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CAPULIN VOLCANO NATIONAL MONUMENT

An Administrative History

By Jon Hunner and Shirley G. Lael

Intermountain Cultural Resource Management
Professional Paper No. 67

Cover: Capulin Volcano cinder cone by Shirley Lael, 2002.

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Of New Mexico State University

Cultural Resources Division
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To Homer Farr and Leonard Farr

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Chapter 1 Early Regional Overview

The region surrounding Capulin Volcano National Monument (Fig. 1.1) has an extensive history of cooperation, conflict, and adaptation. Research reveals Capulin's story of geologic formation, human habitation fluxes, and numerous demographic

Fig. 1.1: Capulin Volcano , Photograph by Lail, 2002.

changes. In 1916, the volcano was awarded the status of a National Monument, an honor meriting public support. The delicate and often controversial balance between preservation and visitor use would start immediately for Capulin and continue into present day park management issues. How can visitors enjoy the monument without literally trampling it to the ground? Whose welfare should the National Park Service take into account when making decisions regarding Capulin and the surrounding area? There are many facets to these seemingly simple questions. Throughout all, the volcano remains intact, a reminder of the past and a monument to critical conservation efforts in the face of change.

1.1 Geology

Located in northeastern New Mexico, approximately thirty miles east of the town of Raton, Capulin sits in the middle of a volcanic field on the Great Plains surface (Fig. 1.2). The Great Plains surface is a geologic area spreading eastward

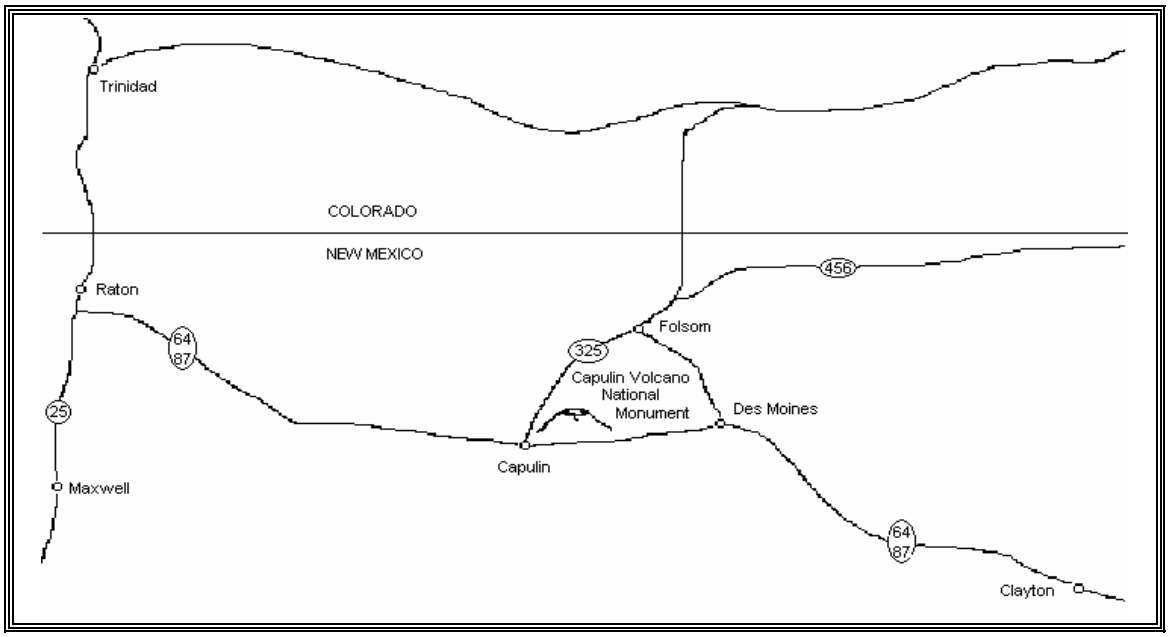

Fig. 1.2: Map of Northeastern New Mexico, Map by Lail, 2002.

from the Rocky Mountains. The volcanic field, referred to as the Raton-Clayton volcanic field, includes a large area between the towns of Raton and Clayton, where evidence of volcanic activity is visible far and wide. This volcanic field boasts not only Capulin Volcano, but also the largest freestanding volcano in the world, Sierra Grande. Other lesser volcanoes and evidence of volcanic activity exist throughout this field.

Capulin Volcano is a cinder cone volcano that formed "as fragments of foamy lava, hurled into the air from a volcanic vent, fell back to the ground."[1] The slopes of the volcano are made up of these loose basaltic pellets of lava or cinder, giving these types of volcanoes their name, cinder cones. Cinders are pieces of gas filled lava which become pumice like after being spewed from the vent of the volcano. This presence of gas and the absence of water is what basically differentiates cinder from flowing lava. Cinder cones are one "of the most common volcanic landforms on Earth."[2] The cinders are expelled, landing in a cone shaped pile around the volcano vent, thereby forming a small steep mountain. Capulin Volcano is one of these steep cinder cones, rising 8,182 feet above sea level, and 1,300 feet above the surrounding plain. It is estimated to be approximately 56,000 to 62,000 years old.[3]

Small cinders are not the only thing that erupted from the Capulin Volcano vent. Larger lava clumps, spewed high into the air by the volcano, took on the shape of oblongs as the projectiles fell back to earth. These hardened projectiles are called

[1] Halka Chronic, *Roadside Geology of New Mexico* (Missoula: Mountain Press Publishing Company, 1987) , 191.

[2] Richard Fisher, Grant Heiken, and Jeffrey Hulen, *Volcanoes, Crucibles of Change* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1997), 47.

[3] National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, *Capulin Volcano National Monument, New Mexico, Official Map and Guide* (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1998).

volcanic bombs and are about the size and shape of large footballs. These bombs can be found around the volcano and the surrounding ranch lands. Another unusual geologic factor is the slightly higher northeast side of the volcano resulting from predominately southwest winds which wear down the southwest side of Capulin. These southwest winds are also believed to have affected the actual drift and settlement of the original cinders.[4] This "downwind blanket of cinders over basalt"[5] is visible from an airplane and somewhat visible from the top of the volcano. New vegetation, deterioration of the cinders, and changes in water flow influence the visibility of the volcano's original developmental features.

Most important to the presently well preserved volcano are the dynamics of the Capulin lava flows (Fig. 1.3). The flows did not emerge from the top of the volcano.

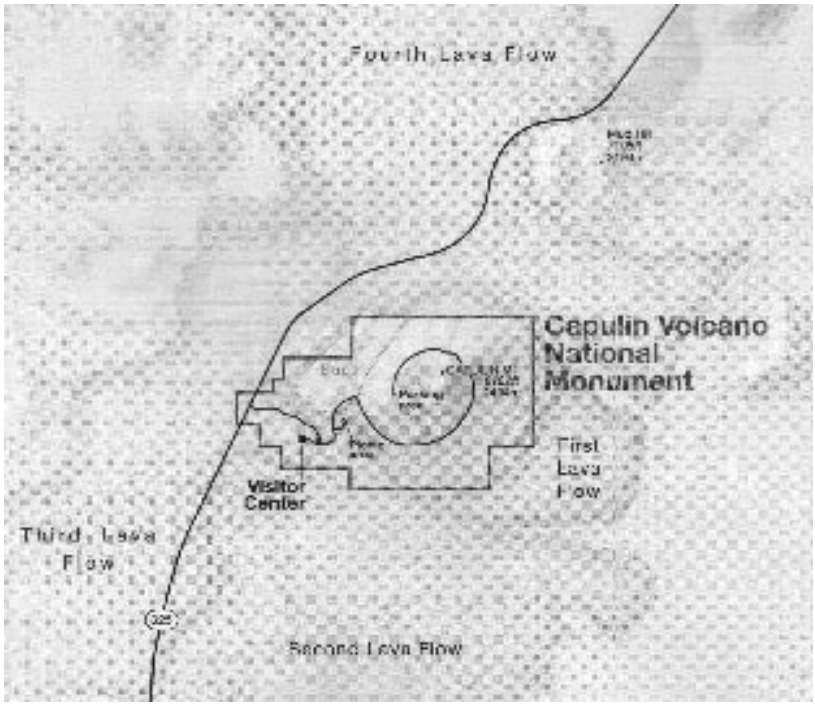

Fig. 1.3: Map of Capulin Lava Flows, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, *Capulin Volcano National Monument, New Mexico, Official Map and Guide, National Monument* (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1998).

Fluid magma squeezed through cracks at the base of the volcano and the released lava traveled through channels or bocas spreading across the plains. This break through of magma at the base, instead of a lava flow from the vent, preserved the volcano vent at the top of Capulin, allowing it to remain one of the most perfectly preserved cinder cones in the world. Many volcanoes emit lava from the top vent which eventually changes the shape of the volcano. The higher ground to the west of Capulin, visible to the left of the volcano in Fig. 1.1, is the area where lava emerged at the greatest

[4] Halka, *Roadside,* 223.

[5] Spencer Lucas, and Adrian Hunt, ed., *New Mexico Geological Society Thirty-eighth Annual Field Conference, Northeastern New Mexico,* (Albuquerque: New Mexico Geologic Society, University of New Mexico Printing, 1987), 45.

frequency from the main boca. The remnants of Capulin's four major lava flows can still be seen from the top of the volcano as well as from nearby plateaus and aerial photography. As the main lava flows hardened, other magma squeezed up through cracks and fissures forming lumps and clumps around the volcano, referred to appropriately as squeeze ups or tumuli. These squeeze ups are visible on the volcano and the surrounding countryside (Fig. 1.4).

Fig. 1.4: Lava Squeeze Up or Tumuli at Capulin Volcano National Monument, Photograph by Lail, 2002.

Capulin has been compared to Paricutin, a recently formed cinder volcano in Mexico which shares many similarities with the older Capulin. Paricutin started from a hole in the ground which farmer Dionisio "Pulido had been trying to fill for years."[6] In February of 1943, the hole started spewing ash and smoke as Dionisio watched in disbelief. By the next day, a ten meter high volcano stood in his once prosperous corn field. Over the next nine years, the volcano would rise to over four hundred meters before resorting back to inactivity. Although volcanic ash and lava create rich soil for generations of the future, lava cannot be plowed and ash is only useful immediately for farming in small plowable amounts. Paricutin wrought devastating, long lasting effects on the surrounding people. The study of this recent volcano has helped geologists to determine the nature of cinder cones and the possible geologic history of Capulin Volcano.

1.2 Human Inhabitants

Who were the first peoples to see Capulin? This question is difficult, if not impossible, to answer. The lack of written history for the region leaves scientists merely theorizing. Fortunately, early humans who inhabited the area left some substantial clues about their existence. In the fall of 1908, George McJunkin, foreman of the Crowfoot Ranch, found the fossil remains of a large animal near Folsom, New

[6] Fisher, *Volcanoes,* 233.

Mexico.[7] McJunkin told several people about his interesting find. Several years passed before Museum Director, Jesse Figgins, found out about and took an interest in the fossil remains. Figgins served as director of the Colorado Museum of Natural History and was in search of a bison skeleton for his museum. Little did he know that a group of men would bring the location of that skeleton to him, along with a very important archeological discovery.

Many years after the original find, and shortly after George McJunkin's death, several men from Raton also took interest in the remains. They traveled to the bone pit, having unprecedented time off work because of a local union strike. There, approximately twelve miles from Capulin Volcano, the men dug out several bones and put them into a bag.[8] The group consisted of the local blacksmith Carl Schwachheim, banker Fred Howarth, taxidermist James Campbell, Catholic priest Father Roger Aull, and bricklayer Charles Bonahoom. Howarth and Schwachheim later took the bones with them on a business trip to Denver. They went to see Figgins at the Colorado Museum of Natural History. Prompted by the fossils the men showed him, Figgins became interested in the site.

In 1926, Figgins sent a crew to the Folsom site to excavate. This crew, made up mainly of local residents, uncovered not only bison bones, but a spear point.[9] The crew was not aware of the controversy the find would cause. Careful archeological technique was not practiced. The spear point was removed from its provenience among the bison bones without any pictures being taken, nor were any archeological experts present. This lack of experts and evidence left both Figgins and the Museum's paleontologist Harold Cook in need of another intact find. The fossils would have to be left in place along side the artifact to prove that the site was not a hoax. They ordered the digging to continue.

Fig. 1.5: Folsom Spear Point with Bison Ribs, Photograph property of the Denver Museum of Natural History, (Denver: Photo Archives).

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[7] Franklin Folsom, *The Life and Legend of George McJunkin: Black Cowboy* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Inc, 1973), 11.

[8] National Park Service Intermountain Support Office, U.S. Department of the Interior, *Draft of the General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement for Capulin Volcano National Monument* (Santa Fe: NPS Intermountain Support Office, 2001), 54.

[9] David Meltzer, *Search for the First Americans* (Washington D.C.: Smithsonian Books, 1993), 51.

The presence of a finely manufactured spear point lying in provenience with a dateable bison fossil would shake the archeological world. More excavations in 1927 revealed another point. Figgins and Cook finally had the proof they needed, an intact archeological find (Fig. 1.5). The Folsom spear points pushed the known presence of humans in North America back to the Pleistocene, approximately ten thousand years before present. Anthropologist Michael Waters clarifies the importance of the find by stating that "Prior to 1927, most archaeologists believed humans had been in the Americas for only about 4,000 to 5,000 years. This perception was forever changed."[10] Similarly manufactured spear points were found later at the Folsom Quarry and at other sites near Capulin (Fig. 1.6). With the help of this archeological record, it can be determined that the first humans known to have occupied the region around Capulin Volcano were these bison hunters of the late Pleistocene.

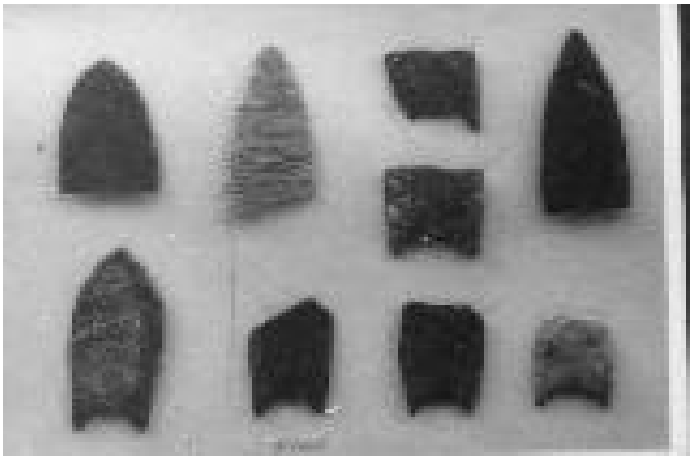

Fig. 1.6: Folsom Spear Points, Photograph property of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, *Folsom Points* (Charles Town: Historic Photographic Collections).

The hunters of the late Pleistocene did not leave enough evidence to prove that they inhabited the area around Capulin Volcano for long periods of time. The evidence they did leave shows the hunters to be of a more nomadic existence, frequenting the area only to hunt big game, such as the bison, but not to form settlements. These hunting nomads traveled light and their "passage is marked mainly by the debris of stone chips left from their tool-making."[11] They traveled in small family groups, stopping only if the surrounding area was rich in game.[12] Where these early hunters went, or whether they are the ancestors of the current native populations of the southwest, is unknown.

[10] Michael Waters, "Proving Pre-Clovis, Criteria for Confirming Human Antiquity in the New World," *Discovering Archaeology,* Vol. 2, no. 1, February 2000, 47-49.

[11] Rose Houk, *Anasazi, Prehistoric Cultures of the Southwest* (Tucson: Southwest Parks and Monuments Association, 1992), 4.

[12] Meltzer, *Search*, 125.

1.3 Native Hunters

Following the presence of the Paleo-Indians, the next Native American group to inhabit northeastern New Mexico is difficult to determine. The area was arid and did not provide enough water to attract predominately agricultural groups. However, the region did provide good game hunting and was apparently used by several Indian cultures for this purpose. Unfortunately the lack of permanent Native Amercian housing structures or material Indian artifacts for northeastern New Mexico leaves a huge time gap for determining Indian habitation. It is impossible to know exactly which cultures were present near or around Capulin until the Spanish Entrada. The Native American presence in New Mexico was recorded on several early Spanish exploration maps. During Spanish exploration, many maps depicted the Pueblo cultures along the Rio Grande River. The area which is presently far northeastern New Mexico was left unmapped.

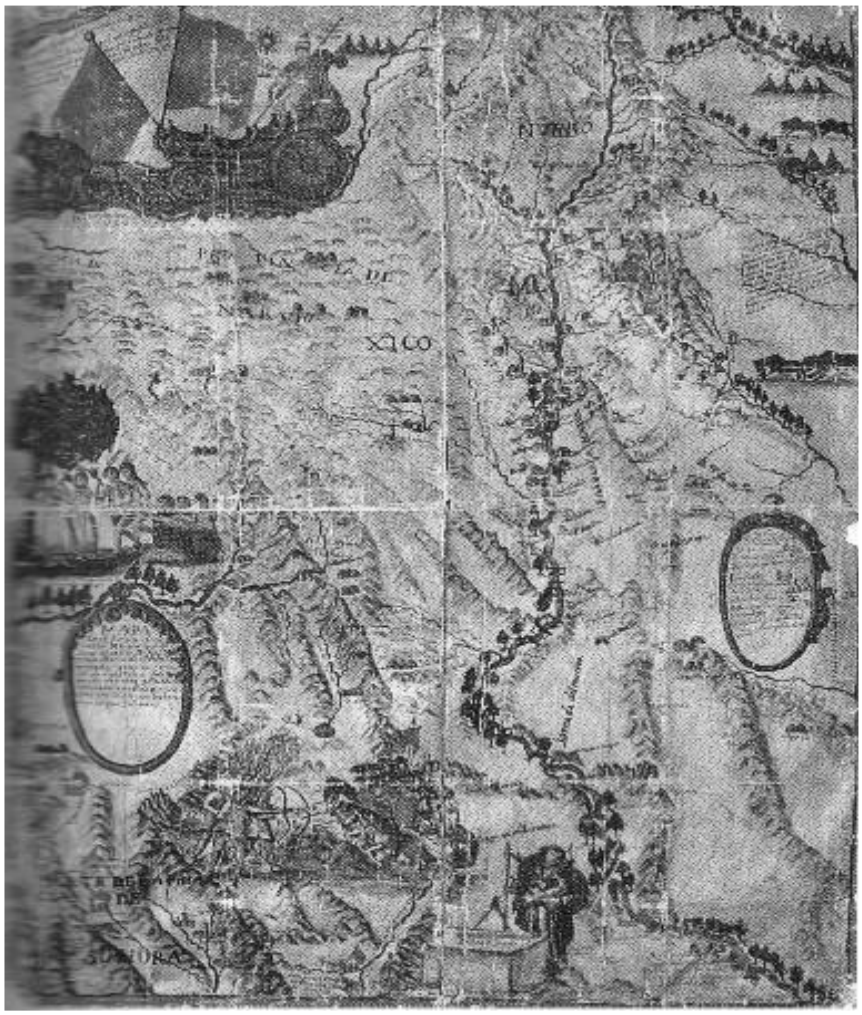

Fig. 1.7: Spanish map from 1760 depicting Indian territories, Map Courtesy of Direccion General de Geografia y Meterologia, Tacubaya, D.F. Mexico, copied from John Kessell's, *Kiva, Cross, and Crown, the Pecos Indians and New Mexico 1540-1840* (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1979), 166.

