy, now in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, and Russ Clemons, former professor at New Mexico State University (deceased). We were to ride with Professor Vince Kelley, long-time Chair of the Geology Department at UNM. Kelley's field vehicle was about a 1958 Chevrolet Suburban. Trucks were still trucks in those days. What they lacked in comfort, they made up for in road and wind noise. We did not have higher expectations. We were to be joined by Bill Muehlberger, now Professor Emeritus at the University of Texas in Austin.

We loaded our bags, knap sacks, and rock hammers into Kelley's vehicle in the early afternoon on a sunny autumn day. We three students were in high spirits as we climbed into the back seat of the suburban. What an opportunity! The first night would be in Taos, and we were soon on our way north. The conversation in the front seat soon turned to geology. We listened with great interest. But the discussion soon turned to a difference of opinion about the nature of some particular intrusive rock body. Voices became elevated, and the two geologists glared at one another. The suburban swerved. Kelley was pounding his fist on the dashboard. “Goddamnit, Bill, I've been there, and . . .” Muehlberger replied in a heated voice, also pounding the dash. The tires on the right side of the suburban rumbled on the shoulder of the two-lane highway, as they continued to argue ardently. At least one of us wondered if the suburban would soon be in the borrow-pit!

I don't recall if the nature of the small pluton was resolved. I think not, but soon the two men were involved in more friendly chat. The back-seat crew relaxed. We thought they had become mortal enemies over the issue! No, we had only witnessed a difference of opinion between two men who respected one another.



FIGURE 2. UNM professors Paul Fitzsimmons and Stu Northrop enjoying the lunch stop near Cubero on the 2nd field conference (photo courtesy Florence Wengerd).

FROM MEXICO TO THE GRAND CANYON

Frank E. Kottowski

Early on, Fred Trauger as publications chairman, realized vital income to New Mexico Geological Society was possible through sale of guidebooks, preferably a whole set of those available. Thus he loaded his carryall with guidebooks from past trips and hawked them at almost every stop. Now, Norma Meeks makes these publications available at registration and the banquet. Sale of complete sets was lucrative for New Mexico Geological Society; thus Fred has donated funds to reprint out-of-print guidebooks

For a trip or two, Fred also tried to solve two distractions. After coffee at breakfast, mid-morning stops were often at level sites with 360° views, and no nearby gullies, trees, or bushes. This caused discomfort. For several trips, Fred arranged to have portable rest “rooms”, surrounded by portable panels. This was a time consuming chore for the flag person, thus was abandoned. (ECB note: Fred is convinced that his “portable bush” is still hidden in the NMBMMR’s storage area). Climbing through or over barbwire fences can, and does lead to ripping experiences; Fred’s solution was a portable stile, again used for several trips before it required too much handling or, in one memorable case, mishandling.

On the 1998 Las Cruces area conference, we climbed through a barbwire fence to walk up Broad Canyon. Some of the early returnees to the buses found a short stretch that had been repaired. With simple twisting of wires, a temporary gate was made, marked by cloth stringers on the nearest fence post. But a number of the hikers ignored the “gate” and climbed through the wires nearest their bus despite our efforts to guide them to the gate.

Roaming the mountains, we climbed some hairy roads during field conferences. Two experiences stand out. The 1983 Socorro area conference, led by Chuck Chapin and Bob Osburn, ascended the west escarpment of the Magdalena Mountains from near the ghost town of Kelly to North Baldy. This was a steep dip slope of Mississippian and Pennsylvanian strata overlying Precambrian rocks, on what appeared to be 40° slopes, with steep walls on east and sheer drops to valley on west. The driver of our 4WD vehicle was somewhat pale when we topped out – but magnificent views to west of San Agustin Plains and many mountain ranges, as well as tall discs of the VLA (Very Large Array) rewarded our efforts.

