

**Eugene Callaghan**  
**1904-1990**



Eugene Callaghan was the eighth Director of the New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources division of New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, serving from September 1949 through January 1957. He expanded the Bureau from a staff of ten employees to thirty-one, and began many of the geology and mineral resources programs in place today, with heavy emphasis on field geologic mapping. Dr. Callaghan was active in the Association of American State Geologists, serving as Statistician and hosting AASG in Socorro in 1954. He was elected Honorary Member of AASG as well as of the New Mexico Geological Society and the Utah Geological Association. Eugene strongly supported the annual spring meetings and fall field conferences of the New Mexico Geological Society, beginning the close cooperation of NMBM&MR and NMGS.

Dr. Callaghan was born in Snohomish, Washington and raised in Newport, Oregon. He married Edna Curtis Spenker of San Francisco; they raised two sons, Curtis John Callaghan, now in Petropolis, Brazil, and Dr. William S. Callaghan, Salt Lake City.

Dr. Callaghan received his B.A. and M.A. in geology from the University of Oregon and his PhD in geology from Columbia University in 1931. He worked for the U.S. Geological Survey until 1946, doing projects in Utah, Nevada, Puerto Rico, Massachusetts, and South America. In 1946, he was appointed as Professor of Economic Geology at Indiana University, and from there came to New Mexico. Beginning in early 1957, he served as an international consultant with Haile Mines Corporation and DeLiew, Cather and Company doing geologic work in Cuba, Mexico, Canada, Turkey, and Iran. He then served as Chief Geologist for Morro Velho Mine in Brazil and as Senior Resident Geologist for Cyprus Mines Corporation in Cyprus, with visits to Greece, Israel, Arabia, Spain, Portugal, and Morocco.

In 1965, Dr. Callaghan joined the Utah Geological and Mineralogical Survey as Associate Director, and in 1968, he became a professor and first chairman of the newly organized Geology and Geophysics Department of the University of Utah. He retired from public service in 1972. After retirement, Dr. Callaghan continued geologic consulting and attending professional conferences in such diverse areas as China, Australia, Antarctica, Ireland, Scotland, and Kenya. He frequently attended the annual meetings of the Association of American State Geologists, at various sites throughout the nation.

Dr. Callaghan published about sixty reports, but also had many proprietary studies and unpublished maps. He was a Fellow of AIME, Geological Society of America, and the Society of Economic Geologists. His published scientific reports are mainly of areas in Utah, Nevada, and New Mexico, but his experience and knowledge spanned seven continents.

A moderately tall lanky man, Eugene set a fast pace in the field and had penetrating questions concerning interpretation of outcrops. He was a living example of the axiom that the best geologists are those who see the most rocks. He directed by leading and working closely with his staff. He was always a perfect gentleman and sympathetic but firm. With obvious reference to the Irish background of the name Callaghan, many of his friends called him Pat, but that referred to the good qualities of the Irish. In meeting deadlines, he tended to work thirty-six hours straight. Thus, after such a period, it was safest to insist on doing the driving so he could catch up on his sleep as a passenger and not as a driver. Overall, he had encompassing appreciation for the many beneficial aspects of geologic studies, ranging from developing mineral resources to helping laypersons enjoy the scenery that has resulted from geologic forces. A premier, practical economic geologist, he enthralled his students at Indiana and Utah universities with hands-on descriptions of Utah's Marysvale alunite, Nevada's Gabbs magnesite, Indiana's Gardner Ridge Kaolin-Halloysite, New Mexico's Santa Rita copper, Mexico's Santa Eulalia silver-lead, Cyprus' Skouriotissa copper, and Brazil's Minas Geraes diamonds and hematite deposits.

He left us January 8, 1990, two days short of his 86th birthday. As coworker Paul Dean Proctor noted, "he went out like the bright light he was, suddenly, no fanfare, just the touch and turning off of the life switch, but in his friends' memories his light still burns." He was the ultimate Economic Geologist.

-Frank E. Kottlowski  
New Mexico Bureau of Mines & Mineral Resources