An early map from 1602, sketched by Enrique Martinez, depicts Onate's explorations and the Pueblo cultures of north central New Mexico. Northeastern New Mexico is left blank on this particular map regarding habitants.[13] A later map from 1760 shows the "Tierra de Cumanchis" or Land of the Comanches, in the upper right corner (Fig. 1.7). Although not depicted on the map, this is near the Capulin Volcano site. Also shown is a region just east of the Rocky Mountains. This region is labeled "Xicarilla," apparently referring to the Jicarilla Apache. The same map has an inset drawing, in the lower center, labeled "Cumanchis" and shows a depiction of a person in what is supposed to represent Comanche dress, a buffalo hide cape and fringed hide clothing.

The arid plains were once thought to be uninhabitable by early European settlers. This seems to hold true for the early Indian groups of the region as well. It was a good place to hunt, but not to settle. Early Spanish explorers mention a variety of plains Indian tribes. Among them were the Ute, Comanche, Kiowa, Kiowa-Apache, and Jicarilla Apache, as well as other Apache tribes.[14] The environment shaped the living habits of these cultures and created subsistence patterns that relied heavily on following game. The plains region and the Southwest suffered a series of droughts from the 1200s to the 1300s.[15] These droughts left the plains largely uninhabited as people were forced to seek food elsewhere.

Around 1300 A.D., Indian groups began to drift back onto the plains in response to population pressures and drought elsewhere, as well as other factors. The plains groups survived by hunting game that roamed on the open range. This meant a lifestyle of frequent moving in order to follow bison and game herds, as well as the necessity to travel very light. Dogs and people were used to haul goods, and homes consisted largely of easily moved structures made from stretching animal hide over wooden frames.[16] The cultural native materials found around Capulin Volcano have consisted mainly of animal bones and stone implements, the only artifacts to survive the harsh environment (Fig. 1.8). Little is known about pre-contact peoples of the region since the inhabitants did not possess a written language and relied heavily on oral history to convey culture. Over fifteen million native inhabitants of North America would eventually fall victim to disease, brought unknowingly by the European explorers. The native population would be devastated, recovering to the present day numbers of only 2.3 million.[17] Early photographs give clues to what the Indian cultures, such as the Comanche, might have been like (Fig. 1.9 – 1.10).[18]

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[13] John Kessell, *Kiva, Cross, and Crown, the Pecos Indians and New Mexico 1540-1840* (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1979), 91.

[14] Thomas Chavez, *Quest for Quivira, Spanish Explorers on the Great Plains 1540-1821* (Tucson: Southwest Parks and Monuments Association, 1992), 28.

[15] James Henretta, W. Elliot Brownlee, David Brody, Susan Ware, and Marilynn Johnson, *America's History, Volume 1 to 1877* (New York: Worth Publishers, 1997), 7.

[16] Ernest Wallace & Adamson Hoebel, *The Comanches*, *Lords of the South Plains* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1986), 35.

[17] United States Census Bureau Public Information Office, *Census Facts for Native American Month, Webpage* (Washington D.C.: United States Census Bureau, 1997).

[18] Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of the American Indian, *Treasures of the National Museum of the American Indian* (New York: Abbeville Publishing, 1996), 34, 266.

Fig. 1.8: Comanche Spear Point (left) and Folsom Point, found near Capulin Volcano, Photograph property of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, *Comanche and Folsom Points* (Charles Town: Historic Photographic Collections).

Fig. 1.9: Comanche Woman

Photographs property of the National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution *Minnie Black Star &* Comanche Head Dress

Fig. 1.10: Comanche Head Dress

1.4 Spanish Explorers

Capulin Volcano is situated along several of the earliest European exploration routes into the interior of the New World. Seeking riches and regions to conquer, the Spanish pushed northward along the Rio Grande River and through what is now northeastern New Mexico (Fig. 1.11). Vasquez de Coronado and Juan de Padilla

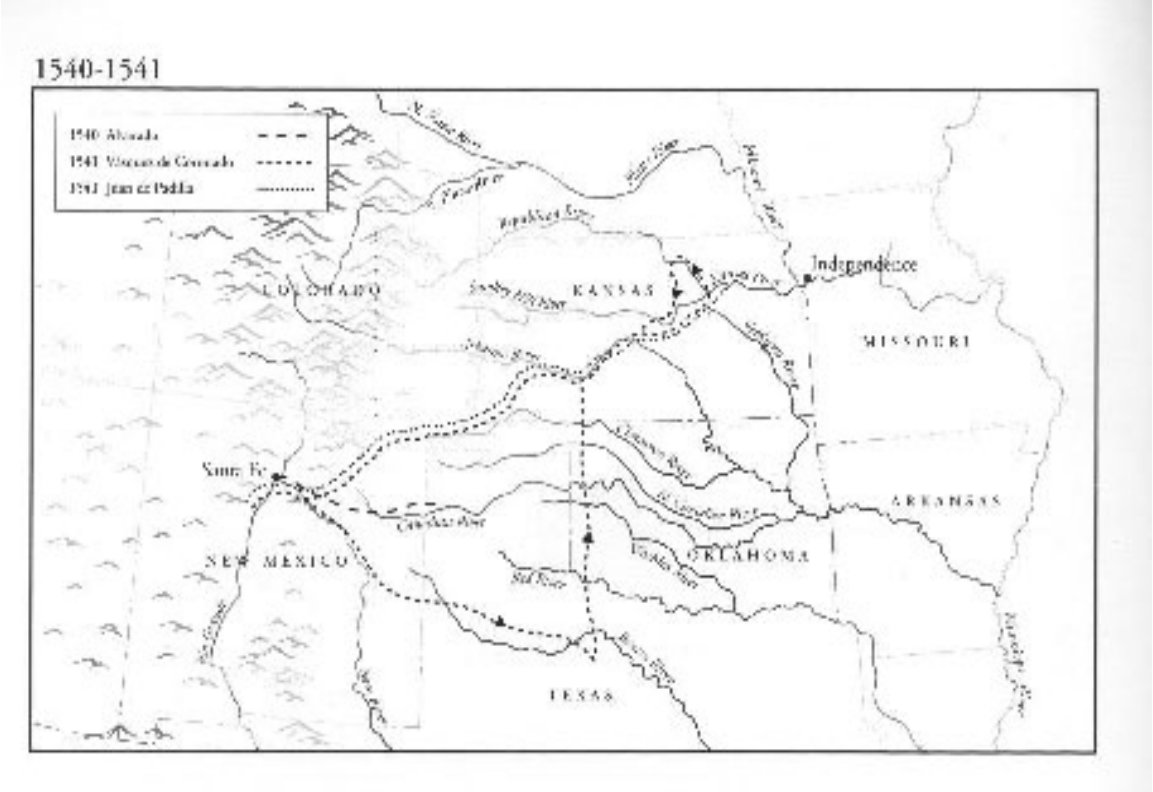

Fig. 1.11: Early Spanish Explorer Routes, Map from *Quest for Quivira, Spanish Explorers on the Great Plains 1540-1821* (Tucson: Southwest Parks and Monuments Association, 1992), 54.

both traveled near Capulin Volcano in 1541, bringing with them Spanish culture, material goods, and namesakes. As the first Spanish explorers traversed across the New World in the 1500s, they brought with them, among other things, their horses. The horse spread gradually throughout the Indian communities, as did the aforementioned European diseases. Francisco Vasquez de Coronado brought one thousand horses with him when he traveled through northeastern New Mexico to Kansas in April of 1541.[19] With this new animal in their midst, Indian cultures would be drastically impacted and changed forever. The horse gave the Indians the ability to travel great distances in a shorter amount of time, taking part in farther reaching trade, and substantial cultural exchange. The horse was also a great boon to hunting game and fighting adversaries.

[19] David Lavender, *De Soto, Coronado, Cabrillo, Explorers of the Northern Mystery* (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1992), 81.

Northeastern New Mexico was not very important to the first Spanish explorers. Once they had traveled through, there is little evidence that the region was considered a good place to settle or that any settlement was attempted. Lack of water and threatening tribes made the area very inhospitable. The region was merely a pathway to rumored gold and riches in the north and east, mythic treasures that were never found. The Spanish would learn many lessons as they colonized New Mexico and tried to force the indigenous peoples of the area to accept their foreign cultures. One successful attempt at peaceful coexistence and acculturation was the trade fair which was "the prime focus of economic activity in New Mexico during later colonial times."[20] Although trade existed before the Spanish presence, these new fairs brought the Jicarilla Apache, the Comanche, and several other groups into a somewhat codependent trade relationship with the Spanish, the Pueblos, and each other, thus reducing hostilities.

The Comanche, however, continued to attack and kill their old enemies, the people of the Galisteo and Pecos Pueblos.[21] The Spanish would have to bring the Comanche under control in order to have peace. In 1779, Governor Anza traversed through northern New Mexico and into Colorado. Here he successfully attacked the renegade Comanche leader, Cuerno Verde, setting the stage for the later long-lasting peace agreement of 1786. This would enable safer settlement in, and passage through, New Mexico for the Spanish and Pueblo Indians for the next one hundred years.[22] The Comanche also agreed to fight against the Plains Apache, when called upon to do so. With the Comanche's help, the Spanish managed to continue trading with the friendly Jicarilla Apaches, while holding reign over the raiding Plains Apaches, who were known by many names. The reoccurring outbreak of smallpox, measles, and other diseases between 1700 and 1800 brought many of the tribes to their knees. This unfortunate occurrence, however, aided the Spanish domination over New Mexico.

Although common in New Mexico during the Spanish Colonial times, no land grants were issued for the region immediately surrounding Capulin Volcano. This does not mean that there were not Spanish ranchers or settlers in this area, only that the land was not formally granted to anyone. Very few Europeans from the East chose to settle in the region while it was under Spanish control. Spain did not want trade to occur between its colony to the north and the eastern traders of the United States. This unwanted trade could threaten Spain's monopoly. A state of panic came about when France decided to sell the Louisiana Territory to the United States. The exact borders between Spanish and French territories were unknown, and now the U.S. would assume these unknown boundaries. Lieutenant Zebulon Pike was sent to explore the southwestern boundaries of the Louisiana Purchase. He was captured by the Spanish in Northern New Mexico, and brought to Santa Fe where he was questioned about his activities in their territory. After his escorted release, Pike quickly reported what he had seen, and his stories spread throughout the United States. His forced visit inside

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[20] Marc Simmons, *Spanish Pathways, Readings in the History of Hispanic New Mexico* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2001), 11.

[21] Kessell, *Kiva*, 357.

[22] Marc Simmons, *New Mexico, An Interpretive History* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press: 1998), 91.

Spanish territory set the stage for a whirlwind of traders from the East. The area was in need of goods since the only materials allowed in at the time had to come up the Camino Real from Mexico City, and the trade goods were priced outrageously.[23]

1.5 The Santa Fe Trail

In August of 1821, Mexico declared independence from Spain, but the news took a while to reach Northern New Mexico. The Spanish colonial trade barriers for New Mexico were finally gone and the once isolated territory was now open for business with the East. In September of 1821, William Becknell headed west from Missouri to trade. Approximately nine hundred miles later, Becknell and his group of associates arrived in Santa Fe, New Mexico and "There he quickly sold out his small stock at a considerable profit and started back for Missouri."[24] He was not the first trader from the East to venture into New Mexico territory, but he became the first legal trader. The story of his adventure and profit proliferated across the United States. His successful example started a push westward along the Santa Fe Trail that would be followed by thousands over the next sixty years. The general route was fairly treacherous (Fig. 1.12). Unfriendly tribes, lack of water, and polluted water sources made the trip exhausting and dangerous.

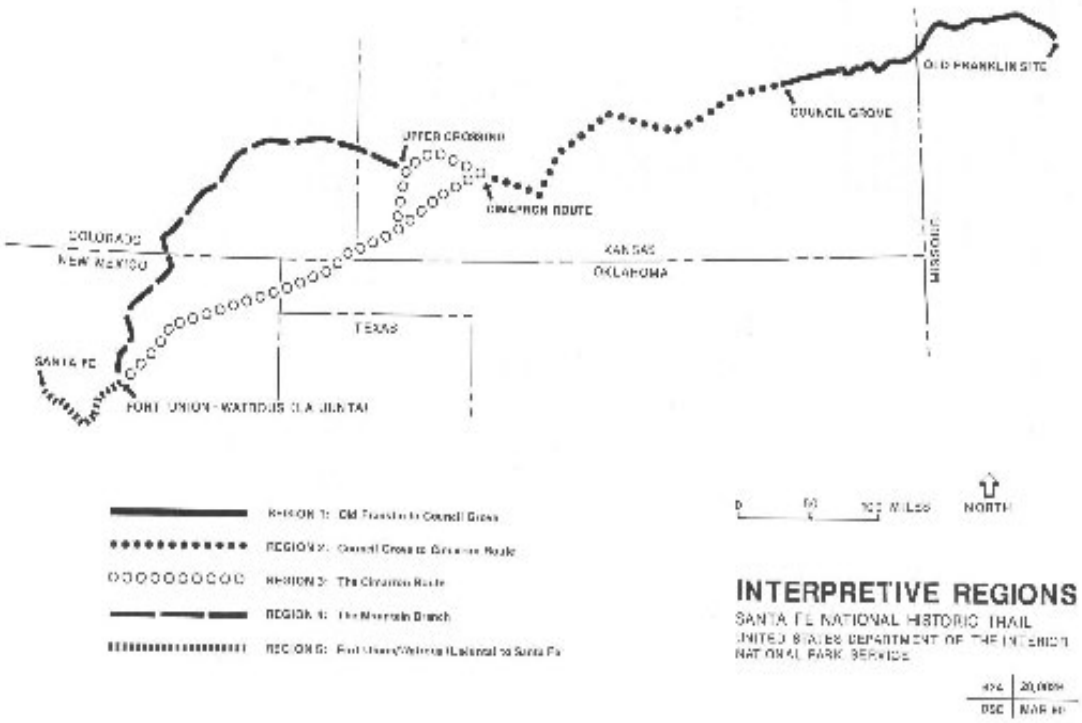

Fig. 1.12: The Santa Fe Trail, National Park Service.

[23] Simmons, *New Mexico*, 99.

[24] Mark Gardner, *Santa Fe Trail, National Historic Trail* (Tucson: Southwest Parks and Monuments Association, 1993), 4.

Several routes were traversed over the years and each one held its own specific pros and cons. One way would have more water, but also more Indians. A shorter route, such as the Cimarron, lacked in water sources. The Cimarron Route of the Santa Fe Trail was about one hundred miles shorter in distance, traveling between Missouri and New Mexico. This section of the Trail passed very close to Capulin, approximately 9.5 miles south of Sierra Grande.[25] A lesser known route passed directly by the south and east base of Capulin Volcano. This route was called the "Granada to Fort Union" section of the Santa Fe Trail (Fig. 1.13).

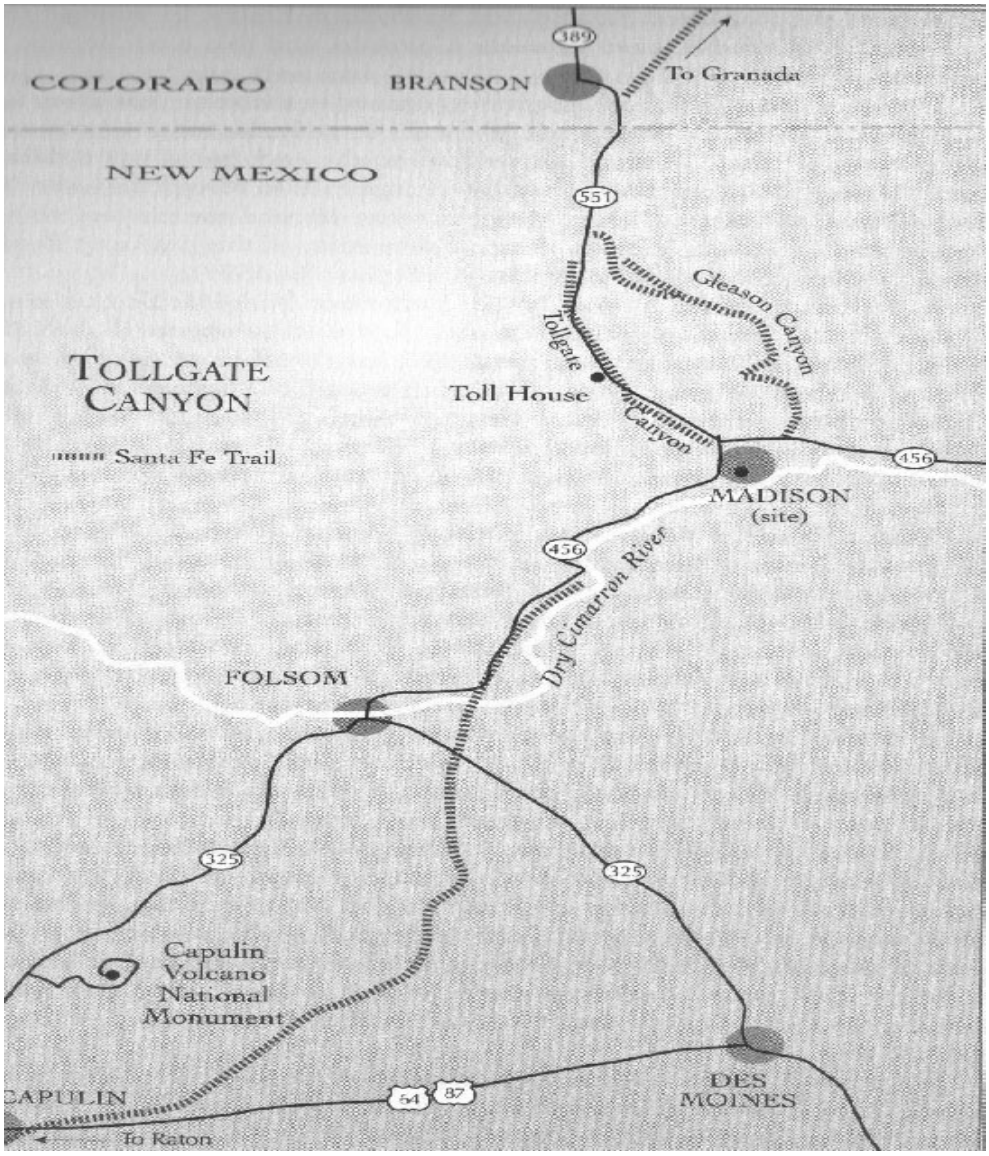

Fig. 1.13: The Santa Fe Trail, Granada to Fort Union Section, Marc Simmons and Hal Jackson, *Following the Santa Fe Trail, A Guide for Modern Travelers* (Santa Fe: Ancient City Press, 2001), 157.

[25] National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, *Santa Fe National Historic Trail, Map Supplement for the Comprehensive Management and Use Plan* (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1990), Map 70.

Historians John and Nancy Riddle also mention the route near Capulin which appears to take approximately the same path to the southeast of Capulin Volcano, passing between the Volcano and the town of Des Moines.[26]

1.6 Military and Homesteading

Other factors, besides the Santa Fe Trail, brought new settlers to the region. Mexico wanted to populate Texas, and therefore offered land for only ten cents an acre to colonists. The plan worked well and brought the immigrant population of Texas from roughly seven thousand in 1800, to twelve thousand by 1827. By that time, the immigrants outnumbered Mexican families in Texas nearly two to one. Cultural tensions became a problem as well as the fact that the United States appeared to be working towards securing Texas as their own. In 1846, the United States went to war with Mexico over political and territorial issues.[27] Santa Fe was quickly and easily occupied by U.S. Colonel Stephen Kearny who promised to respect and protect the inhabitants. The war with Mexico finally ended in 1848 with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. The treaty ceded California and New Mexico to the United States and recognized the Rio Grande River as the border between the U.S. and Mexico. New Mexico was changed forever.

