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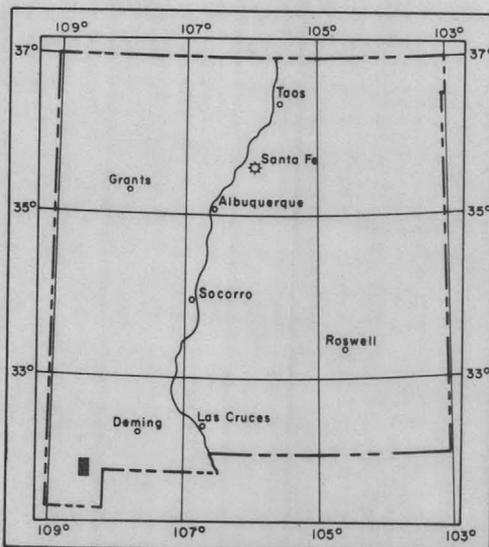
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BULLETIN 96

Geology of the
Little Hatchet Mountains
Hidalgo and Grant Counties
New Mexico

by *ROBERT A. ZELLER, JR.*



1970

STATE BUREAU OF MINES AND MINERAL RESOURCES
NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING & TECHNOLOGY
CAMPUS STATION SOCORRO, NEW MEXICO

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Preface

This report by Dr. Robert A. Zeller, Jr., was essentially a preliminary draft; he had planned to do a more detailed examination of at least several areas in the Little Hatchet Mountains, measure key stratigraphic sections, and describe the geologic structures with greater emphasis on their relation to the interpretation of the stratigraphic sequence.

Unfortunately, Zeller was killed in an airplane crash in late February 1970, thus this report and his geologic map prepared in February 1968 are being published with only minor modifications gained from his field notes. He had hoped to do a more detailed study under the sponsorship of the New Mexico State Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources.

Zeller's structural interpretations and his establishment of the Cretaceous-Tertiary stratigraphic sequence differ greatly from those of Lasky (1947). The majority of geologists that have worked in this region agree more closely with Zeller's conclusions. Mapping of numerous thrust faults in the Little Hatchet Mountains is in accord with structures in nearby ranges, and the Cretaceous-Tertiary sequence as interpreted by Zeller fits the regional stratigraphic pattern. These are important, fundamental contributions to the geology of southwestern New Mexico, a region with which Bob Zeller was intimately acquainted. We are pleased to be able to publish this significant geologic report as a small part of Dr. Zeller's geologic findings in the Hidalgo County region.

Frank E. Kottlowski

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