

Vincent C. Kelley (1904-1988)

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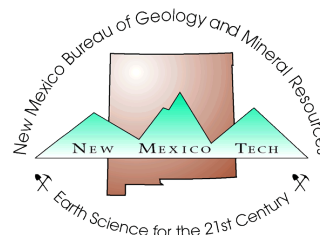
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poration, and the Department of Geology and Geophysics at Louisiana State University. William A. Cobban, U.S. Geological Survey, identified the fossils discussed in this paper. Special thanks to Orin Anderson of the NMBMMR for logistical support of field work and for providing a respite from long weeks of work in the New Mexico desert. Dag Nummedal, Donald R. Lowe, Joseph E. Hazel, all of Louisiana State University, Chris Atkinson, of ARCO, William A. Cobban, and Orin Anderson provided constructive reviews of the manuscript.

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Vincent C. Kelley

(1904–1988)

Vincent C. Kelley, eminent New Mexican geologist, made outstanding contributions to our geologic literature, taught hundreds of geologists at the University of New Mexico, and was a major worker in our professional organizations. Excellent field geologic work done by his students reflects on his example; most of his research was in the field dealing with local and regional geology.

Interestingly, his first job was for the U.S. Geological Survey on Utah's alunite deposits under the direction of Eugene Callaghan, who later was NMBMMR's director (1949–1957). Vin's major reports include: for the U.S. Geological Survey, those on the San Juan Mountains mineral deposits and stratigraphic-structural studies for the USGS Fuels Branch on Sierra Lucero, New Mexico, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, and the Big Horn Basin, Wyoming; for the University of New Mexico Publications in Geology, iron ore in New Mexico, geology of the Caballo Mountains (with Caswell Silver), regional structure and tectonic history of the Colorado Plateau; and for NMBMMR, geology of the Pecos country, geology of the Ft. Sumner quadrangle, Scenic Trip to the Geologic Past for the Albuquerque area, geology of the Albuquerque Basin, geology of the Sandia Mountains and vicinity (with Stuart A. Northrop), geology of the Española Basin, and geology and technology of the Grants uranium region (compiler).

Vin was one of the organizers and the first president of the New Mexico Geological Society in 1947, honorary member in 1955, chairman and editor of the first field conference guidebook in 1950, and leader of many of those field trips as well as contributor of numerous articles to the NMGS guidebooks. He was a charter member of the New Mexico Mining Association in 1940, served on its Board of Directors for many years, and was vice-president during 1947–1950.

Dr. Kelley was active in numerous national professional organizations, including Geological Society of America (Fellow in 1942, Councilor in 1960–1962), Society of Economic

Geologists, Society of Mining Engineers of AIME, and American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

Vin was born in Seattle, Washington; he received his AB from UCLA in 1931, MS from Cal Tech in 1932, and PhD also from Cal Tech in 1937. He began teaching at the University of New Mexico in 1937 and took over as chairman of the Geology Department in 1962, serving in this capacity until he retired in 1970. His teaching influence can be seen by the more than 60 theses and dissertations for which he served as chairman. His geologic investigations were mainly of structure and stratigraphy with emphasis on economic geology as indicated by the numerous reports on New Mexico base- and precious-metal deposits, ground-water resources, highway routing, and deposits of turquoise, gravel, limestone, barite, talc, fluorite, coal, pumice, perlite, kyanite, manganese, and oil and gas. Dr. Kelley's bibliography fills several pages of small type.

Forceful lecturer, keen observer, and meticulous writer, Vin's chief joy was field geology in which he excelled and whose methods he enthusiastically communicated to students and coworkers. With his long legs, he was difficult to keep up with in the field. Albert Schweitzer noted, "For us the great men are not those who solve the problems, but those who discover them." Vincent C. Kelley discovered and solved many of New Mexico's geologic puzzles. His bibliography and the eminence of his students attest to his stature.

Vin's personal warmth and helpfulness have been enjoyed by me in the field from the Cerrillos in 1951 through many parts of the state including the upper Pecos, Black Range, Zuni Mountains, Pedernal Mountains, Rhodes Canyon in the San Andres Mountains, and just a few years ago, the east side of the Sacramento Mountains several miles north of Cloudcroft. When we climb over the outcrops, we can look up ahead—he'll be there.

—Frank E. Kottlowski