The Santa Fe Trail brought more traders and settlers, who no longer had to fear the Mexican government. Trappers and miners, as well as new traders and business entrepreneurs came to start a new life. The California gold rush of 1848-49 brought many travelers through, some who would return to the region later to settle. By 1850, New Mexico was an official territory of the United States. In 1854, the U.S. bought more property along the border from Mexico with the Gadsden Purchase. This land purchase was to make room for a railroad system. Texans moved across the plains into northeastern New Mexico squatting on small claims. The area around Capulin was still considered under Indian threat, and there were few settlers or squatters. The Indian threat made it difficult to travel into the region, so more troops were brought in and "by 1851 almost 1,300 soldiers served in the Territory of New Mexico."[28]

By the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, more troops came to New Mexico followed by suppliers and a few cattle ranchers. The Homestead Act was passed in 1862 and promised 160 acres of land to each settler who stayed on the land for five years or paid $1.25 an acre and stayed on the land for six months. The acreage, however, was not enough land for dry climate farming or ranching around Capulin and across the plains. Early Spanish settlers had managed to raise sheep and small crops, but the farmers from the East were not use to the arid climate or crops. Many who did come to New Mexico to farm the plains, gave up after crop failure and sold their

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[26] John Riddle, and Nancy Riddle Madden, *Records and Maps of the Old Santa Fe Trail* (Stuart: Southeastern Printing Co., 1963), map, sheet 5.

[27] Michael Meyer, William Sherman, and Susan Deeds, *The Course of Mexican History* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999), 324.

[28] Robert Utley, *Fort Union National Monument* (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1962), 9.

land.[29] Military troops brought in more business and settlers to New Mexico than the failing Homestead Act. With the lack of local supplies, the needy troops kept merchants busy bringing in supplies from the East. Cattle were not common in the region as of yet. The main livestock for New Mexico were sheep, which were accustomed to the arid lands and did quite well on regional grasses.[30] The later internment of Navajos and Apaches at the inhospitable Bosque Redondo, later to become Fort Sumner, forced new drastic changes upon the area.[31] In response to these changes, cattle drivers soon took the place of sheep herders.

[29] Rena Larranaga, "Personal Stories Tell New Mexico's Agricultural History," *New Mexico Resources, College of Agriculture and Home Economics, NMSU,* Spring 1998, 21.

[30] Joseph McCoy, *Historic Sketches of the Cattle Trade of the West and Southwest* (Kansas City: Ramsey, Millett & Hudson, 1874), 374.

[31] Simmons, *New Mexico*, 150.

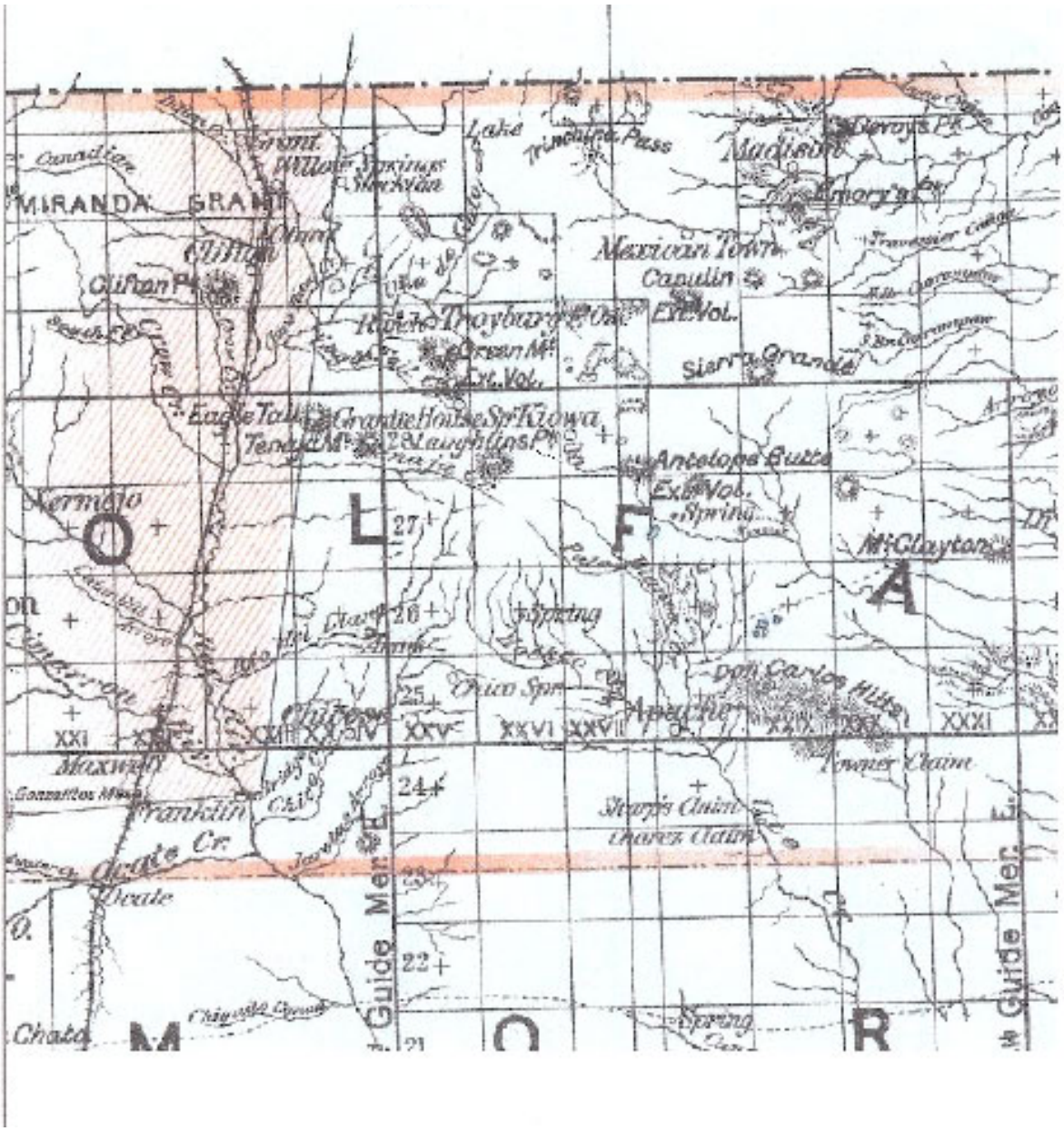

Fig. 2.1: "Territory of New Mexico," General Land Office map, 1879. Detail showing "Capulin Extinct Volcano" and nearby "Mexican Town." Note Spanish place names.

Chapter 2 Population Changes & Area Settlement

2.1 Sheep Herding Mid-1800s

The area around Capulin Volcano was sparsely populated by Spanish settlers in the early 1800s. Predominately Hispanic families had small plots of farm land for growing crops, and they commonly herded sheep for their livelihood. One example, the Archuleta family, came to the Capulin, New Mexico region from the San Luis Valley of present day Colorado in the 1830s lead by Candido Archuleta I (Fig. 2.2).[32]

Fig. 2.2: Candido Archuleta I. Photograph courtesy of Folsom Centennial Book Committee, *Folsom Then and Now, 1888-1988* (Folsom: Centennial Book Committee, 1988), 156.

According to Candido Archuleta II, his ancestors moved large herds of sheep from the San Luis Valley to a region near La Mesa de Tatagua, now called Johnson Mesa, about fifteen miles northwest of Capulin Volcano. The move was prompted by a Native American, Chief Amarillo, who told the Archuleta brothers of good land in the region.[33] The tribal affiliation for Chief Amarillo is unknown. The Archuleta brothers might have also been pressured to leave the San Luis Valley because of the constant Ute and Navajo Indian threat. Indian attacks prevented many settlement

[32] Folsom Centennial Book Committee, *Folsom Then and Now, 1888-1988* (Folsom: Centennial Book Committee, 1988), 156.

[33] *Folsom Then and Now*, 156.

attempts of the Southwest Colorado area and forced grant holding settlers to seek out safer lands.[34]

The San Luis Valley is approximately one hundred and twenty miles northwest of Capulin, New Mexico and surprisingly is home to the small town of Capulin, Colorado, established around 1867. The Colorado town site was moved from the original place, settled approximately ten years earlier. This original town site was a few miles north of the present day Colorado town. The area around the town came to be known as the Capulin District.[35] A similar movement of the town site of Capulin, New Mexico also took place where the town site was renamed, and possibly moved a short distance on several occasions. This movement will be discussed in detail later in the chapter. Capulin is the Spanish name for chokecherry (Fig. 2.3). This shrub or small tree is the apparent namesake fruit of Capulin Volcano and the small town at its base. The cherry grows well in the region and is present on the volcano. Perhaps the Archuletas, or other early settlers, brought the name with them when they came to the region in the 1830s.

Fig. 2.3: Choke Cherry or Capulin, Photograph courtesy of Linda Kershaw, Andy MacKinnon, and Jim Pojar, *Plants of the Rocky Mountain,*. Edmonton: Lone Pine Publishing, 1998.

Another possible explanation for the use of the chokecherry as a place name is that it has Native American origins. The Tewa called the chokecherry plant ave'iwe, a name also used to refer to a Tewa ancestral region near Albuquerque. Many Pueblan tribes were known to venture into the northeastern region of New Mexico for hunting and trading and could have named the volcano or region after the plant. The Tewa ancestral region near Albuquerque was renamed Capulin by early Spanish settlers, and both names, Capulin and Ave'iwe, are still used for the same region, depending on the source.[36] Spanish settlers, or earlier Native American inhabitants, could have

[34] Virginia Simmons, *The San Luis Valley, Land of the Six-Armed Cross* (Niwot: The University of Colorado Press, 1999), 78.

[35] David Lantis, "The San Luis Valley, Colorado: Sequent Rural Occupance in an Intermontane Basin" Ph.D. diss., Ohio State University, 1950, 150.

[36] Jerry Williams, *New Mexico in Maps, Second Edition* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1986), 311.

similarly named or renamed Capulin Volcano. Or, as explained earlier, the name might have been transplanted from another region. Unfortunately, records do not show how the name came about, so the absolute origin of Capulin Volcano's name, or the name of the small town at its base, is unknown. The cherries of the plant were very important to regional tribes and probably to early settlers as well. After the first frost, the fruit was picked in large quantities, pulverized, and dried into patties as a winter staple item.[37] The cherry contains a substantial amount of sugar and vitamin C, which were difficult to come by for the herders and tribes of the arid region.

Although berries added a little variety to the daily diet, sheep provided milk, meat, and cheese for the main nutritional needs of the herder.[38] The Archuletas operated a fairly large scale sheep herding business, however, the average herder owned smaller flocks, or managed flocks for wealthier owners. During the mid-1800s, there were apparently "two distinct classes socially – sheep owners and sheep tenders."[39] Sheep tenders or herders lived a humble lifestyle in the harsh environment. Modest rock houses and corrals, located along Corrumpa Creek, east of Capulin Volcano, were believed to have belonged to Spanish sheep herders who inhabited the region during the mid-1800s. Their buildings were unfortunately torn down before an historic survey could be completed.[40] Many early sheep herders came to the Capulin Volcano region from the Santa Fe and Taos areas as they migrated towards the northeast looking for open land.[41] Sheep would be driven hundreds of miles onto the plains for grazing, only to be driven back to various watering holes every few days. Wealthy owners, or Ricos, would entrust the sheep to herders for a minimal fee. The herders, indebted to the wealthy owners, would try to establish their own flock while making a meager living off the land. The Capulin region served as a large common grazing ground and public use area, which was a widespread practice for many Hispanic farming communities of the time, at least up until U.S. intervention.[42]

Another early family of the Capulin region were the Raels. Manuel Rael lived with his family approximately fifteen miles north of present day Capulin Volcano in the town of Los Alamos, which is Spanish for the Cottonwoods. The town, which no longer exists, was one of the first documented settlements near the volcano. Manuel Rael and his wife had six children, one of which was son Teofilio Rael, born on January 18, 1863 in Los Alamos.[43] In 1895, Teo married Josefita Tafoya (Fig. 2.4).

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[37] Linda Kershaw, Andy MacKinnon, and Jim Pojar, *Plants of the Rocky Mountains* (Edmonton: Lone Pine Publishing, 1998), 65.

[38] Edward Wentworth, *America's Sheep Trails, History, Personalities* (Ames: The Iowa State College Press, 1948), 113.

[39] Ibid, 115.

[40] Carolyn D. Hertz, *Affects of the Homestead Act of 1862 on Settlement in the Capulin-Des Moines – Folsom Area 1862-1891 for Department of Interior, NPS, Capulin Volcano National Monument* (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1994), 12.

[41] Richard Nostrand, *The Hispano Homeland* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press: 1992), 82.

[42] Roxanne Dunbar, "Land Tenure in Northern New Mexico: An Historical Perspective" Ph.D. diss., University of California, 1974, 12.

[43] *Folsom Then and Now*, 220.

Fig. 2.4: Teofilio and Josefita Rael. Photograph courtesy of Folsom Centennial Book Committee, *Folsom Then and Now, 1888-1988* (Folsom: Centennial Book Committee, 1988), 220.

The Union County Census of 1900 shows Teofilio Rael and his brother Juan Pablo as sheep raisers, a common occupation for this region according to the census.[44] Although several families left the area after the Mexican-American war and the United States acquisition of the territory, many descendants of the early Spanish settlers still reside in this region.

2.2 The Goodnight & Loving Trail & the Beginnings of Cattle Ranching

During the 1860s, new livelihoods, such as ranching, began to replace regionally traditional sheepherding. In 1864, seizing the opportunity to regain lands and sheep while the United States fought internally, the Navajos and Mescalero Apaches raided farms and ranches pushing settlers off their lands. The revolt was dealt with sharply by the United States government and resulted in five years of internment for the Navajos and Mescaleros, two traditionally adversarial tribes, in a prison camp at Bosque Redondo, later to be named Fort Sumner. This imprisonment would have a long lasting influence over the future of New Mexico. Kit Carson captured "approximately 9,000 Navajos and 400 Apaches who were on the reservation by the end of summer."[45] Food was scarce, water resources were polluted, and many starved or died from disease. The food shortage was not cruel purposeful punishment, however, there was, unfortunately, no food available in the region for the fort to purchase. Navajo sheep were slaughtered to feed both the captives and the soldiers.

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[44] United States Bureau of the Census, *12th Census of Population 1900, New Mexico Vol. 9, Union County, Valencia County* (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1900) Pre no 2, June 20th.

[45] Raymond Locke, *The Book of the Navajo* (Los Angeles: Mankind Publishing Company, 1992), 367.

This source of food did not last long. The War Department finally issued advertisements for emergency cattle and supplies. The dynamics of the war made prices for cattle very high in the northern states, and incredibly low in Texas. The War Department offered good prices to anyone who could get cattle to Fort Sumner. Two Texas cattle dealers, Charles Goodnight and Oliver Loving saw the ads and decided to take the risks and try to make some money by forging a trail from Texas, through New Mexico to Ft. Sumner.

In 1866, Goodnight and Loving, plus a third investor, George Reynold, drove cattle north on what came to be known as the Goodnight Loving Trail. The trail was dangerous for many reasons. It passed through sparsely populated regions with even sparser legal protections. The region was known to be an "every man for himself" kind of place. Not only was it fairly lawless, but it was also very dry. Treacherous as it was, it would quickly bring the men great wealth. They would receive almost ten times the amount for their cattle in northeastern New Mexico and Colorado as they could get in Texas. This was an irresistible business opportunity, despite the dangers and hardships. They started in west Texas and traveled up through the southeastern portion of what is now New Mexico. Cattle were taken directly to Ft. Sumner to feed the starving inmates and soldiers. The cattle that were not sold at Ft. Sumner were driven north, past the southeast base of Capulin Volcano, and up into Colorado to market (Fig. 2.5).[46] This was the beginning of cattle as big business in New Mexico.

Fig. 2.5: The Goodnight Loving Trail, Capulin Branch, Map drawn by A. C. Loveless for, *Cattle Trails of the Old West,* appendices.

[46] Jack Potter, Laura Krehbiel, ed., *Cattle Trails of the Old West* (Clayton: Laura R. Krehbiel, 1939), 13 and Map.

Cattle marketed with the help of the Goodnight Loving Trail brought in almost one million dollars for the cattle dealers over the next five years. With the new military markets, New Mexico ranching grew steadily. Lucien Maxwell also began selling off pieces of the Maxwell land grant in 1867. The land was located in what is now northeast and northcentral New Mexico, as well as southern Colorado. The sales brought in more hopeful farmers and ranchers such as the Chase family. The Chases came in on a wagon from Colorado to settle in Cimarron. They would eventually be involved with the Chase- Eno Sheep Company, and the Currumpaw Sheep Company just southeast of Capulin.[47] The Chases became a groundbreaking ranch family, but had to diversify in order to survive the tough climate. They raised sheep, cattle, and a variety of crops.

Other families slowly moved into the region bringing different forms of commerce with them. Cattle gradually played a more important role in the local economy, which was predominately a sheep driven economy before the introduction of large scale cattle trailing. In 1868, the Hall brothers, Nathan, Jim, and William, drove a herd of cattle up the Goodnight Loving Trail from Texas and across the land approximately thirty miles northeast of Capulin. The brothers, originally from Tennessee, decided to return to the wide open grasslands and settle in the area, eventually establishing the Cross L Ranch, one of the largest ranches in New Mexico.[48]

That same year, George McJunkin, a former African American slave who took his last name from McJunkin's Ranch in Texas, joined a cattle drive headed for the Cimarron River and Capulin Mountain.[49] McJunkin would later go to work for Dr. Thomas Owens, who settled northwest of Capulin and established the Pitchfork Ranch. George McJunkin lived the rest of his life in the region, and was later credited with spotting the Folsom archeological site, mentioned earlier in the text in Chapter One. The XYZ Ranch was established approximately ten miles northwest of Capulin by William (Bill) H. Jack and his wife Jessie. The ranch would eventually turn into the Crow Foot Ranch. Mrs. William H. Jack later served the important roll as the first custodian of Capulin Volcano.[50]

2.3 Early Towns

The Santa Fe Trail, gold and silver strikes, military campaigns, as well as the opportunity to homestead and ranch, brought sporadic population growth to the Capulin Volcano region. Within a radius of fifteen miles from the volcano, the first towns mentioned in the records for the area are Los Alamos and Ojo. In fact, two small town sites were named Ojo, one north and one southeast of Capulin Volcano.

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[47] Ruth Armstrong, *The Chases of Cimarron* (Albuquerque: New Mexico Stockman, 1981), 139 & 169.

[48] *Folsom Then and Now*, 3.

[49] Barbara Richardson, *Black Directory of New Mexico, Bicentennial Edition 1716-1976, Black Pioneers of New Mexico, A Documentary and Pictorial History* (Rio Rancho: Panorama Press, 1976), 65.

[50] Iris M. Boggs, "Capulin Mountain National Monument," (Capulin, National Park Service, Intermountain Support Office Archives) 7.