The 1951 field trip to southwest and western San Juan Basin region came up Navajo Road 12 between the Defiance Monocline on the west



FIGURE 3. UNM’s Vin Kelley, principal organizer of the first field conference relaxes at the lunch stop below Engineer Mountain on the third day of that inaugural event. State police escorts were standard at early field conferences (photo courtesy Florence Wengerd).

and the Chuska Mountains on the east. Our caravan consisted of perhaps 100 vehicles, jeeps, carryalls, low-centered highway cars, and fortunately (as with all of the early car-caravan trips) a rear-gunner tow truck. At Lukachukai, we turned northeast onto Navajo Road 13, no gravel, just dust and rock, and climbed over the north end of the Lukachukai Mountains toward Red Rock Valley. Climbed indeed! Tow truck and jeeps were busy pulling other vehicles up steep sandy-toledgy stretches, leaving more than a few mufflers by the roadside. We were due in Farmington for early dinner but were lucky to be blessed at the crest with a striking sunset view of distant Shiprock. Most vehicles reached Shiprock long after sundown.

An amazing fact about the long car caravans is that lead vehicles would travel at 40 mph but the rear travelers, choked with dust, drove at 60 mph just to keep up. Something about this strikes me as mathematically impossible!

Oh, Chihuahua! The 1969 trip visited our southern neighbors. Bill King was general chairman; and some of his Mexican students helped with arrangements. We registered in the magnificent lobby of Camino Real Hotel in Ciudad Juarez and traveled in Chihuahuensis buses (well supplied with cerveza). On the first night we used absolutely all available motel space in Nuevas Casas Grandes. I had the honor of sharing a wide bed (Motel Ranchero) with the famous U of T geologist Ronald De Ford (he had the middle) and Leroy Culbert. Bill King found beds for all – but himself. He slept in the back of a clock shop, being awakened periodically by the cuckoo clocks. John Hawley ran road logs with Bill and me (in Bill’s old battered Carryall). John’s adventurous eating caused him to be the victim of Montezuma’s revenge one evening, thus he spent a night in a Ciudad Chihuahua motel on the restroom throne. Thrifty John made good use of his time by rewriting (and lengthening) the road logs.

Palomas, Ole! The 1970 field trip was in the Deming area seeing copper mines and Big Hatchet and Florida Mountains. Astronaut Jack Schmitt talked at our banquet. The second day we toured Bob Zeller’s Little and Big Hatchet Mountains. At about sundown we headed southeast on State Road 9 from Hachita to Columbus in a caravan of six

buses. I was “leader” on bus 5 and as we neared Columbus we voted to eat in Mexico. We drove to the border station south of Columbus and walked into Palomas; all that is except Jorge Tovar and his two Pemex companeros. Their permits allowed them only one entry into USA, so if they went to Palomas, they couldn’t reenter New Mexico. Thus we flagged down Bus 6, and they transferred to it. We ate at Tilly’s El Paquime Cantina where a large tasty filet mignon cost \$1.65 (cerveza extra). We made it back to our Deming motels by 11:00 p.m. as a merry group. (ECB note: Ask John Shomaker to tell the “nacho story” sometime when you’re not eating).

Many of our field conferences are mainly roadside outcrop stops and discussions from regional viewpoints. However, several long hikes are painfully remembered (from aching legs). The 1993 Carlsbad trip climaxed with a climb up the McKittrick Canyon Reef trail, a 2000 ft, 3-mi climb through all facies of the Capitan Reef, basalinal beds, forereef, reef, and backreef strata. Spectacular! And taxing!

Last year’s trip in the Las Cruces area involved (until mid afternoon) a 3-mi hike up Broad Canyon to see Tertiary sediments, volcanic rocks and Rio Grande rift-related features. Nancy McMillan (NMSU) labeled it Bill Seager’s death march, and it might have been if walked in July instead of November.

But the granddaddy of them all, the real blister maker, was as a post-conference climax to the 1958 field trip, the Black Mesa region of northern Arizona. From Yaki Point in Grand Canyon National Park, we hiked down the Kaibab Trail, dropping 5,000 feet in seven miles, to a delightful dinner and overnite at Phantom Ranch near the bottom of the canyon. After breakfast, up the vertical mile we climbed, pausing to see the Precambrian to Permian rocks cropping out along the trail. Burning heel blisters kept us awake during the ten-hour drive back to Socorro!

Registration night on a field conference in Gallup was a somewhat nervous affair. The elected treasurer had been transferred out of New Mexico so I was a last-minute appointed money gatherer. There was no pre-registration in these early years thus cash accumulated until late evening when the cash box bulged with almost \$10,000. Gratefully it was turned over to the El Rancho Hotel cashier, but in checking the receipts there seemed to be \$400 too much. Not to worry—c’est la vie!

