



**THE
GEOLOGICAL
SURVEY OF WYOMING**

ITS FOUNDATIONS

ITS FUNCTION

ITS FUTURE

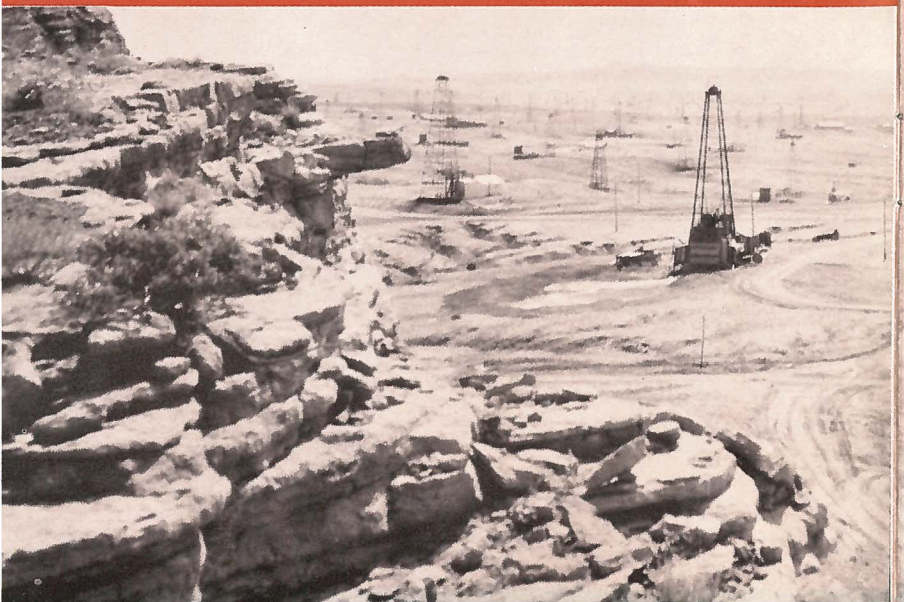


"Wyoming needs simply to be known; all desirable things will quickly follow for its inducements will commend them," noted S. D. Shannon, Territorial Secretary, two years before statehood. And so it was that men and women early recognized the natural attributes and overall potential of what was later to become Wyoming.

Many of the facets of Wyoming's development are tied to its geologic history; its mountains and prairies, its bedrock and minerals, its water and energy resources. In 1933 the State Legislature organized the Geological Survey of Wyoming under the direction of Dr. S. H. Knight, then State Geologist and Chairman of the Department of Geology at the University. The Survey's prime responsibility was to collect, interpret and communicate important geological information with a practical bearing on Wyoming's communities and people.

Knight and his successors, Horace D. Thomas and D. L. Blackstone, Jr., served the Survey in a half-time capacity. In 1969, Daniel N. Miller, Jr., was appointed as the State's first full-time State Geologist by Governor Stanley Hathaway. Since then, the staff has grown to include five additional geologists and seven support personnel.

Since its creation the Survey has served the state as a clearing house for all geological information, a consultant to the Governor and State Legislature, and as an advisor to all other state agencies. In addition, the Survey staff responds to requests for assistance from communities and people and maintains close liaison with agencies of industry and the federal government.



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When the Survey was reorganized in 1969 it was charged with eleven specific functions that can be broadly grouped into three categories; investigations, services and publication.

The Survey conducts timely geological investigations of the state's mineral resources and continues to compile new geological data with a practical bearing on Wyoming's communities and people. From time to time the Survey enters into cooperative working arrangements with other state and federal agencies to expedite information gathering.