The northern site was approximately twelve miles north of the volcano and, according to Francis Stanley, later took the name *Madison* after early settler Madison Emery. The town had a small adobe chapel which was visited by a priest when possible.[51] Los Alamos, mentioned earlier in the text, was a small sheep herding community located approximately ten miles north of Capulin Volcano. Los Alamos was established some time prior to January of 1863, since, according to census records, Teofilio Rael was born in the small community.[52] The settlement was called by many names and was perhaps the first site of Capulin Plaza or Cottonwood Plaza. By 1879, the town was called Mexican Town on a General Land Office map.[53] The first recorded postal office near Capulin Volcano was Madison. According to postal records, Madison was established on February 24, 1874 by Alvaro F. Gleason. The town was approximately eleven miles northeast of Capulin Volcano. Madison was named after Madison Emery who came to the area with his wife Susan Sumpter in 1867.[54] Susan was a widow and had a son, William, before she met and married Madison Emery. The newly married Emery family came through the San Luis Valley in Colorado, as did several early families, such as the Archuletas. Emery Gap and Emery Peak also bear Madison Emery's name. The Madison post office closed on May 18, 1888 with a notation to send the mail to Capulien.[55] Families, of course, existed in the area around Capulin Volcano before the establishment of the first post offices. The post offices are used here only as a date marker.

Bazil Bill Metcalf, a runaway from Rich Hill, Missouri, worked for the Hall brothers on their ranch sometime in the early 1870s. He later established a toll gate approximately twelve miles north of Capulin Volcano, just below Emery Gap. The toll road was opened by 1873 providing passage into New Mexico and giving the surrounding area the name of "Toll Gate Canyon." Metcalf also opened a store and saloon near the toll gate.[56] The Record family came to Oak Canyon, located approximately twelve miles north of the volcano, in 1876. According to Clara Toombs Harvey, the family came to the region from Joplin, Missouri in a covered wagon, as did many of the early pre-railroad settlers of the region.[57] William Newkirk also came to the area in 1876 (Fig. 2.6). He traded his business in Denver for a mine site near Elizabethtown, a small mining community located in the mountains west of Capulin Volcano and present day Raton. When the mine failed, he moved to Madison and established a ranch in Oak Canyon.[58]

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[51] Francis Stanley, *The Folsom (New Mexico) Story,* (Nazareth Texas: 1964), 5.

[52] United States Bureau of the Census, *12th Census of Population 1900, New Mexico Vol. 9, Union County, Valencia County* (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1900) Pre no 2, June 20th.

[53] J.A. Williamson, *Territory of New Mexico, Map* (Washington D.C.: Department of the Interior General Land Office, 1879).

[54] *Folsom Then and Now*, 177.

[55] Sheldon Dike, "The Territorial Post Offices of New Mexico," *New Mexico Historical Review No 4* (October 1958): 322.

[56] Morris Taylor, *Basil (Bill Metcalf) and His Toll Gate, Now in Union County, New Mexico Formerly in Colfax County, New Mexico 1872-1885* (Trinidad: Trinidad State Junior College), 2.

[57] Clara Toombs-Harvey, *Not So Wild, The Old West, A Collection of Facts, Fables and Fun* (Denver: Golden Bell Press, 1961), 155.

[58] Ibid, 154.

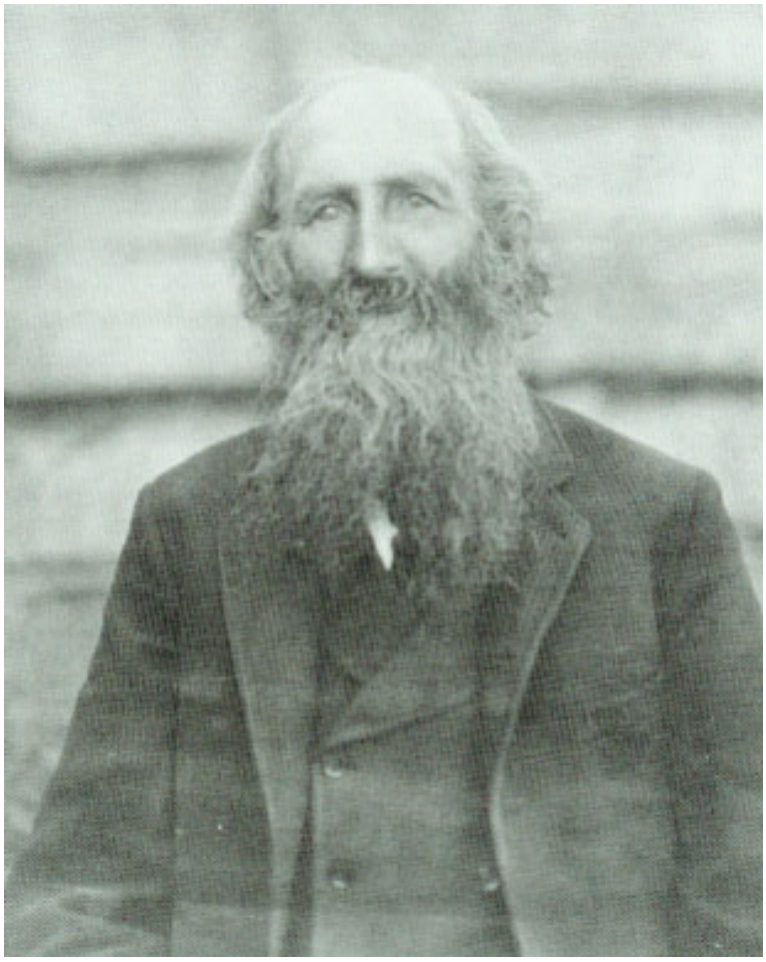

Fig. 2.6: William Newkirk, Photograph courtesy of Folsom Centennial Book Committee, *Folsom Then and Now, 1888-1988* (Folsom: Centennial Book Committee, 1988), 211.

The Kiowa post office was the next official post office established in the area. It was opened in 1877 with Jacob Taylor as the postmaster.[59] Kiowa appears on several maps approximately eleven miles southwest of Capulin Volcano.[60] The Troyburg postal office was established in 1878 by Daniel Troy. References to the cowboy town of Troyburg also appear in newspapers from the time.

The first Capulin post office was established in 1879 by John Stuyvesant. A map from that time shows *Capulin Ext. Vol.* labeled, and a small circle denoting a town is barely visible on the northwest edge of the volcano.[61] Whether or not this is the town of Capulin is difficult to decipher. Early maps were often incomplete and inaccurate. Four years later, in 1883, another post office named Capulien was established by Fairchild Drew. Records are unclear as to where and when the actual town of Capulien was established. Family histories claim that Cottonwood Plaza underwent a name change to Capulien.[62] According to Paul Drew, the original town

[59] Dike, "The Territorial" Apr, 1959.
[60] Williamson, *Territory of New Mexico, Map.*
[61] Ibid.
[62] *Folsom Then and Now*, 175.

of Capulin was just north of the volcano. It was a small "Spanish-American plaza known as Capulin."[63] Later the town was renamed Cottonwood Plaza. Drew also claims that the town of Dedman is actually the original name for that particular site. The Capulin post office was moved to Dedman later, and the town renamed.

Unfortunately, it was not entirely uncommon for a post office to move location without changing its name. Post offices of the time also changed names without moving to a new location. The records help to clarify absolute dates of occupation for the region, but do not identify exactly where Capulien or Capulin existed before the coming of the railroad. Postal records show that the post office called Capulien, underwent a name change to Folsom on July 20, 1888.[64] Perhaps near or on the present town site of Folsom, just eight miles north of the volcano, was the true original site of the first town of Capulin or Capulien. The name, however it was to be spelled, would not disappear and survives today as Capulin, a town and a National Monument. Many more towns would spring up around the volcano through the later years, displacing the earlier towns, and often completely disappearing themselves after a short time. Population changes continued to occur in the northeastern plains especially after the introduction of the railroad into New Mexico.

2.4 The Railroad

The first railroad car came into New Mexico in 1878.[65] The line was the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad and was built from Colorado through Raton Pass and eventually down to Santa Fe. This rail line transformed New Mexico by bringing in new people, merchandise, and building materials. It also paved the way for new industries such as tourism, large scale livestock transportation, mining and it changed how agricultural was conducted. By 1880, the sheep industry would be somewhat overtaken by the cattle industry, with over 160,000 head of cattle grazing the region. This number would increase to approximately one million head of cattle by 1900.[66] Sheep, however, still played an important role in the economy. The Capulin Volcano region was impacted greatly by the overwhelming changes. New people moving into the region created conflict for the earlier settlers and brought both wanted and unwanted new commerce.

Stories about the area around the volcano appeared in local papers of the late 1800s. Some of these stories depicted the unsavory treatment of local Hispanic New Mexicans near Capulin by the cowboys and rustlers moving to the region. A republished letter from the *New Mexico Livestock Journal* of March 13, 1885, reported thieves stealing from the locals of Capulin followed by the interference of self assigned law enforcement who sought out and abused the victims further. The letter asks, "Have we laws only in favor of Americans who can do with the (New) Mexican

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[63] Toombs-Harvey, *Not So Wild, 159.*

[64] Dike, "The Territorial" Jan, 1959.

[65] David Myrick, *New Mexico's Railroads, A Historical Survey* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1999), 4.

[66] Rena Larranaga, "Personal Stories Tell New Mexico's Agricultural History" *New Mexico Resources, College of Agriculture and Home Economics, NMSU,*Spring 1998, 15.

settlers as they please?"[67] The previously predominate Hispanic surnames of Pena, Lujan, Garcia, and Archuleta gradually disappeared from the newspapers of the time and the fairly infrequent pre-1888 land records of the Capulin Volcano region. New families brought business and money with them and soon the older families of the region were impacted by the more stringent capitalist economy. Some of the older sheep herding families and subsistence farmers became indebted to the more business oriented newcomers. This debt resulted in giving up the only assets available to them, land and livestock, to pay off their debts.

Plans for the railroad, which was to pass near Capulin, are recorded on early maps of the area.[68] The Denver, Texas and Fort Worth Railroad Company laid track out of Trinidad, Colorado, heading south towards Capulin Volcano. In the mean time, the Fort Worth Denver City Railway laid track out of Texas, heading northwest towards Capulin. The two rails met and the last spike was driven on March 14, of 1888, just north of Capulin. The meeting point was named Union Park, but the name did not stick and disappeared from all maps and records within the year.[69] The town of Capulin was supposedly renamed Dedman, after a railroad financier E. J. Dedman.[70] It is more likely, according to records and family histories, that Capulin did not exist at that particular site, but was instead originally established approximately nine miles north of Capulin Volcano. The town of Dedman would eventually take the name Capulin in 1922.

Folsom sprang up just eight miles north and east of Capulin Volcano on March 31st, 1888.[71] The town might have been the sight of an earlier Capulin, Los Alamos, or Cottonwood Plaza, however records and maps are unclear regarding the establishment of the town. Folsom was named after Frances Folsom, President Cleveland's beautiful young wife. The first sale of lots in the newly established Folsom took place in early April of 1888 with the arrival of the second passenger train on the new railroad.[72] Capulin Volcano was at the center of the triangle of towns, Folsom, Capulin (or Dedman), and Des Moines. Another railroad track was laid between Des Moines and Raton in response to mining in the region. This track was used for several years, then eventually abandoned in the early 1900s (Fig 2.7).

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[67] Francis Stanley, *The Capulin (New Mexico) Story,* (Nazareth Texas: 1970), 5.

[68] H.D. Rogers and A. Keith Johnston, *Territory of New Mexico, Map* (Boston: Clerks Office, District Court of Massachusetts, 1857).

[69] Myrick, *New Mexico's Railroads*, 134.

[70] Stanley, *Capulin*, 7.

[71] Colfax County Clerks Office, *Map of the Town of Folsom New Mexico 1888* (Raton: Colfax County Clerks Office, 2002).

[72] *Folsom Then and Now,* 1.

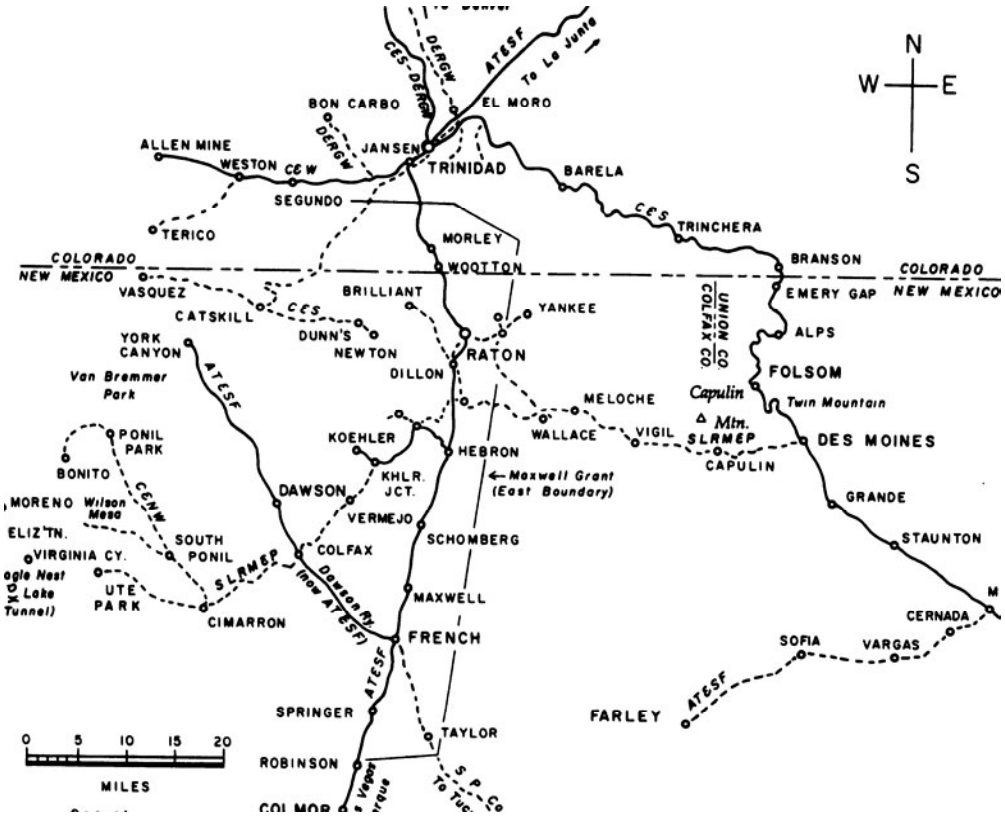

Fig. 2.7: Railroads near Capulin Volcano, Map courtesy of David Myrick's, *New Mexico's Railroads, A Historical Survey*, 158.

The railroads changed hands and names many times over the next ten years, depending on the financiers. Many people came by railroad to New Mexico, seeking their own fortune in cattle, mining, farming, business, and other enterprises. The biggest change was the exchange of people and products made possible by the railroad. The previously somewhat isolated region was now open for business. Investors rushed in to take advantage of the new market and to find products for resale. Capulin Volcano would eventually be seen as a money making tourist attraction along the newly opened line. Others viewed the volcano as needing protection from the new onslaught of settlers and entrepreneurs.

2.5 Large Scale Ranching

The coming of the railroad changed life around the volcano. People came from around the country to try their hand at cattle ranching, homesteading, and business. By 1889, maps of the region show several new towns around the volcano. Capulin also was depicted as *Capulin Mt.* instead of the previous name of Capulin Volcano or Capulin Extinct Volcano on an 1889 regional map.[73] Within a fifteen mile radius of the volcano, new towns included Alps, Sumpter, Des Moines, Folsom, Owens, Hack, Greigo, Jack, Spring, Trincherita Plaza, Newkirk, Young, Black Plaza,

[73] Maxwell Land Grant Company, *Sectional Map of Colfax and Mora Counties. New Mexico 1889* (Santa Fe: Maxwell Land Grant Company, 1889).

Drew, Dougherty, Graiz, Darling, Keisher, Eller, Garylord, Johnson, Devoys, and Stuyvesant. Ojo changed to Ojo Panavido Martinez. Madison, Kiowa, and Troyburg remained on the maps, but slowly lost what little population they had to the pull of the new railroad towns. Many of the families who started these town sites had been in the region for a while. The railroad made it possible for several of these families to increase their cattle and sheep stock and become fairly large scale ranchers.

The towns of Johnson, Owens, and Jack were established west and slightly north of Capulin Volcano. All of these towns were given family names, and almost all of the families were ranching families. The Jacks owned the XYZ Ranch and eventually the Crowfoot Ranch. The Owens had the Pitchfork Ranch. Elijah Johnson ran cattle at the base of Johnson Mesa. Approximately ten miles north of Capulin Volcano, William Newkirk established the town of Newkirk and the Newkirk Ranch.[74] With the new railroad, cattle and sheep could be brought in and loaded near Folsom, then transported to just about anywhere in the country. Des Moines and Folsom were known to have the largest livestock holding pen on the railroad running between Texas and Colorado.

To the southwest of Capulin Volcano, near the current town site of Capulin, the Prairie Cattle Company had an outpost. The Scottish based company acquired over three hundred square miles of open range in the early 1880s. They bought out the Hill brothers' Cross L Ranch, located approximately thirty miles northeast of Capulin Volcano. The Prairie Cattle Company was one of the biggest cattle companies in New Mexico history, overshadowing much of the smaller ranchers of the region, while bringing in commerce to the area. Early regional family histories often include a few stories about working for or with the Prairie Cattle Company. They were also known for their extravagant holiday parties and buying practices. Several families did not sell their ranches or cattle to the large company which sought to own and monopolize the livestock industry of the region. Ranching, however, was not the only industry in the region. Other investors would soon arrive to try their hand at drawing in the traveler and tourist. This new business required an attraction of some sort, and Capulin Volcano fit the bill.

[74] *Folsom Then and Now,* 211.

Chapter 3 Establishment of the Monument

3.1 Local Groups

As discussed in Chapter Two, investors came to the Capulin region around 1888, with the establishment of the new railroad. Community leaders hoped to attract big business ventures with the possibility of huge profits. The community was convinced that it could become the next Colorado Springs, with a booming economy and plenty of money for everyone. All that was needed were more settlers and tourists. Hotels and mineral springs would attract these needed tourists, and Capulin Mountain would bring excitement seekers as well. Investors easily acquired lands by buying out failed farms and ranches. Drought and small farm plots had made the arid region difficult to live in. Several ranches had also failed because of the livestock price crash of the late 1880s. Too many cattle on the market made cattle ranching a difficult and barely profitable business for the small rancher.[75]

The region had potential for the entrepreneur willing to take the risk of investing in the community. Land speculators sought to promote the area and thereby ensure a profit for themselves. Lands around Capulin were bought at a minimal price and Folsom was marketed as a future boom town. Ads claimed that all that Folsom needed were industrious men! With the opening of a U.S. Land Office in Folsom, the following ad, as well as other similar ads, were printed in newspapers nationwide (Fig. 3.1).

FREE LAND!

Eight and one-half Million Acres

of

FREE PUBLIC LAND!

now open for settlement, near

FOLSOM, NEW MEXICO.

This land is considered by competent farmers as the

Finest Farming Land yet undeveloped in the South-west

and is now

Open to Everybody for Entry

at the newly established

Land Office at Folsom.

The Rock Island R. R. survey has chosen this point for the junction of their main line west with the Denver, Texas & Ft. Worth Railroad. Among other prospects may be mentioned the county-seat which will be located here when the county is divided. The surrounding country is famous for beautiful and picturesque scenery, which, with the delightful climate to be enjoyed here the year round, will make of Folsom the most popular resort in the west.