Heated discussions of the geology were not (and are not) uncommon but the standouts were the (somewhat tongue-in-cheek) verbal battles between Charlie Read and Vin Kelley, two prominent charter New Mexico Geological Society members. For the sheer joy of argument they often took opposing views. Most memorable was the 1956 field trip to southeastern Sangre de Cristo Mountains. At Eagle Nest Lake dam and on the southwest side of Moreno Valley, they sparred over outcrops of Chinle and Dakota—klippe, normal faults, or depositional contacts on Precambrian? Charlie made good arguments for horizontal Dakota overlying a flat thrust fault while Vin suggested a depositional relationship. Midway through discussion Vin agreed with Charlie whereupon the USGS sage switched to points suggesting depositional contact. Typical!

Being geologists, one remembers a number of individualistic characters. Sherm Wengerd, UNM professor, consultant, AAPG president, wore colorful Mexican shirts and on chilly mornings wrapped himself in a woolen serape. And there was Rousseau Flower, cephalopod expert, and leader to many outcrops of early Paleozoic strata. He came to New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources from New York State Museum, appearing first on the 1951 Southwestern San Juan Basin trip, dressed in expensive decorated western boots, leather Eastern riding breeches, a multi-colored shirt, a broad-brimmed leather cowboy hat, and equipped with a long bullwhip. And for our enjoyment, we have had Jack Cunningham, WNMU prof, playing his Scottish bagpipes at opportune times.

On many of the early conferences, through the sixties, we delighted in hot meals (including lunch) catered by Hatch Farnsworth, Lobo Joe, and others. Usually the caterers were set up for prompt serving but on the 1959 conference to West Central New Mexico we followed ranch roads from Kelly, Magdalena, North Lake, Martin Ranch, and Broom Mountain to Acoma and Grants. There was no sign of Hatch when Ed and I, riding in lead car, arrived early at the lunch stop. We back

tracked, finally found him and his crew, and returned for a late lunch. Vin Kelley talked about Jurassic outcrops near Acoma as the sun set. One of the most delicious lunches we had was at Wilcox, AZ, on the 1953 Southwestern New Mexico (and southeastern Arizona) trip. Arranged by general chairman Beaumont with a local ladies club, the home-cooking and pies were out of this world.

The most spectacular setting for dinner was on the 1973 trip to Monument Valley where we had a twilight barbecue and evening dance by Navajos in the Navajo Park. A close second was on the 1990 trip to the Sangre de Cristo Mountains during which we stayed one night in the spectacular and comfortable lodgings of Philmont Boy Scout Ranch, with a tasty buffalo dinner (followed by western music and dancing).

Most of our field conferences have enjoyed typical New Mexico autumn weather, blue sunny skies and cool nights. A few times light rain showers have shortened outcrop stops. But in 1960, the weather gods frowned on the Rio Chama field conference. The first day from Taos to Chama via El Rito across the Brazos uplift through Canjilon was cloudy and cold. The second day we were greeted by inches of snow—the planned route was abandoned (after most of the morning was spent in cabins) for short trips to Dulce and El Vado Dam, in wet snow and cold drizzle. On the third day, with about 50% of the participants left, we stayed on US-84 to Ghost Ranch Museum and Abiquiu Dam, in cold rain/sleet, and cancelled a trip to Coyote, Gallina, and Cuba.

The real, almost unbelievable, tall tale of all of our field conferences was (and is) the tremendous amount of time, effort, and geologic wisdom/conocimiento/weisheit donated by our members. The printed record is in our outstanding guidebooks and the comradeship we enjoyed enhances our memories. So—on to the next fifty years.



FIGURE 4. Elmer Baltz explains the geology of the Sandia Mountains while Charlie Read holds the bullhorn and Lobo Joe’s catering truck is being packed up after lunch; the 12th field conference (1961) and the first to the Albuquerque Country (photo by Ed Beaumont).



FIGURE 5. Stalwarts of the youthful Society on the second day of the first field conference in 1950. From left to right, John Elliott Allen, Hoye Caine, Caswell Silver, Noah "Tubby" Engle, and Bob Zeller; Allen's and Zeller's arm bands identify them as flagmen. Sherm Wengerd, the photographer, recalls that "this hearty gang of New Mexicans (all but that 'outlander' from Superior Oil, Tubby Engle) got into a friendly argument as to the cause of the big rock slide that created an earthquake in Durango in the early forties. Caswell won, as usual." Allen went on to found the geology department at Portland State University and Silver endowed the first faculty chair at UNM (photo courtesy Florence Wengerd).