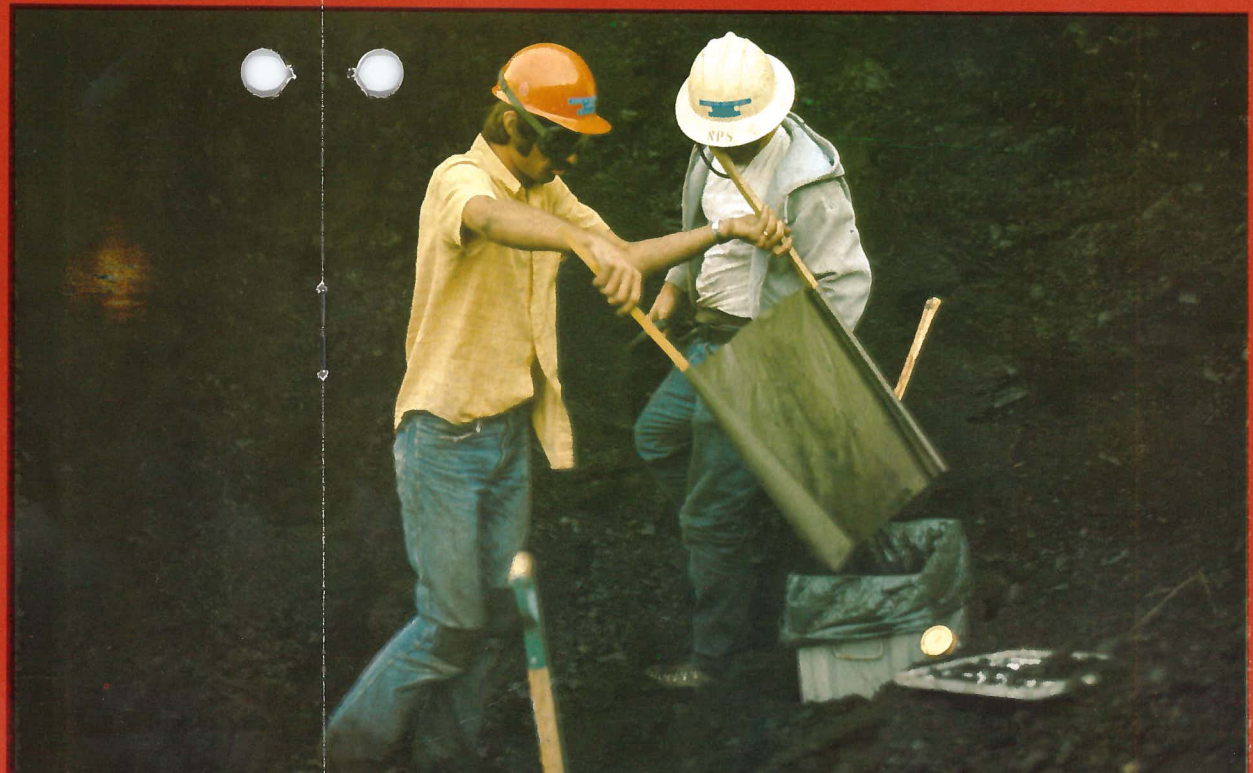
As part of its overall service function, the Survey maintains extensive files of maps and information on the geology and mineral resources of the state. It also responds to public inquiries regarding this information.

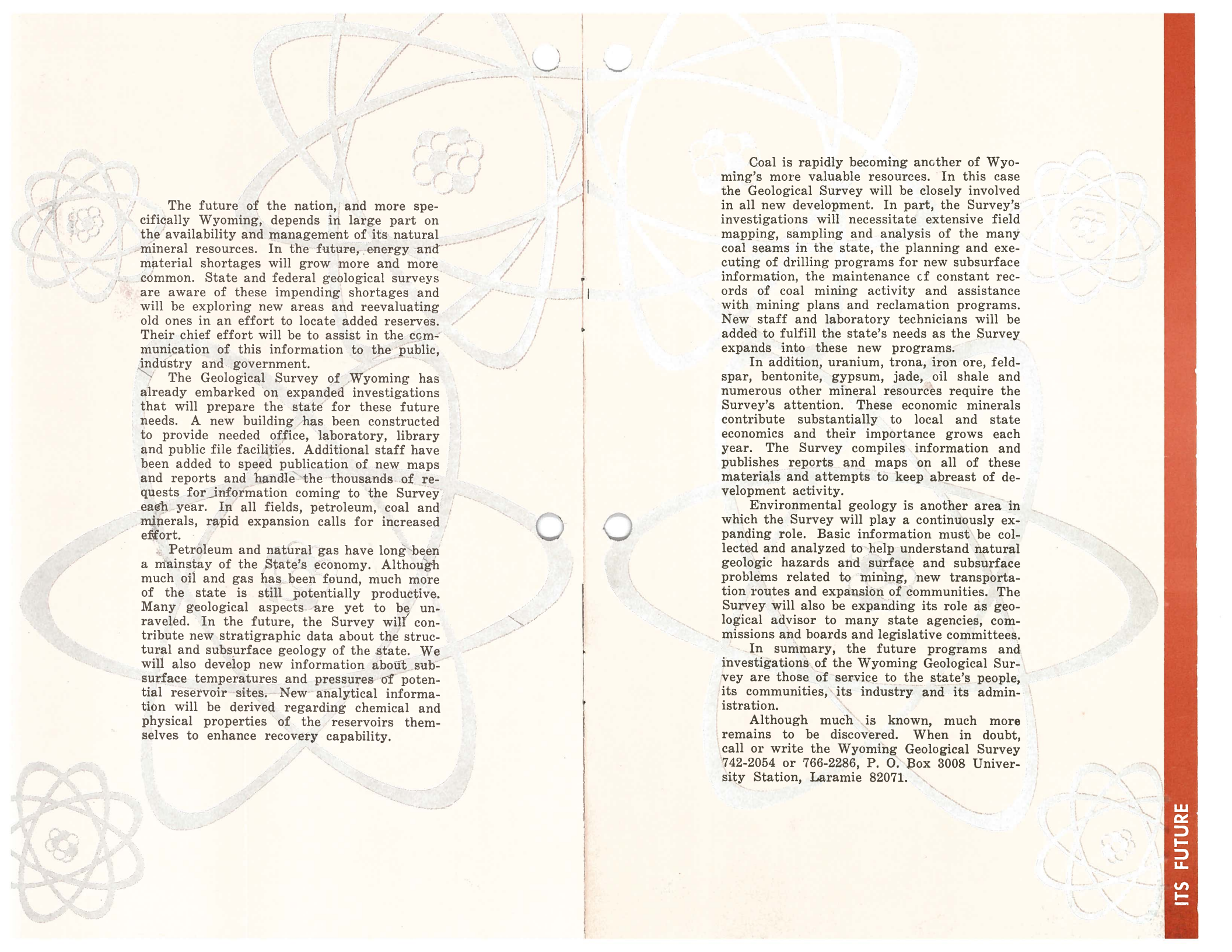
When requested, the Survey staff provides advice and consultation to all other state agencies and participates on a number of boards and commissions. In addition, the staff represents Wyoming on cooperative state-federal committees and planning groups.