Farming and Stock-raising can here be successfully carried on.

Immense crops of Alfalfa, Wheat, rye, oats, barley, timothy, millet and clover can be raised here, while our fruits and vegetables surprise the most skeptical. In addition to this, this country has long been considered the best stock-raising country on the United States. Rich native grasses everywhere abound. Among other resources are Forests of good PINE TIMBER, while GOOD COAL crops out prominently all over this district, and can be cultivated easily by digging for it. The statistics will prove that the rainfall is greater in this county than in any other in the territory, and that crops can be raised with or without irrigation. This country is not so much in need of "capital" as it is in need of WORKERS—nature's wealth is already here, but must first be developed by the "industrious man who wishes to get rich quick out of his labor." An abundance of pure, clear water is obtained at a depth of only 25 ft. Come and see for yourself, or, address the "Pioneer Agency, Folsom, New Mexico.

Folsom has the brightest prospects of the new and growing towns on the Denver, Texas & Ft. Worth R. R. It is situated on the southern slope of the Raton Mountains, at an altitude of 6,500 feet.

FREE WOOD

FREE COAL!

Free water.

Fig. 3.1 Folsom Land Advertisement, Ad courtesy of Folsom Centennial Book Committee, *Folsom Then and Now, 1888-1988* (Folsom: Centennial Book Committee, 1988), 1.

[75] Terry Jordan, *North American Cattle-Ranching Frontiers, Origin, Diffusion, and Differentiation* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1993), 239.

According to *The Folsom, New Mexico Story,* a publication written and compiled by Marie Laurine Owen-Doherty and Emma Hardesty-Adams (members of Folsom's early pioneering families), building a health resort was at the top of the local investor's list. John and Jim Ryan, two wealthy brothers from Dallas, Texas, "dreamed of erecting a fine hotel on the Cimarron and making Folsom a health resort as the climate was conducive to the alleviation of tuberculosis, asthma, respiratory, kidney and malarial diseases."[76] In 1888, approximately eight miles north of the volcano, the Folsom Hotel was opened for business. It is not clear however if the Ryan brothers were backing this hotel, or if a different investment group was responsible for the original Folsom Hotel. The Ryan brothers were responsible for a hotel, built approximately a year later, near Cimarron Falls. The original builder of the Folsom Hotel is unknown, but is most likely one of the investors who came to the region with the railroad.

According to an ad in the 1889 *Folsom Idea*, the town newspaper, the Folsom Hotel was for sale and interested parties were directed to contact C.C. Goodale of Lamar, Colorado.[77] Charles Clement Goodale, who the article is most likely referring to, was one of the original Folsom founders and investors who came to the region to capitalize on the newly established railroad town. He, along with several others, started the Folsom Town and Land Investment Company, incorporated solely to develop a prosperous rail town.[78] Goodale most likely held an initial interest or investment in the Folsom Hotel. A later news article in the *Folsom Idea* advertised rooms for two dollars a day and stated that Thompson & Humphry were the current proprietors of the hotel (Fig. 3.2).[79]

Fig. 3.2 Folsom Hotel 1888, Photograph courtesy of Mary Owen-Doherty and Emma Hardesty-Adams, *The Folsom, New Mexico Story and a Pictorial Review* (Folsom: No Publisher Listed, June, 1976), 7.

[76] Mary Owen-Doherty and Emma Hardesty-Adams, *The Folsom, New Mexico Story and a Pictorial Review* (Folsom: No Publisher Listed, June, 1976), 3.

[77] *Folsom Then and Now*, 89.

[78] Ibid, 1.

[79] Owen-Doherty, *The Folsom, New Mexico Story*, 7.

The hotel, although moderately profitable, did not bring in the throngs of new settlers, guests, and money that the original investors had hoped for and within a year of being built, the hotel was for sale. No records are available showing how many, if any, visitors came to the region to see the volcano. Dreams of tourism and a health resort were not forgotten however. The region had much more to offer and the community was determined to bring people to the area. As discussed later in the chapter, in his 1890 letter to the General Land Office, W.D. Harlan stated that the citizens of Folsom have the desire to establish a health resort, and had already built a fine hotel. He also states that the citizens wished to attract tourists to the natural curiosity by building a road to the top of the volcano.[80] The exact hotel Inspector Harlan was referring to is unclear. Regardless, the town had made their wishes known that tourism was a commercial endeavor worth pursuing.

By 1889, a large resort hotel had been erected by the Ryan brothers near Cimarron Falls, also called Folsom Falls. The brothers were developers from Dallas, Texas and were rumored to be millionaires. The hotel was quite spectacular (Fig. 3.3).

Fig. 3.3 The Big Hotel or Capulin Hotel Photograph courtesy of Mary Owen-Doherty and Emma Hardesty-Adams, *The Folsom, New Mexico Story and a Pictorial Review* (Folsom: No Publisher Listed, June, 1976), 15.

The Capulin Hotel was to have the modern amenities of a health and vacation resort, which would hopefully attract both tourists and health seekers. The Cimarron River was damned to provide a lake for water recreation such as boating, swimming,

[80] Inspector W.D. Harlan, to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, 14 December 1890.

and fishing. Unfortunately, the grand hotel never opened its doors for business. The contractor, D.Y. Tamlinson, reportedly took his family and left for his hometown of Fort Worth, Texas. After some use as a hall for local social events, and a few short term tenants, the hotel was abandoned and eventually dismantled and used in other building projects.[81] The reason behind the hotel's failure is unknown. The project probably lacked the funding for completion, or had fallen prey to the economic precursors of what historians Malone and Etulain call "the deadening effects" of the Panic of 1893.[82]

Economic stresses of the time prevented the region from developing into a prosperous destination. Local dreams of becoming the next Colorado Springs were out of reach for the small community. Without a fancy resort hotel to attract rich tourists and health seekers, it looked as though Capulin Mountain would never receive the attention and respect befitting what Yale Professor Dr. Dana noted as "the most perfect specimen of extinct Volcanoes in North America."[83] Capulin Mountain would spend the next several years in obscurity, providing the local community with grazing land, wood, pinons, berries, and cinders, and awaiting the 1916 Presidential Proclamation declaring the volcano a National Monument.

3.2 National Park Service Act

The late 1800s were a time of change for public lands in the United States. Vast acquired lands, held by the U.S., underwent various transactions to re-establish them as private lands with private owners.[84] As with the Capulin Volcano region, homesteading, railroad acquisitions, and various commercial endeavors were common privatization methods throughout the United States. Mining, drilling, logging, and other resource exploitations left many once pristine environments damaged and unusable. Resources were being wasted and beautiful landscapes destroyed. Capulin was not immune to these problems. A large hole or pit, from early cinder mining, is visible at the base of Capulin Volcano in this pre-1930s photo (Fig. 3.4).

These drastic changes in the one time seemingly endless frontier did not go unnoticed. Early environmentalists, such as John Wesley Powell and John Muir, advocated to set aside and preserve areas of public land, thereby preventing any further exploitation of these reserved lands. Other progressive conservationists, such as Gifford Pinchot and President Theodore Roosevelt, advocated managed use and protection of special public lands.[85] Despite their somewhat opposing stances of protection with managed use versus protection with no use, conservationists worked together to withdraw some public lands from the realms of misuse and outright exploitation. These acquisitions, although offering no real protection, prevented

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[81] *Folsom Then and Now*, 30.

[82] *The American West,*12.

[83] Inspector W.D. Harlan, to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, 14 December 1890.

[84] Michael Bean and Melanie Roland, *The Evolution of National Wildlife Law* (Westport: Praeger Publishers, 1997) 340.

[85] Michael Malone and Richard Etulain, *The American West, A Twentieth Century History* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1990), 67-69.

Fig. 3.4 Capulin Volcano, view of mining pit, Photograph property of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, *CAMO* (Charles Town: Historic Photographic Collections).

settlers and private industry from claiming lands until further conservation efforts could be made. The conservation and withdrawal of lands around Capulin Volcano focused on saving a natural wonder and promoting tourism.

The withdrawals served as big news for the small communities surrounding Capulin. Inspector W.D. Harlan of the General Land Office made the local newspapers when he visited the volcano in December of 1890.[86] Approximately 1,900 acres in the region were being considered for withdrawal from public entry. In his letter to the General Land Office, Harlan stated that "Prof. Dana of Yale College, who is regarded as the best authority in this country on Volcanoes says that "Capulin" is the most perfect specimen of extinct Volcanoes in North America."[87] Harlan further explained in his letter that citizens of Folsom have the desire to establish a health resort, have already built a fine hotel, and wish to attract tourists to the natural curiosity by building a road to the top of the volcano.[88] John Noble, the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, agreed with Harlan's wishes and endorsed the land withdrawal to take place. He also requested that the appropriate local records be updated to reflect the decision. On January 16, 1891, the area considered important to the integrity of Capulin Mountain was withdrawn from "settlement, entry or other disposition under any of the public land laws until such time as Congress may see fit," by the General Land Office, Department of the Interior.[89] A misfortunate mistake prevented the withdrawal from being recorded locally, a problem that would later effect the amount of acreage preserved.[90] This land withdrawal did not protect Capulin from exploitation, but it did clear the way for future preservation efforts.

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[86] Folsom Centennial Book Committee, *Folsom Then and Now, 1888-1988* (Folsom: Centennial Book Committee, 1988), 113.

[87] Inspector W.D. Harlan, to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, 14 December 1890. Typed Letter. Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, File H1415.

[88] Ibid.

[89] Secretary John Noble, to Commissioner of the General Land Office, 16 January 1891. Typed Letter. Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, File H1415.

[90] Commissioner Clay Tallman, to the Secretary of the Interior, 26 October 1918. Typed Letter. National Archives and Records Administration, Denver, RG 79, File Box 335.

In 1906, the Antiquities Act passed with the help and sponsorship of Representative John Lacey. This milestone legislation gave the President the power to set aside and protect any federal lands deemed historically or scientifically important.[91] The President no longer needed approval to safeguard lands, only a Presidential Proclamation. The Act did not provide for how the withdrawn land would be protected from illegal exploitation. Regardless, it was a great step towards conservation. By 1909, President Roosevelt had "removed more than 100 million acres from the public domain .... His land withdrawals also established five new national parks, sixteen national monuments, fifty-one wildlife sanctuaries, and fifty million acres of coal lands."[92] Later, President Woodrow Wilson also took advantage of the "Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities," and on August 9, 1916, he declared Capulin Mountain a National Monument (Fig. 3.5 & 3.6).[93]

13. Capulin Mountain National Monument

Establishment: Proclamation (No. 1340) of August 9, 1916..... Page 138

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

[No. 1340—Aug. 9, 1916—39 Stat. 1792]

WHEREAS, Capulin Mountain, located in Townships twenty-nine and thirty North, Range twenty-eight East of the New Mexico Principal Meridian, New Mexico, is a striking example of recent extinct volcanoes and is of great scientific and especially geologic interest,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the power in me vested by Section 2 of the Act of Congress entitled, "An Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities", approved June 8, 1906 (34 Stat., 225), do proclaim that, subject to prior, valid, adverse claims, there are hereby reserved from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, and set apart as the Capulin Mountain National Monument, all the tracts of land shown upon the diagram hereto attached and made a part hereof, and more particularly described as follows, to wit: Lots two, three and four, the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter, the south half of the northwest quarter, the north half of the southwest quarter of section four; lots one and two, the south half of the northeast quarter and the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section five, township twenty-nine north, range twenty-eight; the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section thirty-two; the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter, and the south half of the southwest quarter of section thirty-three, township thirty north, range twenty-eight, all east of the New Mexico Principal Meridian, New Mexico.

Warning is hereby given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, remove or destroy any features of this Monument, or to locate or settle upon any of the lands reserved by this proclamation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington, this ninth day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixteen, and of the [SEAL] Independence of the United States the one hundred and forty first.

WOODROW WILSON.

By the President:
ROBERT LANSING,
Secretary of State.

Fig. 3.5 Presidential Proclamation, *Capulin*, National Park Service, Intermountain Support Office Archives.

[91] William Everhart, *The National Park Service* (NewYork: Praeger Publishers, 1972), 12.
[92] Ibid, 69.
[93] President, Proclamation, "*Capulin Mountain National Monument, Proclamation 1340*," (Aug. 9, 1916) *Capulin*, National Park Service, Intermountain Support Office Archives.

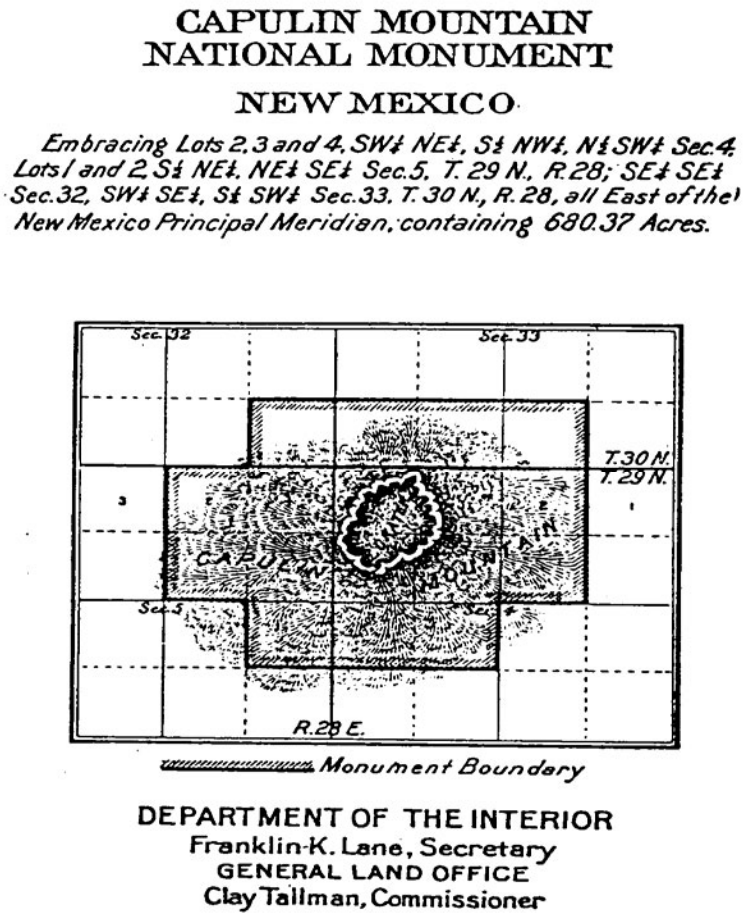

Fig. 3.6 Capulin Early Boundary Map, *Capulin*, National Park Service, Intermountain Support Office Archives.

Although these areas were declared to be restricted to non-exploitive uses, they needed protection; simply setting them aside was not enough to prevent logging, grazing, mining, looting, hunting, and other misuses. How could the average citizen of the United States be convinced that preservation was important? More importantly, how could the huge and powerful resource extracting corporations be convinced that supporting preservation laws or a parks bureau was an economically sound business move? A strong, well managed parks department was needed, but how could the nation be convinced to support it?

Luckily for the emergent parks organization, the United States had developed an expansive system of railroads and was quickly moving into the age of the mass produced automobile. Tourism for health and entertainment, although up to now a pastime of the rich, was becoming more possible for the average person, and profitable for the tourism vendors who invested in it. According to early parks promoter, Robert Sterling Yard, conservation, coupled with tourism, proved to be an extremely profitable business for the Swiss and the Canadians, and he suggested that the United

States should immediately follow their example.[94] Referring to Yard's important article "Making a Business of Scenery," historian Richard Sellars points out that one of the winning and driving forces behind the parks effort was economics.

Preservation for profit served as the key motivator that conservationists of the time needed in order to gain public support. Using this commercial approach to their advantage, J. Horace McFarland, Frederick L. Olmstead, Stephan T. Mather, and Horace M. Albright along with several others, led the aggressive effort to establish a national parks bureau.[95] Only a week after the proclamation declaring Capulin Mountain a National Monument, they succeeded in reaching their important and ground breaking goal. At approximately 9:00 on the evening of August 16, 1916, President Wilson signed the organic act, establishing the National Park Service.[96] National protection was now provided for parks across the country. Capulin no longer existed in the obscurity and uncertainty of its past or under the unguided direction of its early custodians. The volcano was now under new guardianship.

3.3 Creation and Founders

Before its establishment as a monument, Capulin Volcano and the area surrounding the volcano attracted the attention of many people for a variety of reasons. Besides being a geologic curiosity, the volcano possessed natural resources as well as commercial possibilities for the surrounding community. Wood, pinon nuts, berries, open grazing land, and diverse wildlife populations provided locals with needed resources. Local ranchers regularly used the volcano and vicinity to graze their cattle (Fig. 3.7).

Fig. 3.7 Modern cattle grazing near Capulin Volcano, Photograph by Lail, 2002.

[94] Richard W. Sellars, *Preserving Nature in the National Parks, A History* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1997), 28.

[95] Ibid, 28-32.

[96] Horace Albright and Marian Albright Schenck, *Creating the National Park Service, The Missing Years* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1999), 148.

One local who took a special interest in the volcano was Mrs. William H. Jack of the Crow Foot Cattle Ranch. The Crow Foot Ranch was not a small operation, and the Jacks were considered important enough to merit the printing of their name on a 1889 map of the region. This was not an uncommon practice for the sparsely populated area. Jack can be seen on the left side of the map, northwest of Capulin Mountain, located on the lower portion of the 1889 map (Fig. 3.8).