THOSE EARLY DAYS

Frederick D. Trauger

It's hell to become old, but dying young is worse...you miss all the fun of growing old, and you don't have all the wonderful memories to recall. Like going on those early New Mexico Geological Society field trips, and watching Charlie Read get red in the face when Vince Kelly inferred he didn't know what he was talking about. Well, get someone else to tell you about those classic debates. I'm going to tell you the reason New Mexico Geological Society has become what is likely the most financially successful state geologic society in the country, and why you can still purchase any New Mexico Geological Society guidebook from No. 1 through No. 50. Our guidebooks and our field conferences are known worldwide for their excellence.

It all began in decades long ago. The Society limped, financially, from one field trip to another, starting in 1950 with No. 1. Publication costs of No. 1 were paid, but not until enough books had been sold after the field trip. And so it went, every year. By the early sixties books Nos. 1, 2, and 3 were out of print. You could no longer buy a complete set. Other issues were "getting low", and the treasury was always near "0". Each new guidebook was printed on credit. Our assets were our good name and our large inventory of "over printed/undersold" guidebooks.

My wife Jeannie and I volunteered to sell back issues of guidebooks out of my new Falcon Wagon on the 11th field conference to the Rio Chama in 1962. I missed many of the stop-lectures because Jeannie couldn't handle the "rush" alone. By the end of the trip we had sold most of what we had, and the treasury was hundreds of dollars ahead. The Executive Committee was elated and Jeannie and I had our "annual job" for the next three to four years. The '62 Falcon (underpowered for its size) was traded for a 1964 VA, and I could haul a half-ton of guidebooks to any place the beer truck could go. I was rewarded by being elected president in '66. Had I known that was going to happen, the Society probably might still be operating on credit.

As president, I kept remembering how many times Jeannie and I had been asked about guidebook Nos. 1, 2, and 3, and several others that were getting "low", and thus we hadn't brought on the field trips with us. I suggested early on to the Executive Committee that maybe we should really give serious thought to reprinting those first three books. Their response was negative. At the first 1967 Executive Committee meeting (with a new president, vice-president and secretary; the same treasurer and the past president), I again suggested we consider reprints of Nos. 1, 2, and 3. Again, the response was negative ... the old treas-

urer still argued, "We can't afford it." I felt we couldn't afford not to do so, and gave my reasons: (1) the uranium boom was still on, (2) new exploration companies and geologists were moving into New Mexico looking everywhere, and not just for uranium, (3) we could offer full sets of books, thus giving them instant literature on nearly the entire state and (4) it would increase sales of all overstocked books. These thoughts did, however, catch the attention of the new officers whose response was, "Maybe we should think about it." At the next meeting of the Executive Committee, I presented estimates for reprinting at Floersheim Printing Company in Roy, which was owned by my landlord. Members were impressed, but still dubious. I told them that if they would authorize the reprinting, and at the end of one year there were any books that had not been sold, I would buy them back myself, provided I could offer them for sale on field trips. It was an offer they couldn't refuse. Reprints were authorized, printed, and offered for sale at the next field conference.

The rest is history. The Society sold sets by the dozens to companies, university libraries, and individual consultants. The practice of selling all guidebooks on the field conferences was instituted, and it was not long before other volumes were either out of print or destined to be so soon. As the supply approached "0", reprints were ordered. Nos. 1, 2, and 3 have now been re-printed at least twice.

Success had its pitfalls...I was stuck with the chairmanship of the "Publications Committee" until my retirement from the USGS in 1973, at which time the government quit paying me for the time I put in for the New Mexico Geological Society.

By the way, I still have the 1962 Falcon.



FIGURE 6. The trek up the McKittrick Canyon Trail through the Capitan Reef in the Guadalupe Mountains; an experience at the 44th field conference in 1993 recalled by Frank Kottlowski (photo courtesy Bob Newgomer).



FIGURE 7. WNMU's Jack Cunningham (without the famous bagpipes) and NMSU's Bill King on a field conference in the early '70s (photo courtesy Jack Cunningham).