The Survey publishes timely reports and maps of its investigations. A free publications list showing the current prices of this material is available upon request.

The Survey provides a number of specific services to the public, the mineral industries and government. These services include:

1. Distribution and sales of topographic, geologic and specialty maps, technical reports bibliographies and general interest publications relating to geology.
2. Timely press releases on geological and mineral resource subjects important to the public.
3. Personal consultation with other state and federal agencies, legislators and legislative committees, community administrators and county commissioners and planners.
4. Maintenance of public records and files of electric logs, aerial photos, general ownership plats and open-file reports of various federal agencies.
5. The Director and staff also serve as technical experts on a number of special boards, commissions and committees as required by law or when requested by the Governor.





The future of the nation, and more specifically Wyoming, depends in large part on the availability and management of its natural mineral resources. In the future, energy and material shortages will grow more and more common. State and federal geological surveys are aware of these impending shortages and will be exploring new areas and reevaluating old ones in an effort to locate added reserves. Their chief effort will be to assist in the communication of this information to the public, industry and government.

The Geological Survey of Wyoming has already embarked on expanded investigations that will prepare the state for these future needs. A new building has been constructed to provide needed office, laboratory, library and public file facilities. Additional staff have been added to speed publication of new maps and reports and handle the thousands of requests for information coming to the Survey each year. In all fields, petroleum, coal and minerals, rapid expansion calls for increased effort.

Petroleum and natural gas have long been a mainstay of the State's economy. Although much oil and gas has been found, much more of the state is still potentially productive. Many geological aspects are yet to be unraveled. In the future, the Survey will contribute new stratigraphic data about the structural and subsurface geology of the state. We will also develop new information about subsurface temperatures and pressures of potential reservoir sites. New analytical information will be derived regarding chemical and physical properties of the reservoirs themselves to enhance recovery capability.

Coal is rapidly becoming another of Wyoming's more valuable resources. In this case the Geological Survey will be closely involved in all new development. In part, the Survey's investigations will necessitate extensive field mapping, sampling and analysis of the many coal seams in the state, the planning and executing of drilling programs for new subsurface information, the maintenance of constant records of coal mining activity and assistance with mining plans and reclamation programs. New staff and laboratory technicians will be added to fulfill the state's needs as the Survey expands into these new programs.

In addition, uranium, trona, iron ore, feldspar, bentonite, gypsum, jade, oil shale and numerous other mineral resources require the Survey's attention. These economic minerals contribute substantially to local and state economics and their importance grows each year. The Survey compiles information and publishes reports and maps on all of these materials and attempts to keep abreast of development activity.

Environmental geology is another area in which the Survey will play a continuously expanding role. Basic information must be collected and analyzed to help understand natural geologic hazards and surface and subsurface problems related to mining, new transportation routes and expansion of communities. The Survey will also be expanding its role as geological advisor to many state agencies, commissions and boards and legislative committees.

In summary, the future programs and investigations of the Wyoming Geological Survey are those of service to the state's people, its communities, its industry and its administration.

Although much is known, much more remains to be discovered. When in doubt, call or write the Wyoming Geological Survey 742-2054 or 766-2286, P. O. Box 3008 University Station, Laramie 82071.