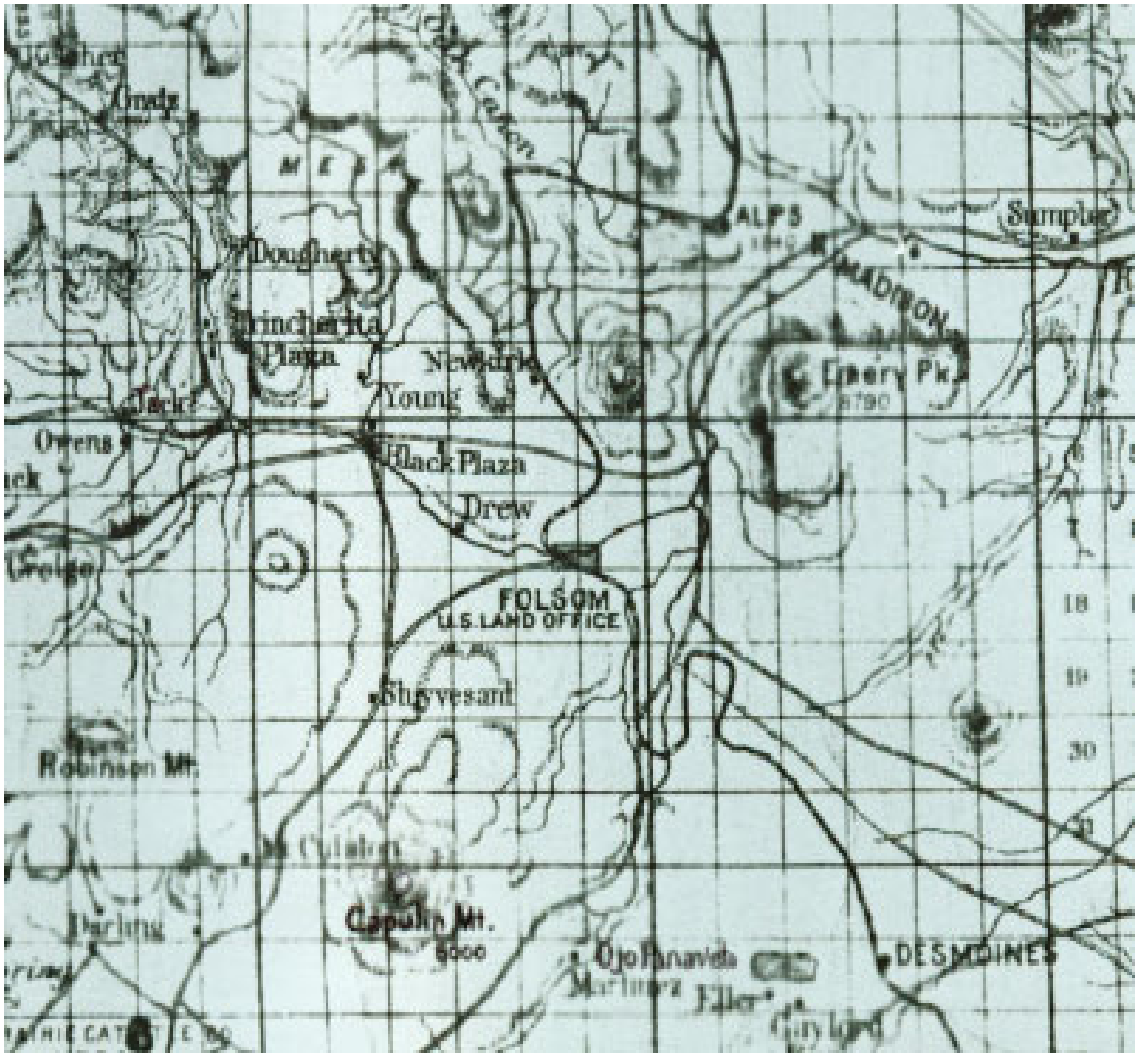

Fig. 3.8 Jack and Capulin Mountain, 1889 Map of Mora and Colfax Counties, NM, Maxwell Land Grant Company, *Sectional Map of Colfax and Mora Counties. New Mexico 1889* (Santa Fe: Maxwell Land Grant Company, 1889).

Mrs. Jack eventually became the first part time custodian of the volcano, beginning in 1916 and ending, unofficially, in 1921, when she asked Homer Farr to take her place.[97] Her husband William, also called Will or Bill, was well liked in the community and made his living herding and selling cattle for the Crow Foot. His cattle ranch kept many people in the region working. One of his more famous ranch

[97] Iris M. Boggs, "Capulin Mountain National Monument," Historical Binder, (Capulin, National Park Service, Intermountain Support Office Archives, Santa Fe) 7.

supervisors was George McJunkin, who discovered the Folsom site mentioned earlier in the text. The common herding method of the time was to put together a "Dutch Crew" of herders who would individually help carry the expenses of the job in order to receive a share of the profits once the herded cattle were sold. The region around Capulin was an important stopping point and grazing area for many of the cattle that Will Jack and his crew herded to market.

In an article written about his family history, Carlos Cornay reveals the importance of the grazing area around Capulin to the Jacks, as well as to others dependent on the cattle industry. Cornay explains that his grandfather, also named Carlos, ran cattle with Mr. Jack. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, Cornay and Jack went to Mexico by way of El Paso and put together herds of cattle to bring back to the Crow Foot Ranch. The return journey could take over six months. The cattle were kept in the Capulin Mountain region, usually throughout the summer, to fatten them up. Then they were driven to rail lines in Kansas. The coming of the railroad ended the need for cattle drives to a Kansas depot; instead, the cattle could be kept in the Folsom stockyards and shipped from the new Folsom depot north of Capulin.[98] An early herding crew photo shows Carlos Cornay and Will Jack, as well as several others (Fig. 3.9).

Fig. 3.9 Cattle herding crew or "Dutch Outfit" including left to right;
(back row) John Sigwalt, Carlos Cornay, Will Jack, Frank Walter, Candido Archuleta,
(second row) Jack Miller, Levi Tabor, R. Oldham, B. Martin,
(front row), T.B. Hack, Henry Young, Tom Aguilar, and Tom Thacher.
Photograph courtesy of Folsom Centennial Book Committee, *Folsom Then and Now, 1888-1988* (Folsom: Centennial Book Committee, 1988), 9.

[98] *Folsom Then and Now*, 168.

Cattle were often sold by head at an estimated weight, so the more grazing lands available to the cattle, the fatter the cattle could become, bringing a better price at market. Capulin Mountain offered a valuable open grazing range. According to historian Dietmar Schneider-Hector, Mrs. Jessie Jack was primarily interested in the Capulin Volcano region in order to maintain access to these important grazing rights.[99] Grazing right issues would eventually play a large role for the monument, however, the people of Folsom had other plans for the volcano and surrounding region.[100]

3.4 Homer Farr

In 1907, twenty-two year old Homer Farr, born in Kansas in 1885, came to the town of Des Moines, N.M. His brother-in-law asked him to come out and help him run his Des Moines store. Homer eventually bought one hundred and sixty acres located where the town of Capulin currently exists.[101] He greatly admired Capulin Volcano and decided that he would work to preserve the volcano as well as use it to bring in tourists and settlers to the community. He hoped to sell his land to settlers and profit while building a new community. Homer proved to be quite an entrepreneur, starting businesses, bringing in new residents, and promoting Capulin Mountain as a must see tourist attraction. Farr started a lumber business, served as post master, ran a newspaper, speculated in land sales, and generally promoted the town of Capulin. According to historian, Francis Stanley, he ultimately became the "one man Chamber of Commerce" for the town of Capulin.[102]

Because of his interest in the volcano, Mrs. Jack eventually asked Mr. Farr if he would like to look after the monument once she resigned her position as custodian. In 1921, she asked Mr. Farr to unofficially take over her position.[103] Homer Farr accepted the unofficial position and would later, in 1923, become an official custodian of Capulin Mountain. Farr took great interest in the volcano for he saw the monument as a profitable park and tourist attraction. Farr officially served the National Park Service and Capulin Mountain National Monument, later to be renamed Capulin Volcano National Monument, from 1923 to 1955. His honorable thirty-two year effort to manage the monument unfolds in the following chapter, covering the parks early development and management.

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[99] Dietmar Schneider-Hector, *Jessie Foote Jack, "A Capable and Worthy Woman," The Origins of Capulin Volcano National Monument* (Las Cruces: Dietmar Schneider-Hector, 2002), 16.

[100] Harlan, to General Land Office, 14 December 1890.

[101] Homer Farr, transcribed interview, 16 March 1971, (National Park Service, Capulin Volcano National Monument Library, 2002) 7-8.

[102] Francis Stanley, *The Capulin (New Mexico) Story,* (Nazareth Texas: 1970), 7.

[103] Iris M. Boggs, "Capulin Mountain National Monument," Historical Binder, (Capulin, National Park Service, Intermountain Support Office Archives, Santa Fe) 7.

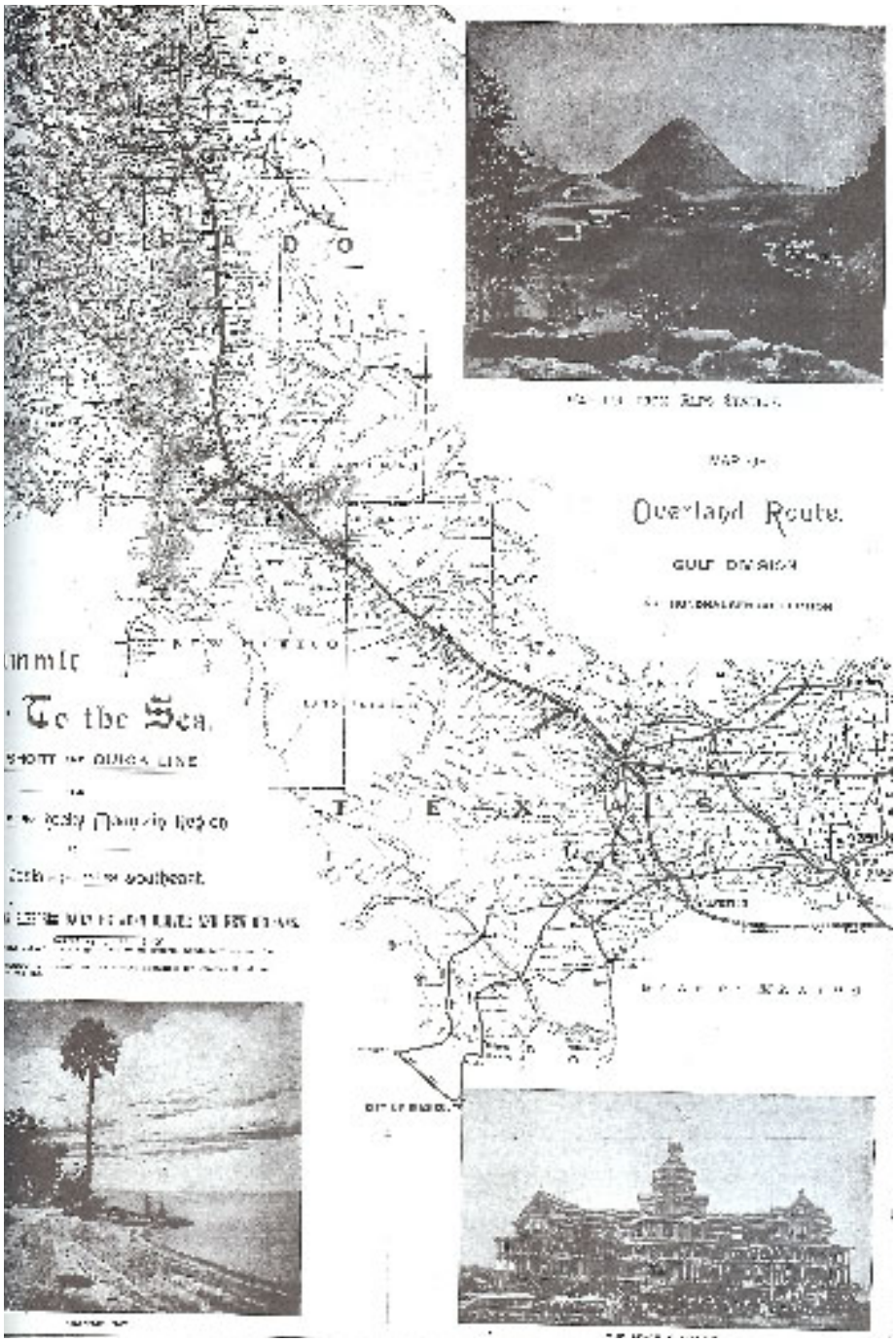

Fig. 4.1 1892 Map of Gulf Division, Union Pacific Railroad (formerly Denver, Texas & Ft. Worth railroad branch) included a cut of Capulin Volcano. Courtesy James Jones, *Denver & New Orleans* (Denver: Sundance Publications, 1997).

Chapter 4 Development and Management

4.1 The National Park Service & Tourism

Capulin Mountain, like many parks in the early 1900s, faced great monetary pressures. The need for supervised patrols, visitor concessions, and general maintenance was common for all national parks and monuments, and Capulin did not differ in these needs. Custodians were often part time and under paid. Few parks could afford the changes they needed for basic upkeep. Visitor concessions, although justified, were repeatedly difficult to fund. Custodians faced the problem of maintaining their parks, while still making a living wage and attracting visitors. Parks and monuments suffered without appropriate support. The answer to funding problems for the National Park Service seemed to lie in the promotion of large scale tourism. The question again emerged -- preservation or use?

Fig. 4.2 Grand Canyon advertisement, sponsored by the ATSF Railroad, Photograph property of Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company, courtesy of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, (Charles Town: Historic Photographic Collections).

Historian Alfred Runte described the preservationist's view as one of "recognition that, in the final analysis, the survival of the reserves clearly hinged on

the number of people who claimed direct benefits from scenic preservation."[104] If no one knew or cared about the parks and their well being, the parks would eventually cease to exist, thereby undoing any previous preservation efforts. How could the National Park Service promote interest in their parks? NPS Director Stephen Mathers had the answer. He approached railroad companies and asked for their help. Huge tourism campaigns coupling railroads with national parks dominated the new National Park Service's promotion efforts. Railroad financiers backed the building of resorts and funded the forming of tourism programs, promoting not only parks, but of course, railroad travel. The winning alliance benefited both sides, and allowed people to visit parks and preserves that might have otherwise been ignored or seen as unreachable by the public. With the help of railroad financiers, and under the guidance of Mathers, millions of tourists visited national parks between 1916 and 1929.[105] One advertisement, shown here, from the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad Company, promoted visitation to the Grand Canyon in the early 1900s (Fig. 4.2).

The community surrounding the volcano realized the substantial profitability of tourism. Early ads from the local newspaper, *The Actual Settler*, describe Capulin Mountain as "an extinct volcano, rising majestically above the town," and continue on to describe the region as "impregnated with life and health for the invalid."[106] The 1899 *Santa Fe New Mexican* newspaper also advertised the health benefits of visiting or moving to a better climate, citing an "Illinois Physician's Opinion on Pulmonary Tuberculosis."[107] In the article, Dr. J.B. Denham recommends that a permanent climate change is helpful for those who can afford it. A much later article from the same newspaper supports bringing in healthseekers as permanent residents, as opposed to just bringing in tourists or short term residents. The healthseekers are reported, in this article, to add greatly to the community in many ways, one contribution being that "tens of thousands of dollars are poured into circulation."[108]

Investors tried to capitalize on the popular search for a healthy climate to visit or move to. During the late 1800s and early 1900s, over eighty health spas and health seeker facilities were located in New Mexico.[109] Unfortunately, the small towns of Folsom, Capulin, and Des Moines had mistimed their attempts to lure the tourist trade. Hindered by poor economics, fly by night investors, and a ranching community that wished to save the local lands for cattle, the early attempts to build a prosperous health spa or resort had failed to bring people and profit to the region. The failure of the Capulin Hotel left the community with little reason to trust big investors or outsiders with their future.

The volcano needed a booster of sorts, someone locally based who could market, not exploit, the region. Homer Farr was the promoter Capulin needed. Farr, as mentioned in Chapter Three, was not a local at first, but he was also not a

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[104] Alfred Runte, "Pragmatic Alliance, Western Railroads and the National Parks" *National Parks and Conservation Magazine* April 1974, 15.

[105] "Pragmatic Alliance," 18.

[106] *The Actual Settler* (Folsom), 20 May 1899.

[107] *The Santa Fe New Mexican* (Santa Fe), 12 July 1899.

[108] *The Santa Fe New Mexican* (Santa Fe), 22 Sept 1915

[109] Jerry Williams, *New Mexico in Maps, Second Edition.* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1986), 130.

disconnected investor from afar. He came to the region, devoted his time and money, and made it his home. Farr had the energy and foresight to realize Capulin Mountain's potential. His official appointment in 1923 as Custodian for Capulin Mountain, brought numerous changes to the volcano and the region. His enthusiasm and local involvement gave the volcano a voice in the community, as well as a voice in Washington D.C., where he made his funding problems known.

4.2 Early Funding & the Road

The fledgling monument of Capulin Mountain needed amenities for visitors and funding for caretaking. Mr. Farr believed that better access to the top of the volcano would bring more tourists to the monument while boosting the local economy. He did not, however, have the support he needed from the Park Service. For many years, early visitors to the volcano would park their wagons at the base of the mountain and hike up to the top.[110] This strenuous hike was difficult for many, and impossible for some. In 1925, Farr asked Congressman John Morrow if he would plead his case in Washington and get him the money he needed to build a road. Morrow acquired two thousand dollars for Farr to use at the monument. The money was deposited in the Raton National Bank, and according to Homer Farr, Morrow's only request was that Farr keep track of how he spent the money.[111] Farr used mules to drag weighted boards up the volcano in a spiraled path to the top. On December 25, 1925, the road was finished and Mr. Farr drove the first car to the top (Fig. 4.2).[112]

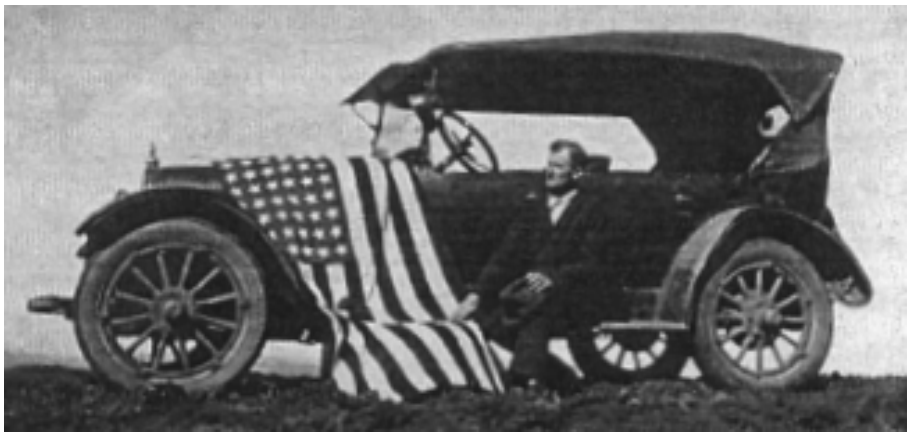

Fig. 4.3 Homer Farr with the first car to drive to the top of Capulin Mountain, Dec 25, 1925.

Homer surveyed and built the road himself. He was, however, immediately chastised by someone in Washington D.C. for building what they considered a precarious a dangerous road. Years later Mr. Farr defends his actions by stating that millions of visitors had been to the top of the volcano on the road, and there had

[110] Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Area and Service History File H1417, 3.

[111] Homer Farr, transcribed interview, 16 March 1971, (National Park Service, Capulin Volcano National Monument Library, 2002) 5-6.

[112] Homer Farr, to the Superintendent of Southwestern National Monuments, 17 March 1972. Hand Written Letter, Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, File H2017.

"never been a single accident or car rolled."[113] The road was certainly a spectacular accomplishment and quite industrious, especially considering Mr. Farr's status as a part-time custodian. The path of the road is clearly seen in a photo taken by the National Park Service in the late 1950s (Fig. 4.4).

Fig. 4.4 Aerial View of Capulin Mountain National Monument, Photograph by Fred Mang Jr. Property of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Negative 148-819 (Charles Town: Historic Photographic Collections).

The road to the top of Capulin Mountain National Monument brought Farr a whole new set of funding problems. In order to keep the road open, retaining walls, drainage ditches, and other basic road maintenance funds were needed. The steep slope of the volcano caused continual cinder slides and threatened the integrity of the volcano. Farr worked relentlessly to maintain the road and to keep it clear for passage. He continually requested funding from the Superintendent of Southwest National Monuments, Frank Pinkley. Farr's persistent letters and monthly reports to Pinkley petitioned the Superintendent for his opinions on everything from safety walls to new trails.[114] Farr received no support because there was not any money to give him. The disastrous economic times of the Great Depression spread across the nation leaving no one unaffected. During the 1920s and 30s, the National Park Service faced enormous

[113] Farr, transcribed interview, 6.

[114] Homer Farr, to the Superintendent of Southwestern National Monuments, Various. Typed Letters. National Archives and Records Administration, Denver, RG 79, File Box 57.

cuts to an already tightly budgeted existence. Thanks to President Roosevelt's New Deal, some relief was just around the bend for the volcano.