REMINISCENCES OF THE NEW MEXICO GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Clay T. Smith

The first major problem that took several years to settle was whether the Society should be the "Geological Society of New Mexico" or the "New Mexico Geological Society." Basically the editors of the first field trip guidebook settled the question when they titled the guidebook. It was an interesting time for the Society because we started the planning for the first field trip with exactly \$0.67 in the treasury. Major questions were whether we should print 750 or 1000 copies of the guidebook? Could we offer mileage payments to the people doing road logs? Could we print any colored maps or plates for the guidebook? We finally selected the larger number of copies and the edition sold out in less than 1 year. The Society has never looked back and has a remarkable record over the last 50 years.

The early field trips were all run as private car caravans, because the large busses that have been used in recent years could not traverse the roads. The logistics of the early trips were really incredible when you realize that the car caravans consisted of between 75 and 125 vehicles and thus required nearly ¼ of a mile just to park alongside the road. Any stop required nearly one hour just to unload and load the vehicles and get the caravan underway again. We also used State Police as escorts and had a tow truck at the end of the caravan to handle problems as they arose due either to roads, tires, or breakdowns.

The first field trip went to the top of Molas Pass above Durango, CO., in early November and did not get stuck in snow, as most people would have expected. That field trip also had the only fatality ever experienced during the 50 years of field trips. One of the participants had a heart attack and passed away during the morning of the third day of the field trip. If one talks to any of the field trip leaders of those early days, when travel was over much more primitive roads, the worry was always "can we get through this day of schedule and get the field trip over without a major accident or incident?" I recall trip No. 11 when we went to bed in Chama with bright moonlight and clear skies and woke up the next morning with 6" of snow on the ground. Needless to say, because the days travel was to be over Mancos Shale, the entire trip had to be revised! (See FEK's section). The Society can be thankful that in the fifty field trips taken to date none was ever been completely weathered out! Sets quite a record for the sunny Southwest!

It must be noted that the Society could never have been as successful as it has been without an incredible amount of service from the U.S. Geological Survey, particularly the Fuels Branch, the Geology Department of the University of New Mexico, the New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources and the Department of Geology at New Mexico State University. Those whose names come to mind with continuing service over periods of commonly more than 20 years are George O. Bachman, Christina Lochman Balk, Elmer Baltz, Ed Beaumont, A. J. Budding, Pat Callaghan, Russ Clemens, J. Paul Fitzsimmons, E. J. Foley, Roy Foster, John W. Hawley, Phil Hayes, Richard D. Holt, Bill Hoover, Russell Jentgen, Vince Kelley, Frank Kottlowski, Frederick J. Kuellmer, Barry Kues, Spencer Lucas, Virginia McLemore, Stu Northrop, Charlie Read, Bill Seager, Caswell Silver, Clay T. Smith, R. R. Spurrier, Sam Thompson, Fred Trauger, Sherm Wengert, and Gordon Wood. This list contains individuals whose names appear again and again as officers of the society, as field trip chairpersons, or as authors in the guidebooks, commonly over periods of more than 20 years. My apologies to anyone that I may have overlooked; the omission was completely inadvertent.

The guidebooks tend to reflect the financial status of the Society. The first 5 were all paper loose leaf bound, whereas the sixth was a hard-bound edition. By the 10th field trip all guidebooks were hardbound copies and this continued to beyond the Silver Anniversary edition. Now, we offer hard bound or paperbound copies and do not have many problems with the numbers that should be printed. Fifty years of success makes a lot of decisions much simpler.

ON TO THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS

Edward C. Beaumont

The foregoing remarks stir within me an overwhelming sense of nostalgia. Of course I was either present or a part of so many of the recounted situations. I especially noted how each of the contributors recalled the controversies that developed on the early field trips. I'm not sure whether it was the character of the trip leaders or whether it was the times. Admittedly, some of the arguments between Charlie Read and Vin Kelley were planned before hand, but I don't think that I've ever known a more contentious person than Charlie Read—and I considered him a close friend.

In 1959, as president of the New Mexico Geological Society, I questioned what the Society's future might be with respect to field conferences and accompanying guidebooks (10th Field Conference Guidebook, p. 3). My concerns were largely unfounded inasmuch as we have survived and prospered for another 40 years. The next half-century will undoubtedly bring major changes to the earth sciences—it's hard to foresee what twists and turns the related professions will take. Whether or not geology will be a recognizable discipline is hard to predict. It does seem likely, however, that the New Mexico Geological Society with its solid foundation will endure as a significant entity. Maybe 2049 will find the Society offering virtual geology trips—worldwide without the participants leaving home!

