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History of the Roswell Geological Society

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This is one of many related papers that were included in the 1955 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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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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HISTORY OF THE ROSWELL GEOLOGICAL

By H. H. Krusekopf, Jr.
Pubco Development, Inc.

The Roswell Geological Society was formed on May 20, 1950 when seventeen geologists met for dinner and an organizational meeting. R. E. Murphy was elected first president. This was at a time when Roswell was beginning to grow in importance as a center for exploration people of the oil industry. The geologists present at that time felt the need for a group to discuss mutual problems of exploration in the Permian Basin. The object of the Roswell Geological Society is best stated in the Constitution: "The object of the Society shall be to provide for discussion of subjects and problems coming within the scope of the technical branches of the oil industry and to provide fellowship within the membership."

This objective has been well carried out over the years by a well balanced series of programs. Uranium and academic type programs as well as oil have been discussed. The Society has also sponsored six field conferences in southeastern New Mexico besides acting as co-sponsor for this trip. Membership has grown to 187 members and one honorary member. Wallace Pratt of Carlsbad was elected an honorary member in 1951.

Dinner meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month in Roswell. All geologists and friends are invited to attend.

THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF THE GEOLOGICAL PROFESSION

PART I HISTORY OF THE NEW MEXICO GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
PART II OF GEOLOGY, GEOLOGISTS, AND THE GEOLOGICAL PROFESSION

The President's address at the Ninth Annual Meeting of the New Mexico Geological Society
Gallup, New Mexico
May 13-15, 1955

By T. F. Stipp

INTRODUCTION

The executive committee has decreed that at this meeting the retiring president shall deliver an address. Presumably this action was to provide him with an opportunity to announce some momentous discovery in geology, to express his opinions regarding the activities of the Society, or simply to blow off accumulated pressure.

I have no important discovery to announce, or no new theory to propound, consequently I shall limit myself in the first part of this address to a brief review of the history, organization and aims of the Society—this primarily for the newer members and those who may contemplate membership—to mention some of the accomplishments and problems of the Society, and to speculate on the possible future of the Society and how it may be of the greatest benefit to its members and to the public. In the second part of this address I propose to unburden myself of some long repressed ideas regarding geology, geologists, and the geological profession.

PART I HISTORY OF THE NEW MEXICO GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

THE PAST

On April 12, 1947 a group of some 40 or 50 geologists, representing all branches of the profession, met at the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque and organized the Geological Society of New Mexico. The meeting was called by Doctor Vincent Kelley and his associates for the purpose of founding