Fig. 4.5 Capulin Mountain, 1931, Photograph by Roger Toll, 1931. Property of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Negative WASO.H-145 (Charles Town: Historic Photographic Collections).

Roosevelt devised an emergency economic plan supporting nation-wide federally funded work programs that he called the New Deal. The program not only created jobs for the unemployed but supported worthwhile national projects. The New Deal drew national support from a destitute nation, and the Capulin Mountain region was no different. In March of 1933, Homer Farr wrote to the Director of the National Park Service, Horace M. Albright, requesting that Capulin Mountain National Monument be considered as a project for relief work under President Roosevelt's program. Farr explained that "There are thirty heads of families and ten single men who desire and really need relief and are more than willing to work for as little as $1.00 per day and their food or even less."[115] Farr's request for funding reflected not only the facility needs, but his feeling of responsibility for the community surrounding Capulin Mountain.

In a later letter to Superintendent Pinkley, Farr again explains the destitute situation of the vicinity and the need for work, now more than ever. The region was suffering. In his letter, Farr pleads with Pinkley to come through with some money, at least until the short crop can be gathered.[116] In a letter responding to Farr, Superintendent Pinkley explains that there are no funds for improvements, and no funds for maintenance, a 25% cut in funding has left them without support. Pinkley then explains that he is requesting, in addition to Farr's earlier request, that the

[115] Homer Farr, to the Director of the National Park Service, 23 March 1933. Typed Letter. National Archives and Records Administration, Denver, RG 79, File Box 57.

[116] Homer Farr, to the Superintendent of Southwestern National Monuments, 12 July 1933. Typed Letter. National Archives and Records Administration, Denver, RG 79, File Box 57.

Director of the Park Service consider them for emergency worker relief.[117] Farr, undoubtedly suffering from the hard economic times and needing relief work as well, headed north in August of 1933 to obtain temporary work putting in a mining road. His letter to Pinkley, which started out "Dear Boss," explained why he was temporarily gone from Capulin Mountain. Farr's letters to Pinkley were usually upbeat and optimistic; however, this letter was uncharacteristically sarcastic and showed Farr's frustration with the current economic situation, as well as with the Park Service.[118] Much to Homer Farr's delight and surprise, within a few months of his frustrated letter to Pinkley, the continual correspondence back and forth between Washington D.C., Farr, and Pinkley, finally paid off, and Capulin Mountain was funded for a federally supported relief work program.

4.3 Civil Works Project

By November of 1933, a Civil Works Project was approved for Capulin Mountain, and Homer Farr needed only to obtain permission to hire men from the county unemployment rolls. The project, resulting from Farr's persistence, brought needed funds to the monument and work to several families of the region. Surveying and work began December 16, 1933. Park Engineer Mr. Walter Atwell, along with Mr. Smoke Lyke, Mr. Stuart, and Mr. Williams, surveyed the mountain for a trail. The trail started at the bottom of the volcano, spiraled up to the rim, and then continued around the rim. Atwell's assistant from out of town, Lyke, reportedly almost passed out on the job from the elevation change. After the surveying crew finished their job, Homer Farr had twenty five men hired and ready to work, including himself. Farr, knowing the maintenance needs of the road better than anyone else, served as the crew foreman and as a laborer on the road. His great enthusiasm is more than apparent in this excerpt from his letter dated December 23, 1933 (Fig. 4.6).

The project employed Homer Farr as foreman and twenty four other men. The workers were Harry Hotchken, Dewey Murden, Enrique Garcia, Elio Mondragon, Elias Gonzales, Daniel Trujillo, Elmer Newton, Robert White, Conrad Montoya, Bert Hay, J. H. Owens, Joe Garcia, W. K. Mock, Fritz Willougsby, W.E. Orlow, H. A. Wilhelm, G.W. Gordon, Henry Fleming, Simon Chavez, Charles Hill, W.F. Rogue, Salomon Montoya, B.E. Wallace, and W.E. Altman.[119] The men worked together to repair the road winding up Capulin Mountain, and to widen the parking area at the top. Farr's persistence brought much needed money to the community and helped to fund the work needed for a more stable road up the volcano. His willingness to stick his neck out for the good of the volcano and the community would soon work to save his own job, in the face of allegations arising from an unhappy and unemployed worker.

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[117] Frank Pinkley, to the Custodian of Capulin Mountain National Monument, 9 August 1933. Typed Letter. National Archives and Records Administration, Denver, RG 79, File Box 57.

[118] Homer Farr, to the Superintendent of Southwestern National Monuments, 26 August 1933. Typed Letter. National Archives and Records Administration, Denver, RG 79, File Box 57

[119] Homer Farr, to the State Civil Works Administration, 12 February 1934. Typed Letter. National Archives and Records Administration, Denver, RG 79, File Box 57.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
CAPULIN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL MONUMENT
CAPULIN, NEW MEXICO

OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

2

The Custodian here had things pretty well in hand as regards our Civil Works Project for Capulin and had ordered his men and equipment, and on the next morning after the departure of the Engineering Crew at 8 A.M. we were all at work with a crew of twenty-five men. Most years in December the weather would not permit us to work with any large degree of satisfaction, but this winter the weather has been lovely and not a moments time has been lost, in fact six hours seems to us rather short but have actually learned to take advantage of the six hour day and do as much good labor as before in eight.

We began operation at the bottom of the two mile road and are working up in order that we might have the road cleared for our own daily travel, and by the first Thursday the road was all cleared of rocks, fallen trees and brush. On the fourth day of our labor George H. Sholly from Bandelier, by request of Mr. Atwell, brought us a compressed air Jack Hammer outfit as the Engineering Crew had pointed out to the Custodian the need of having about seven of the most prominent points on the road along the east side of the mountain blasted off and the depressions which are on each side of a prominent point filled with the excavated material. Poor Sholly after one and one-half days of hard labor decided that the air hammer could not be successfully used in this volcanic material. Sholly resorted to every known method of drilling but failed. This material is very hard to pick or drill by hand but too crawly to drill by air hammer; however, Sholly did his best and got part of the points drilled. We will drill and shoot the rest of them by hand churn drill.

I never expect again to handle such a loyal two dozen men that can accomplish as much as we have in the past week. However, none of them feel they have been overworked and I believe all will be more than willing to "hit the Ball" next Tuesday.

Fig. 4.6 Homer Farr's Letter to Superintendent Pinckley Regarding CWP, Homer Farr, to the Superintendent of Southwestern National Monuments, 23 December 1933. Typed Letter. National Archives and Records Administration, Denver, RG 79, File Box 57.

In January of 1934, an angry worker claimed that he was not hired for the Capulin Mountain project because he would not buy land from Farr. The allegation came from a Mr. Ledoux, who also convinced his friend, Elio Mondragon to file a complaint. The two men swore that Homer Farr had tried to take advantage of them. Assistant Superintendent Robert H. Rose was sent to investigate the allegations. He visited Mr. H. H. Errett, Chairman of the Reemployment Committee for Union County, in order to establish what normal hiring procedures were for the county. Mr. Errett explained that he and his committee cleared men for employment based on their previous employment history. Farr only hired men who were cleared. Ledoux had not

been cleared because of a poor work record and he was, consequentially, very angry.[120] Farr did not hire him because he was not on the list, nothing more. Rose also discovered that although Mondragon and another worker, Daniel Trujillo, had purchased lots from Farr, the purchases were made well before the project.

The community, as well as worker Daniel Trujillo, came to Farr's defense, stating that he would never be involved in any such business and that he was an upstanding and caring citizen who was trying to help his neighbors, not take advantage of them. In land sale documents brought forth in Farr's defense, Farr did not even require that the land be paid for if the buyer was not working, although he did ask for half of the buyer's pay if the person was working, which could be considered quite steep. Regardless, Mondragon eventually admitted that no wrong doing had taken place. He even brought forth paperwork clearing Farr's name and stating almost the exact same agreement that Trujillo had with Farr. The community, as well as the workers, stood behind Homer Farr and he was eventually cleared of the unfortunate allegations.[121]

The set back did not detour Farr from his mission to improve the monument and bring funding to the region. He continued to pursue federal assistance for the upkeep and development of the monument. The next projects on Homer Farr's list were the much needed retaining walls to prevent rock slides as well as a perimeter fence to keep out cattle. In December of 1933, Custodian Farr wrote to Superintendent Pinkley asking for approval of these projects and requesting help acquiring funds. Farr boldly requested a regular salary as well in order that he might buy his wife a new dress for Christmas.[122] Farr would get his Christmas wish the following year. New Civil Works Projects and the beginnings of a viable infrastructure had just begun for Capulin Mountain National Monument.

4.4 Monument Infrastructure

The 1933 Civil Works Project for Capulin Mountain National Monument established the beginnings of the monument's first, and much needed, solid infrastructure. This first undertaking also showed that Farr was capable of managing and completing a federally funded project. With the main access issues taken care of, specifically the road being cleared, several other problems could be addressed. By March of 1934, Farr reported accomplishing the graveling of the road below the cabin, clearing new road to the four camp grounds, the beginnings of outdoor fireplaces with stone heads, and creating a new cut off within park boundaries which eliminated three hundred feet of road.[123] From early photographs, it appears that the old road apparently cut directly southwest from the south side of the mountain, (once a vehicle left the spiraling road), and traveled across non-monument property to the main road.

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[120] Robert Rose, to the State Civil Works Administration, 20 February 1934. Typed Letter. National Archives and Records Administration, Denver, RG 79, File Box 57.

[121] Ibid.

[122] Homer Farr, to the Superintendent of Southwestern National Monuments, 23 December 1933. Typed Letter. National Archives and Records Administration, Denver, RG 79, File Box 57.

[123] Homer Farr, to the Superintendent of Southwestern National Monuments, March 1934. Re-typed Letter. Historical Binder, (Capulin, National Park Service, Intermountain Support Office Archives, Santa Fe), 13.

An early Capulin blueprint from July of 1934 shows the location of this early road and the location of the house or cabin built in approximately 1926 (Fig. 4.7). A 2001 Union County Assessor's map shows the more recent location of the road (Fig. 4.8). The new road traveled roughly west, staying on monument property, until it reached SR 325. This is the road presently used by the monument.

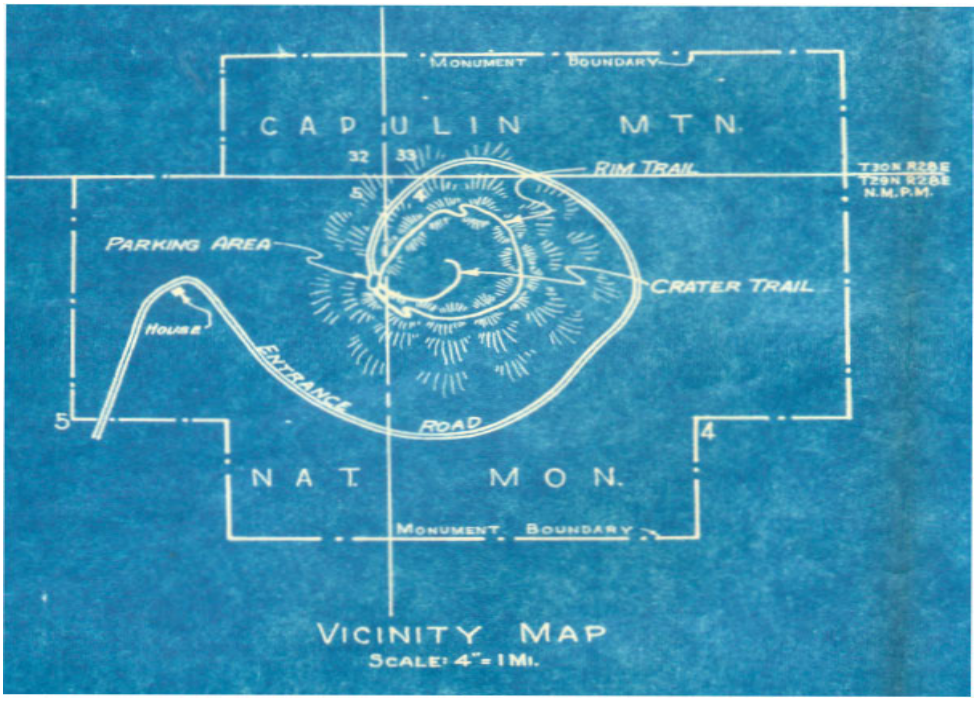

Fig. 4.7 Blueprint of Capulin Mountain, Drawn by Stewart, July 1934. Property of Leonard Farr, Private Collection.

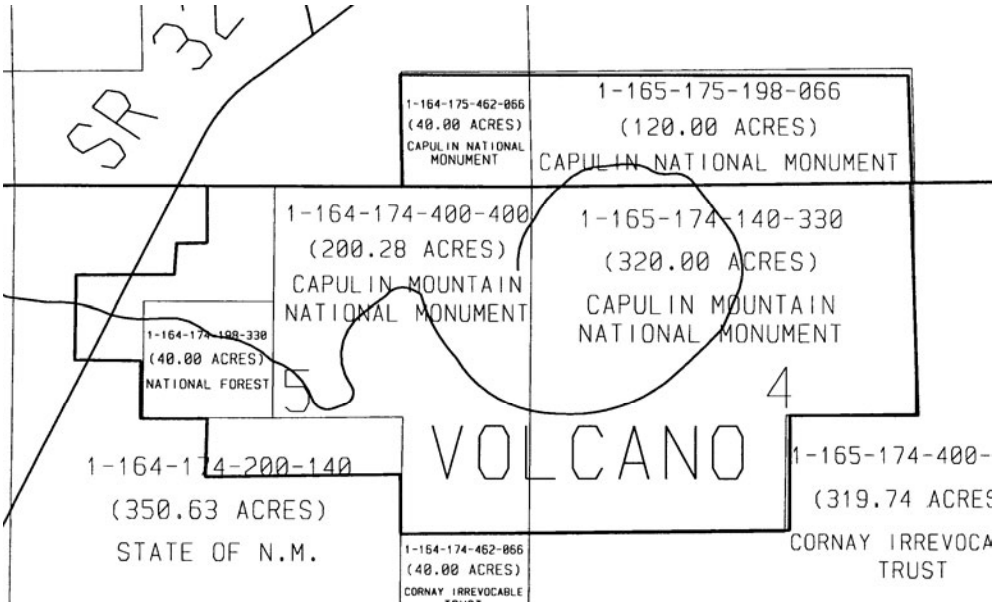

Fig. 4.8 Map of Capulin Mountain, February 2001. Union County Assessor, State of New Mexico (Clayton: Union County Courthouse).

The improvement work at the monument also resulted in an unexpected archeological find near the new road. A metate, pottery sherds, arrow points, and animal bones were found in a cave near the base of the volcano, which Farr also describes in his March report. The cavern or cave is located across from the present day visitor center.

April 12, 1934, was the last day of Capulin Mountain's first CWA project. In a letter to Superintendent Pinkley, Farr explained that the workers "have built roads, trails, public out-of-door fireplaces, improved camp grounds, erected new signs, and accomplished many other things much needed for the monument."[124] The monument was given the short lived means to make needed changes and basic infrastructure improvements, but more funding was needed. In response to Farr's requests to Pinkley in December of 1933, Chief Engineer for the National Park Service, F.A. Kittredge, visited the volcano the following April.

Kittredge recommended that the director of the National Park Service fund road betterment, parking improvements, and fencing. He cited the previous visitor statistics of 25,000 visitors in 1932, and 14,000 in 1933, and suggested that the road be widened to the standard roadway size of sixteen feet in order to safely accommodate these large numbers of visitors. Because of inaccessibility above 400 feet, Kittredge unfortunately did not recommend a well or water development, which Farr mentioned were needed on several occasions. He did see that Farr had done quite a bit with the small amount of funding given to the monument. Kittredge gave Farr a well deserved shining review and stated that "Custodian Homer Farr has accomplished fine results with his very meager CWA funds."[125] The estimate for this proposed improvement project totaled $19,000.

The improvement project was approved over the next few months, and Farr again hired and directed a crew of workers to get the project completed. In his August 24, 1934 report to Superintendent Pinkley, Farr stated that the base of the retaining wall around the parking area was nearing completion, and that the next step would be the installation of two hundred and ninety feet of guard rail. The Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) Project crew consisted of approximately ten men who worked on the road, parking area, and trails (Fig. 4.9).

A later photo shows the upper parking lot in the mid-1930s (Fig. 4.10). In the same report to Pinkley, Farr also stated that "This Monument is now completely fenced cattle proof with the exception of one half miles yet to be constructed and the cattle guard to be finished."[126] The monument was fenced in response to dangers presented when tourists tried to drive up the volcano and pass cattle on the road. Cattle also caused damage by overgrazing the slopes of the volcano.[127] With the

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[124] Homer Farr, to the Superintendent of Southwestern National Monuments, April 1934. Re-typed Letter. Historical Binder, (Capulin, National Park Service, Intermountain Support Office Archives, Santa Fe), 15.

[125] F.A. Kittredge, to the Director of the National Park Service, 20 April 1934. Typed Letter. National Archives and Records Administration, Denver, RG 79, File Box 57.

[126] Homer Farr, to the Superintendent of Southwestern National Monuments, 24 August 1934. Typed Letter. National Archives and Records Administration, Denver, RG 79, File Box 57.

[127] F.A. Kittredge, to the Director of the National Park Service, 20 April 1934. Typed Letter. National Archives and Records Administration, Denver, RG 79, File Box 57.

conclusion of these initial federally funded projects, Capulin Mountain National Monument had finally established a needed fundamental infrastructure.

Fig. 4.9 Capulin Mountain Work Crew, August 1934. Homer Farr stands at the far left of the picture. Property of Leonard Farr, Private Collection.