Some of you who read these pages will be around 50 years hence, but one thing is certain...it won't be any of the contributors of this paper!

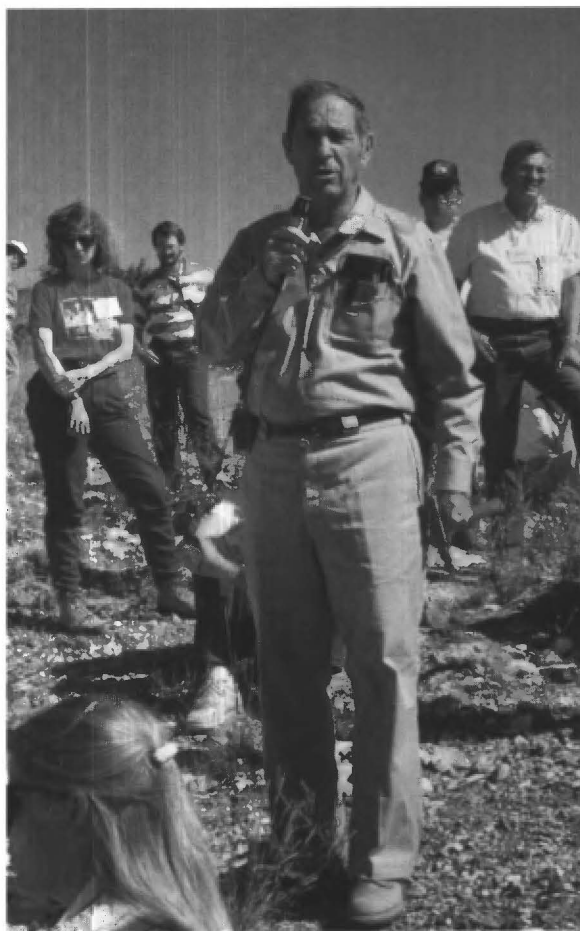


FIGURE 8. Clay Smith explains the geology, hammer in hand, at the 1991 field conference in the Ruidoso area. To the left and behind Smith are Gretchen Hoffman and Bob Newcomer; all three served the Society as President (photo by Fred Trauger).

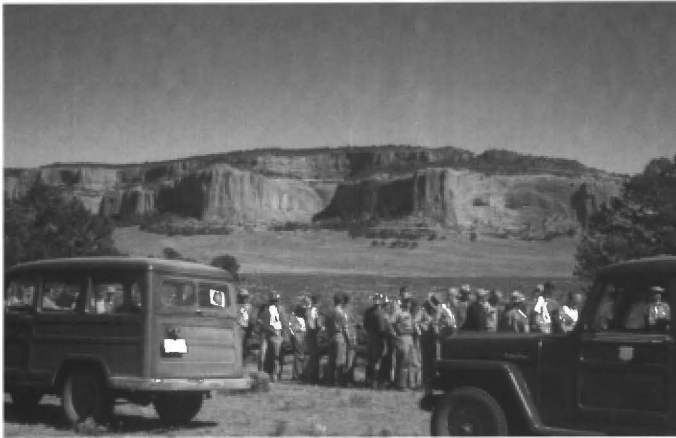


FIGURE 9. Chow line with a view! Lunch stop at Todilto Park on Day 3 of the 2nd field conference (Photo courtesy of Florence Wengerd).

**Participants in First New Mexico Geological Society Field
Conference
San Juan Basin
November 3–5, 1950
As recorded in the Society Archives**

