Dedication

This bulletin is dedicated to Charles E. Chapin, who, by using his remarkable ability to integrate diverse scientific data sets, has over a long and remarkably productive career developed many of the important geologic concepts currently in vogue in the Southern Rocky Mountains-Rio Grande rift area. Among Chuck's numerous accomplishments are his definition of the Rio Grande rift, his recognition of the tectonic significance of the Rocky Mountain erosion surface, his detailed work on ash-flow tuffs the northeastern in Mogollon-Datil and central Colorado volcanic fields, his pioneering work on the association between potassium metasomatism and playa-lake brines in the Rio Grande rift, and his model (developed with Steve Cather) of

Laramide strike-slip deformation in the Southern Rocky Mountains. Chuck helped found a world-class geochronology center at the New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources. Through his expansive, open-minded, and collaborative approach to science, Chuck has profoundly shaped the careers of the three editors of this volume, for which we are deeply grateful. Chuck's insightful contribu-

tions to our geologic understanding of New Mexico and Colorado continue here: he is first author on one paper and second author on two papers presented in this volume. It is fitting that the first digital bulletin published by New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources honors Chuck Chapin.

Chuck Chapin was born in California and was raised in Washington State. He earned his B.S. degree in geological engineering from the Colorado School of Mines in 1954. His interest in volcanology began during a brief stint with the USGS in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska. His first employment in Rocky Mountain geology was as an exploration geologist looking for uranium near Canon City, Colorado, and Riverton, Wyoming. He served in the U.S.



He served in that position until his retirement in 1999. During Chuck's thirty-four year tenure in Socorro, he supervised 14 Ph.D. candidates and 31 master's students, providing invaluable guidance to these students. Chuck has earned numerous awards over the course of his career. He is an honorary member of the New Mexico Geological Society, and recipient of the Distinguished Research Award from New Mexico Tech (1988), and the Van Diest Gold Medal (1980) and Distinguished Achievement Medal (1999) from the Colorado School of Mines. Chuck

colorado School of Mines. Chuck is a gifted and eagle-eyed editor, and his skill was recognized in 1990 by the Geologic Information Society.

Army as a surveyor from

1956–1957. He returned to college

in 1959 and earned his D.Sc. in 1965 at the Colorado School of

Mines, based on his study of the

Thirtynine Mile volcanic field in

south-central Colorado. Chuck's

academic career began at the University of Tulsa, but he soon

moved to the New Mexico

Technology in Socorro, where he

taught for five years and served

as department chairman for two years. He began his career with

the New Mexico Bureau of Mines

and Mineral Resources in 1970,

where he served as Director and

State Geologist starting in 1991.

Institute of Mining

As you scan through the selected bibliography of Charles E. Chapin, note the variety of topics that he has contemplated, the number of careers that he has influenced, and the outstanding quality of his papers. Even in retirement Chuck Chapin continues to add significantly to our geological knowledge of the Rocky Mountain region.



—Steven M. Cather, William C. McIntosh, and Shari A. Kelley Socorro, New Mexico October 2004

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