

New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources photo collection

Robert W. Eveleth

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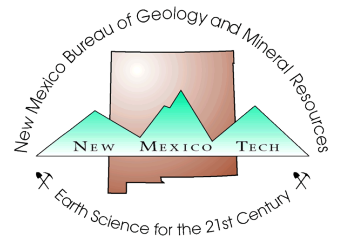
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New Mexico Geology (NMG) publishes peer-reviewed geoscience papers focusing on New Mexico and the surrounding region. We also welcome submissions to the Gallery of Geology, which presents images of geologic interest (landscape images, maps, specimen photos, etc.) accompanied by a short description.

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New Mexico Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources
New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology
801 Leroy Place
Socorro, NM 87801-4796

<https://geoinfo.nmt.edu>



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Looking west from Morphy Lake, the highest point is Cebolla Mountain at 11,870 ft. North of this peak several small, bowl-shaped or amphitheatre-like reentrants occur in the ridge of Precambrian rocks. These features were formed by small mountain glaciers that developed on the east side of the ridge more than 10,000 yrs ago during Pleistocene time. The fronts of the glaciers advanced downward only a short way to an altitude of approximately 10,000 ft. The bowl-shaped reentrants are called *cirques*. The glaciers plucked out the bottoms leaving behind depressions in the rock now occupied by small lakes known as *tarns*.

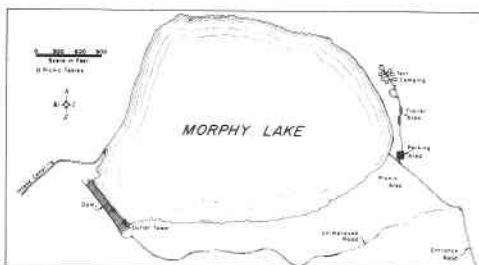
History and surrounding area

When Mora was founded in 1835, New Mexico was part of the Republic of Mexico. The Mora grant made by the Mexican government included the present village of Ledoux. In addition to the original settlers of Spanish and Mexican descent, French trappers came into the area; in the late 1800's a small group of Irish founded the community of Cleveland just west of Mora, naming it after President Cleveland.

Numerous scenic areas are near Morphy Lake State Park. West of Mora, NM-3 crosses the Sangre de Cristo Mountains to Taos. Much of the route follows the Rio Pueblo, a beautiful mountain stream with excellent trout fishing. The high ridge west of Morphy Lake is within the Pecos Wilderness in which numerous trails lead past spectacular mountain vistas and alpine lakes and meadows. Santiago, Pacheco, and Encantado Lakes occupy cirques. Difficult to reach, they offer excellent fishing plus the exhilaration of the alpine country above timberline. North of Mora via NM-38 is Coyote Creek State Park. Easily reached, this park and the surrounding area have some of the most beautiful displays of mountain wild flowers to be seen anywhere in the Rocky Mountains.

Facilities

Morphy Lake has been enlarged by construction of a small dam. Water comes into the lake via an intake canal near the north side of the dam. The natural drainage area is quite small, and the lake basin has a maximum storage capacity of a little more than 400 acre ft (about 130 million gal) and covers an area of about 25 acres. The State Game and Fish Department stocks the lake with rainbow trout. Tables, fireplaces, and toilet facilities are provided in the park, but drinking water is not available.



NMBMMR photo collection

by Robert W. Eveleth, New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources, Socorro, NM 87801

Ho for the silver camps of the the Black Range! Such was the cry of the 19th century prospector and miner in territorial New Mexico. By early 1881 the buccaneer of pick and pan could, if he so desired, purchase a ticket and enjoy the first class accommodations of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, disembark at San Marcial or Engle, and procure passage on an adequate (if not luxuriously appointed) coach of the Pioneer or other stage line. "Stages (left) promptly upon the arrival of trains" for the Black Range silver camps including St. Charles, Philipsburg, Grafton, Robinson, Fairview, Roundy, Chloride, and Hermosa (Fig. 1) and went "through by daylight" in 8 to 10 hours if we can believe the advertised schedule (Fig. 2). Or, if the lucky traveler was bound for the famed silver mines of Lake Valley he could ride the rails right into town.