John Eliot Allen, Socorro, NM
 Robert E. Anderson, Los Angeles, CA
 O. H. Armstrong, Aztec, NM
 Hayden Atchison, Midland, TX
 Ward H. Austin, Durango, CO
 Ruth Bachrach, Denver, CO
 Walter Barke, Durango, CO
 William Barksdale, Durango, CO
 Harley Barnes, Albuquerque, NM
 Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Barnes, Grand Junction, CO
 John Barnett, Jr., Roswell, NM
 R. M. Beatty, Houston, TX
 Edward C. Beaumont, Albuquerque, NM
 Michael Beeler, Farmington, NM
 William Beer, Vernal, UT
 Bernard M. Bench, Denver, CO
 Robert A. Bieberman, Socorro, NM
 B. Lewis Boccella, Tulsa, OK
 William Bond, Durango, CO
 Joseph L. Borden, Durango, CO
 Fred Brechtel, Denver, CO
 R. S. Breitenstein, Farmington, NM
 R. A. Broomfield, Jr., Artesia, NM
 Otto E. Brown, Durango, CO
 Lewis Burlison, Roswell, NM
 Cary P. Butcher, Midland, TX
 J. R. Butler, Houston, TX
 H. J. Caine, Albuquerque, NM
 T. W. Cabeen, Albuquerque, NM
 Eugene Callaghan, Socorro, NM
 John Cartmill, Tulsa, OK
 E. M. Casey, Denver, CO
 Paul Chabas, Denver, CO
 William L. Champion, Albuquerque, NM
 Nat Charnley, Pacific Palisades, CA
 Carl W. Combs, Pampa, TX
 Jack C. Cooper, Durango, CO
 H. V. Copeland, Aztec, NM
 Dudley Cornell, Albuquerque, NM
 Larry Craig, Grand Junction, CO
 C. J. Crowley, Casper, WY
 Bruce Curtis, Denver, CO

Thomas C. Daniel, Jr., Tijeras, NM
 H. E. Davis, Midland, TX
 Stanley S. Day, Grand Junction, CO
 Thomas S. Dignam, Farmington, NM
 D. Ray Dobyms, Dallas, TX
 James N. Doyle, Socorro, NM
 B. C. Dunn, Denver, CO
 John E. Dunn, Durango, CO
 W. C. Durham, Jr., Durango, CO
 John A. Egan, Tulsa, OK
 Robert Elliot, Golden, CO
 D. W. Enders, Durango, CO
 N. W. Engel, Denver, CO
 Wes Farmer, Albuquerque, NM
 G. M. Fedderson, Denver, CO
 Harry Feder, Los Angeles, CA
 D. M. Ferebee, Albuquerque, NM
 Robert Fisher, Cuba, NM
 R. Fitting, Jr., Midland, TX
 J. Paul Fitzsimmons, Albuquerque, NM
 E. J. Foley, Roswell, NM
 E. M. Frost, Jr., Amarillo, TX
 John A. Frost, Artesia, NM
 Denman S. Galbraith, Denver, CO
 S. Geffen, Midland, TX
 Di Giambattista, Amarillo, TX
 Wesley G. Gish, Tulsa, OK
 John Goffe, Durango, CO
 H. N. Goodell, Denver, CO
 Penn L. Gooldy, Denver, CO
 J. H. Goth, Durango, CO
 J. M. Hansell, Denver, CO
 Vic Hansen, Socorro, NM
 W. W. Hanson, Roswell, NM
 Earl Harrison, Durango, CO
 John W. Harrison, Casper, WY
 Thomas S. Harrison, Denver, CO
 John W. Harshbarger, Fort Wingate, NM
 G. E. Hatton, Amarillo, TX
 Phillip T. Hayes, Albuquerque, NM
 C. E. Hendrickson, Albuquerque, NM
 John D. Hill, Albuquerque, NM
 John D. Hill, Albuquerque, NM
 Donuil Hillis, Hobbs, NM
 W. B. Hoover, Albuquerque, NM
 Milton Hruby, Roswell, NM
 Jack R. Huffmyer, Roswell, NM
 Robert L. Jackson, Fort Wingate, NM
 C. A. Jennings, Durango, CO
 Roy Jeter, Midland, TX
 Floyd L. Johnson, Bakersfield, CA
 Samuel C. Johnson, Albuquerque, NM
 J. R. Jones, Midland, TX
 Stewart M. Jones, Socorro, NM
 B. Jordan, Albuquerque, NM
 V. C. Kelley, Albuquerque, NM
 Lee W. Kilgore, Oklahoma City, OK
 J. E. Kilkenny, Los Angeles, CA
 John N. King, Albuquerque, NM
 Vernon L. King, Los Angeles, CA
 E. E. Kinney, Artesia, NM
 Robert L. Kretz, Denver, CO
 Henry H. Krusekopf, Roswell, NM
 O. Robert Lamsens, Albuquerque, NM
 R.K. Lanyon, Amarillo, TX
 Alan B. Leeper, Midland, TX
 Fla Lewis, Jr., Albuquerque, NM
 Frank H. Lookabaugh, Oklahoma City, OK