The reader need not feel dismayed if these place names sound unfamiliar; like stars in the heavens, these camps blazed for a time and then quickly faded with the silver crash of 1893, never to shine again. Sadly, they and the way of life briefly described above have vanished in the mists of time, although Fairview (now Winston), Chloride, and Lake Valley partially survive today. But memories live on in images such as the ones shown on the following page (Figs. 3-5), a small sampling of the more than 1,000 views in the New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources' photo collection.

The core of the collection consists of photos made by various Bureau engineers and geologists from the 1940's to the present, but more than a century of mining and industrial activity is represented. Some of the images have been purchased from other collections, such as the Rio Grande Historical Collection/NMSU and the Silver City Museum, and,

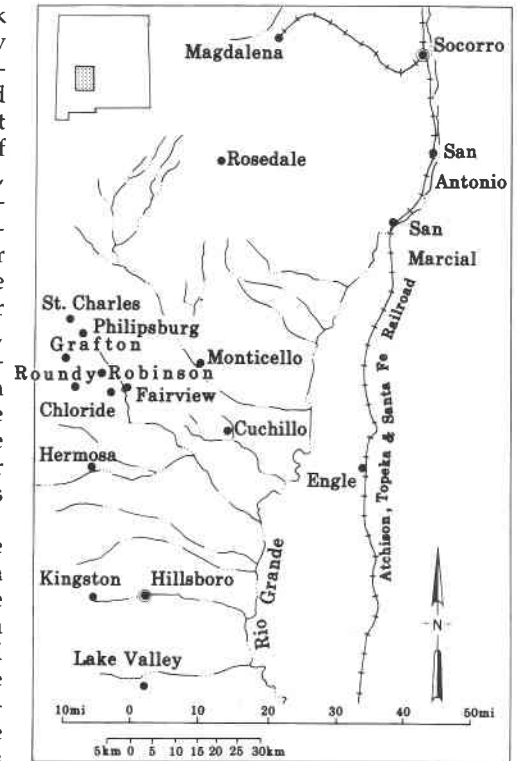


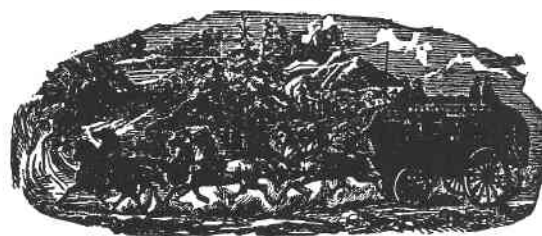
FIGURE 1—Location map of the Black Range, southwest New Mexico, and silver mining camps in that area before the silver crash of 1893.

therefore, their use may be restricted. The large majority, however, can be used freely if source credits and acknowledgments are given.

The collection was recently enhanced with the acquisition of a large group of U.S. Geological Survey photos and, most impor-

HO FOR THE BLACK RANGE!

**PIONEER
Stage
LINE!**



**PIONEER
Stage
LINE!**

Makes Connections with Railroad at SAN MARCIAL, being the nearest point to the BLACK RANGE, on the line of the R. R. Sixty miles saved by taking this route.

THROUGH BY DAYLIGHT; TIME, 8 TO 10 HOURS.

KARNS & McCONKEY, Prop's.

FIGURE 2—Advertisement for Karns & McConkey's Pioneer Stage line from San Marcial to the Black Range. Taken from *Beckwith's guide to the great mining and stock-growing district of central New Mexico*: Times Printing House, Leavenworth, Kansas, ca. 1881. Original is courtesy of Huntington Library, rare book no. 384952, p. 17.