H. M. Looney, Midland, TX
 Wallace F. Lumb, Amarillo, TX
 Philip F. McKinlay, Socorro, NM
 J. D. McLean, Amarillo, TX
 R. J. McLellan, Albuquerque, NM
 Robert McMillan, Denver, CO
 John Metzger, Dallas, TX
 Norman F. Mills, Albuquerque, NM
 Frank Morgan, Casper, WY
 Walter L. Morrison, Houston, TX
 Harold C. Mosher, Casper, WY
 J. A. Mulinax, Farmington, NM
 Ray D. Munnerlyn, Amarillo, TX
 Robert Muñoz, Denver, CO
 Robert E. Murphy
 Fritz Nagel, Durango, CO
 Caswell S. Neal, Carlsbad, NM
 Joseph Neeley, Dallas, TX
 F. L. Orman, Dallas, TX
 W. J. Osterhoudt, Houston, TX
 Mrs. W. J. Psterhoudt, Houston, TX
 R. L. Painter, Durango, CO
 Ben H. Parker, Denver, CO
 Ernest H. Parker, Denver, CO
 W. H. Pattison, Tulsa, OK
 J. R. Pemberton, Los Angeles, CA
 Charles, S. Peters, Albuquerque, NM
 V. E. Peterson, Salt Lake City, UT
 John M. Petty, Midland, TX
 Roy L. Pritchard, Farmington, NM
 Percy L. Prout, Houston, TX
 Paul S. Pustmueller, Denver, CO
 Walter Randall, Roswell, NM
 Charles B. Read, Albuquerque, NM
 Val Reese, Denver, CO
 Duane H. Reno, Tulsa, OK
 F. M. Ricks, Fort Worth, TX
 John T. Rouse, Dallas, TX
 W. J. Rutledge, Jr., Durango, CO
 Harrison Schmitt, Silver City, NM
 W.T. Schneider, Midland, TX
 Jan Schoo, Denver, CO
 J. D. Schultz, Albuquerque, NM
 Irving T. Schwade, Bakersfield, CA
 C. W. Sellon, Durango, CO
 R. M. Seward, Jr., Farmington, NM
 S. A. Shannon, Tulsa, OK
 Clark Shimeall, Durango, CO
 Caswell Silver, Albuquerque, NM
 Lynn Silvertooth, Socorro, NM
 Edward C. Simpson, Denver, CO
 Clay T. Smith, Socorro, NM
 Fred Smith, Durango, CO
 Ralph E. Smith, Albuquerque, NM
 J. A. Smythe, Denver, CO
 John W. Spragg, Farmington, NM
 James G. Stephens, Albuquerque, NM
 C. W. Sternberg, Denver, CO
 T. F. Stipp, Roswell, NM
 C. E. Storm, Artesia, NM
 L. W. Storm, Denver, CO
 John D. Strobell, Jr., Albuquerque, NM
 L. B. Taylor, Jr., Midland, TX
 Charles E. Terry, Dallas, TX
 C. V. Theis, Albuquerque, NM
 Van Thompson, Dallas, TX
 William D. Tipton, Socorro, NM
 Jerry Upp, Tulsa, OK
 Martin W. Van Couvering, Glendale, CA
 Mrs. M. W. Van Couvering, Glendale, CA
 Hugh A. Wallis, Denver, CO
 K. W. Webb, Sterling, CO
 Del Weigand, Durango, CO
 James, E. Weir, Jr., Albuquerque, NM
 John G. Wells, Roswell, NM
 Ross Wells, Durango, CO
 Sherman A. Wengerd, Albuquerque, NM
 J. K. Wetherill, Tulsa, OK
 Mark Whelan, Albuquerque, NM
 Stanley B. White, Durango, CO
 Philip A. Williams, Vernal, UT
 Richard Wise, Golden, CO
 Gordon H. Wood, Jr., Albuquerque, NM
 R. Zeller, Albuquerque, NM



Car caravans date back to the very first field conference. Here participants enjoy an early November view of Upper Paleozoic rocks on Hermosa Mountain in the Animas Valley north of Durango on the morning of the 1st conference (photograph courtesy of Florence Wengert).