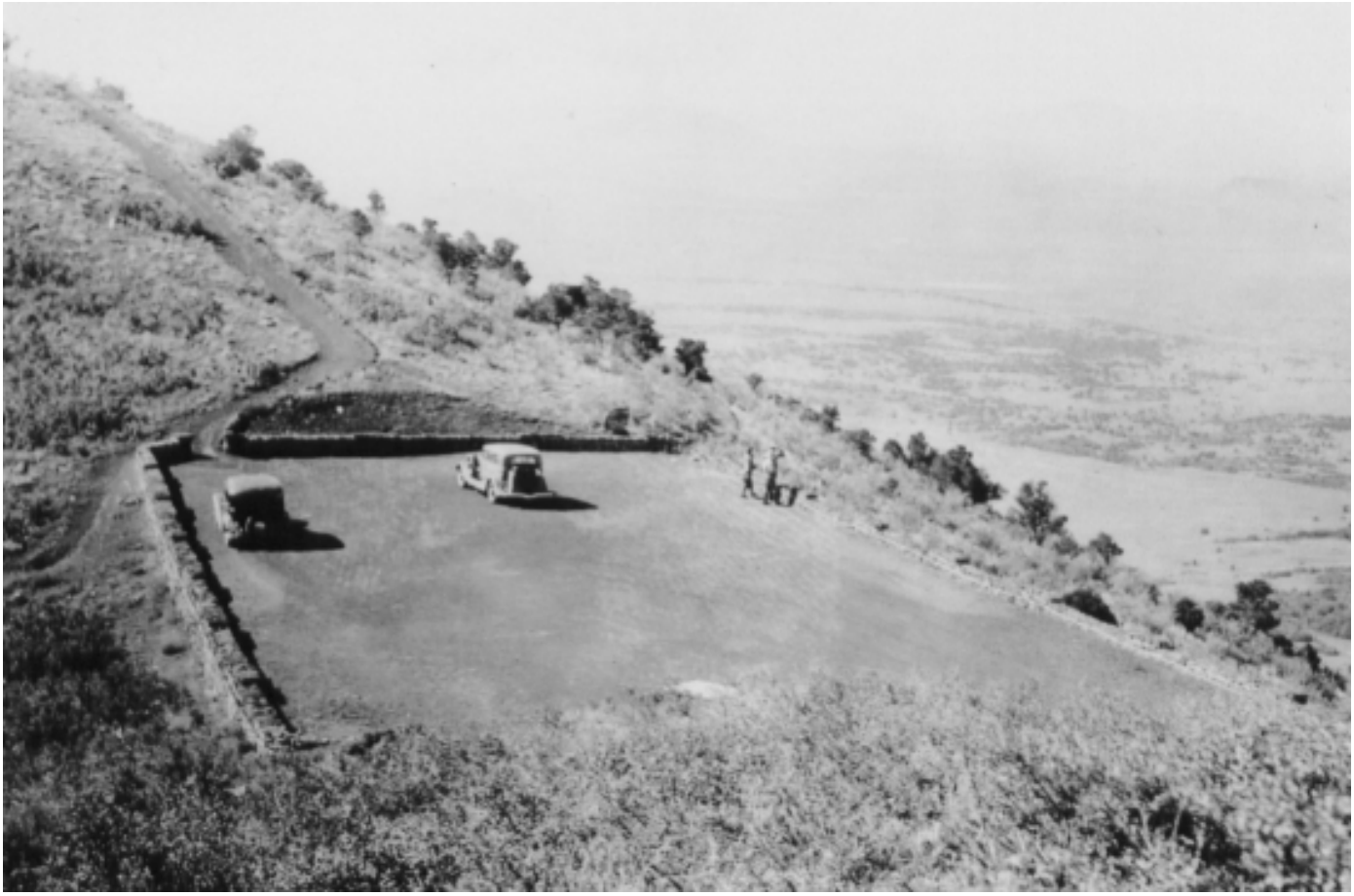

Fig. 4.10 Capulin Mountain Parking Area, Photographer Unknown c. 1938. Property of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, (Charles Town: Historic Photographic Collections).

Chapter 5 Early Resource Management

5.1 Resource Management

The late 1930s and early 1940s were very busy times for Capulin, however, important resource identification and management planning had just begun for the monument and the park service in general. Although limited in funding, Homer Farr continued to look for new ways to improve and manage the monument. Farr's letters over the years to the Superintendent of the Southwestern National Monuments repeatedly pointed out what Farr considered the volcano's two most important resources; the volcano itself, and the view from the top of the volcano. The spectacular view from the top of Capulin Mountain is most likely what lead Farr to build the spiraling road up the volcano in the first place. Farr found the view of the surrounding region such an asset, and of such great interest, that he even proposed that a telescope of some kind should be mounted at the top of the volcano for visitors to use. He offered to take the telescope down every night and replace it every morning to prevent vandalism.

Both Superintendent Frank Pinkley and later, Superintendent Hugh Miller, agreed with Farr that the view was incredible, and that a telescope would be a wonderful added feature. The cost and security of such a feature, however, prevented Farr's wishes from being granted immediately. For years, Farr handed his binoculars over to the curious tourists and visitors, in order that they might look out over the incredible country. Later, brochures for the monument described the possible "view of five states" visible from the top of the volcano on a clear day. Eventually a numbered guide map was made available so that the visitor could decipher the different features visible from the volcano's rim. The viewing map's key, depicted in the following figure (Fig. 5.1) was numbered from 1 to 24 and read as follows;

1. West Spanish Peak 13,610'
2. Greenhorn Mountain 12,349'
3. Towndraw Peak 8,609'
4. Red Mountain 8,445'
5. Culebra Range of the Sangre de Cristos (72 miles)
6. Jose Butte 7,330', 7. Mud Hill 7,200'
8. Baby Capulin 6,900
9. Twin Mountain 6,800
10. Gaylord Mountain 6,900'
11. Robinson Butte 8,185'
12. Green Mesa 7,900'
13. Larga Mesa 7,600'
14. Horseshoe Mountain 7,810'
15. Sierra Grande 8,720'
16. Rabbit Ears Mountain 5,940' (44 miles)
17. Tinaga peak 7,810
18. Laughlin Peak 8,820'
19. 8,150 (name not listed)
20. Pine Butte 8,400'
21. Timber Butte 8,400'
22. Palo Blanco 8,385'
23. Malpie Mountain 7,440'
24. 7,060 (name not listed)

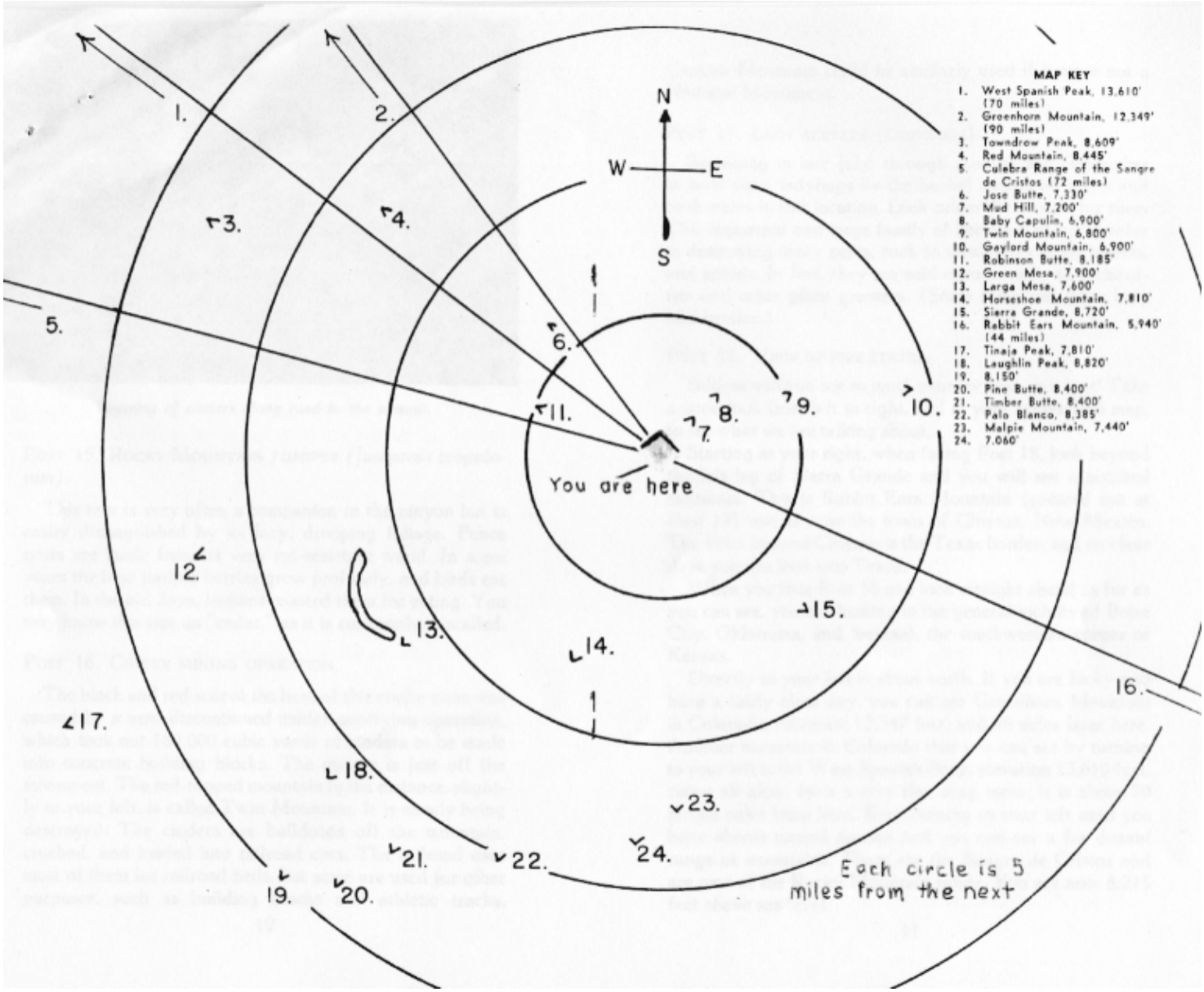

Fig. 5.1 Crater Trail Guide Numbered View Map, Circ. 1967. Property of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, in Cooperation with Southwestern Monuments Association, Globe: Arizona (Harpers Ferry: Harpers Ferry Center Reference Services).

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
HEADQUARTERS, SOUTHWESTERN MONUMENTS
COOLIDGE, ARIZONA

August 12, 1940

Mr. Homer Farr, Custodian
Capulin Mountain National Monument
Capulin, New Mexico

Dear Homer:

We are very much in sympathy with your request for a telescope to be located at the summit of Capulin Mountain. Such an instrument would provide a valuable service to visitors. However, two serious problems confront us; first, the expense of such an instrument is prohibitive and it would be necessary to attempt to obtain the equipment as a loan from some other government agency; second, danger of theft or vandalism at that location would be serious and the instrument could be left on the mountain top only for such days as you could take it down at night and replace it the following morning.

However, we feel that this is such a practical idea that it will be incorporated in interpretative plans for development and a request will be made that the mount for such an instrument be included in any plans drawn up for structures to be erected on the summit of the cone.

Sincerely,

Hugh M. Miller,
Superintendent

Fig. 5.2 Incorporating a Telescope, Hugh Miller, to the Custodian of Capulin Mountain National Monument, 12 August 1940. Typed Letter. National Archives and Records Administration, Denver, RG 79, File Box 57.

In August of 1940, Superintendent Hugh Miller responded to another of Farr's requests for a telescope with the following hopeful letter (Fig. 5.2).

Farr was undoubtedly happy with this response from Miller regarding the possibility of a telescope for Capulin. In order for visitors to enjoy the view, they needed to be able to get to the top of the volcano using the monument road. The road, however, was a continual maintenance problem for the monument. Sliding cinders

and poor drainage left Custodian Farr with little time and funding to work on other projects. Farr believed that a retaining wall was the best answer to the seemingly never ending road maintenance issues (Fig. 5.3 & 5.4).

Figs. 5.3 & 5.4 Homer Farr on the monument road, pre-retaining walls, circ. 1938. Property of Leonard Farr, Private Collection.

In early June of 1938, Farr wrote to Superintendent Pinkley voicing his disappointment that the stabilization or retaining wall was, according to Pinkley, too expensive for the Park Service to undertake.[128] Farr sympathized with Pinkley's difficult job, but felt that the wall was important to the integrity of the road and the safety of visitors. The continual sliding volcanic cinders also made the road and drainage culverts more expensive and difficult to maintain (Fig. 5.5).

[128]Homer Farr, to the Superintendent of Southwestern National Monuments, 8 June 1938. Typed Letter. National Archives and Records Administration, Denver, RG 79, File Box 57.

Fig. 5.5 Capulin Mountain Culvert, circ. 1938. Property of Leonard Farr, Private Collection.

5.2 A General Plan

During the late 1930s, Assistant Superintendent Hugh Miller visited the monument to help Custodian Farr assess the situation and start a remedial resource management plan. After months of visitors and approvals, a general plan was agreed upon. Capulin Mountain National Monument needed several improvements which were outlined in a letter from Superintendent Pinkley to Farr, dated October 18, 1938. A used pickup truck was to be transferred from Bandelier National Monument for use at Capulin. The transfer would take place as soon as Bandelier Monument had a new truck to replace the one being sent to Capulin. Farr was delighted at the prospect of having an NPS vehicle, instead of his own personal car, to use for monument maintenance. Although he managed to make do and invented his own equipment from whatever he had at hand, Farr had faced many setbacks from his lack of funding and the absence of needed equipment. The truck would finally give him a valuable and necessary maintenance tool. Pinkley also approved and summarized several other long awaited projects in his letter to Farr.

The old stone toilets were to be removed, and new standard Park toilets put in, one for women and one for men. Pinkley wished to consult the Branch of Plans and Design before digging any new pits. He also felt that it was not necessary to have any such facilities along the road, they were only needed near the parking area. He contemplated having the men's facility at one end of the parking area, and the women's facility at the other. Farr was told to destroy the picnic area fireplace at the park entrance and to move the picnic table to a better location, a quarter of a mile west. Three new picnic areas would be chosen and new fireplaces built at a later date. According to Pinkley's letter, the big fireplace was not to be disturbed for now. The exact location of this particular fireplace is not mentioned in Pinkley's correspondence.[129] A photo from the late 1930s shows a fireplace and picnic table at Capulin Mountain (Fig. 5.6).

Fig. 5.6 Homer and dog at a Capulin picnic area, circ. 1938.
Property of Leonard Farr, Private Collection.

[129] Frank Pinkley, to the Custodian of Capulin Mountain National Monument, 18 October 1938. Typed Letter. National Archives and Records Administration, Denver, RG 79, File Box 57.

Another management issue which made the list of planned improvements included the removal of dead and infested trees. Assistant Forester W. Ward Yeager prepared the "Annual Forest Insect Narrative Report" for Capulin. Yeager and Farr surveyed the monument and found porcupine and erosion damage to several trees. Porcupines were noted as a problem for the pinyon trees in several reports to the NPS. This cartoon depiction of a porcupine at work was used in a crater rim trail guide for the monument (Fig. 5.7).

Fig. 5.7 Crater Trail Guide Depiction of a Porcupine Eating Pinyon Bark, Property of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, in Cooperation with Southwestern Monuments Association, Globe: Arizona (Harpers Ferry: Harpers Ferry Center Reference Services).

These porcupine damaged trees, as well as approximately forty wind damaged trees, had become a breeding area for insects described in the report as the *ips cofusus*.[130] The *ips cofusus* is commonly called the bark beetle. This beetle is capable

[130] Ward Yeager, *Annual Forest Insect Narrative Report, Capulin National Monument.* (Santa Fe: NPS Region Three, 1938). National Archives and Records Administration, Denver, RG 79, File Box 57.

of causing great damage to forests, but usually infests already dead or dying trees.[131] In Yeager's September 1938 report, he stated that there was not a problematic infestation, but he suggested the removal of these damaged and infested trees which were located generally on the south and east mountain slopes.[132]

Homer Farr immediately took action and removed "some thirty or forty down trees from near the road," as he pointed out in his October report.[133] He did not give specifics as to what was done with the removed trees, but most likely he was resourceful in their removal and use. The density of the tree population on Capulin Mountain is difficult to surmise. Many reports from the community claimed that the volcano was barren of trees, while other reports state that local folks used the mountain to retrieve large amounts of firewood and building materials. Homer Farr and his brother apparently owned a lumber company in the town of Capulin for a short while, however, the provider of their lumber is unknown. Certainly, at the time of Yeager's September 1938 report, there were enough trees to merit such a report and the involvement of a professional forester.

Pinkley requested further changes for the monument. He asked that Farr immediately move a fence line that existed approximately two hundred yards from the monument entrance. The fence, according to discussions with Miller, Richey, and other NPS management, was too close to the monument boundary and should be moved back to "overcome its objectionable proximity to the right of way."[134] In his report to Pinkley regarding his management planning visit with Farr, Assistant Superintendent Hugh Miller also suggested that Farr make regular refuse cleaning visits to the monument rim, parking area, and the picnic areas. This regularly scheduled clean-up would take place as soon as Bandelier transferred the old NPS truck to Capulin.

Pinkley also confirmed the removal of what he referred to as the "Concrete Shelter or Checking Station." He told Farr that he was in agreement that the old building should go, and Farr was to use powder or whatever he needed to efficiently bring the building safely down. Superintendent Pinkley requested that Farr use caution blowing up the building. He did not want the ground or surrounding vegetation to be scarred from the operation. He also suggested that Farr take the remains of the old building and dump them in some off monument arroyo "where they will not be visible from the various roads ... you probably know just the arroyo in which to dump them." This advice to dump the remains of the old building wherever, was probably not considered inappropriate by 1938 preservation standards.

Farr did not get around to removing the building right away. Homer Farr, in his usual resourceful manner, had other plans for the left over materials from the old building. In a letter to Pinkley dated November 18, 1938, Farr asked if he could have permission to use the materials from the "little cabin" for a possible chicken house covering or something else. He had not removed the building yet, and was awaiting

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[131] New Mexico Department of Game and Fish et al, Biota Information System of New Mexico, *Ips Confusus*, March 2002.

[132] Yeager, *Annual Forest Insect Narrative Report.*

[133] Homer Farr, to the Superintendent of Southwestern National Monuments, 29 October 1938. Typed Letter. National Archives and Records Administration, Denver, RG 79, File Box 57.

[134] Pinkley, to the Custodian.

the "new" truck.[135] Farr also explained in his letter that the building had been there for approximately fourteen years. The building had been used as the monument's first check-in station or visitor shelter. In retrospect, the decision to remove one of the monument's first structures was an unfortunate mistake. The building would have certainly been considered historical and worthy of preservation by today's standards and guidelines. An early picture of the visitor shelter shows a man, woman, and young boy standing near the building with a suitcase in the foreground (Fig. 5.8).

Fig. 5.8 Visitor Shelter or Cabin. Photograph courtesy of Dietmar Schneider-Hector, *Jessie Foote Jack, "A Capable and Worthy Woman," The Origins of Capulin Volcano National Monument* (Las Cruces: Dietmar Schneider-Hector, 2002), 16. National Archives photo.

[135] Homer Farr, to the Superintendent of Southwestern National Monuments, 18 November 1938. Typed Letter. National Archives and Records Administration, Denver, RG 79, File Box 57.

Early plans for the building or cabin are visible in a 1925 correspondence from Farr (Fig. 5.9). A later 1934 blueprint shows the actual building location (Fig. 5.10).

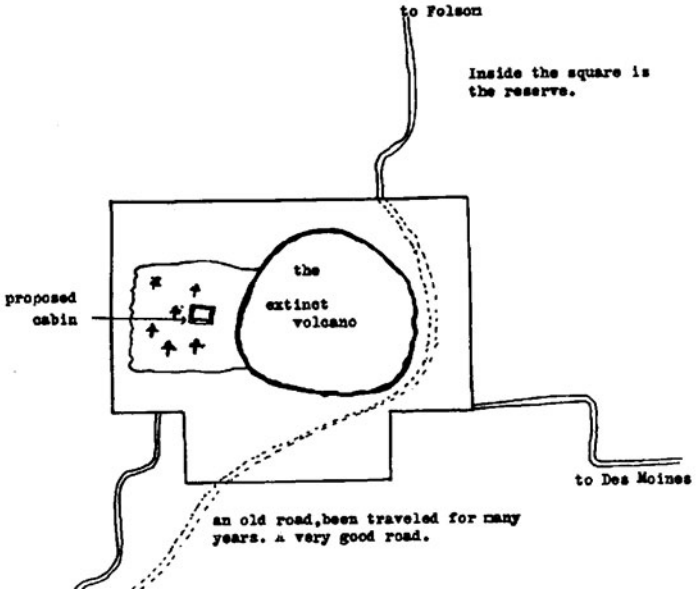


Fig. 5.9 Homer Farr's Cabin Proposal, 1925. Correspondence courtesy of Dietmar Schneider-Hector, *Jessie Foote Jack, "A Capable and Worthy Woman," The Origins of Capulin Volcano National Monument* (Las Cruces: Dietmar Schneider-Hector, 2002), 29.

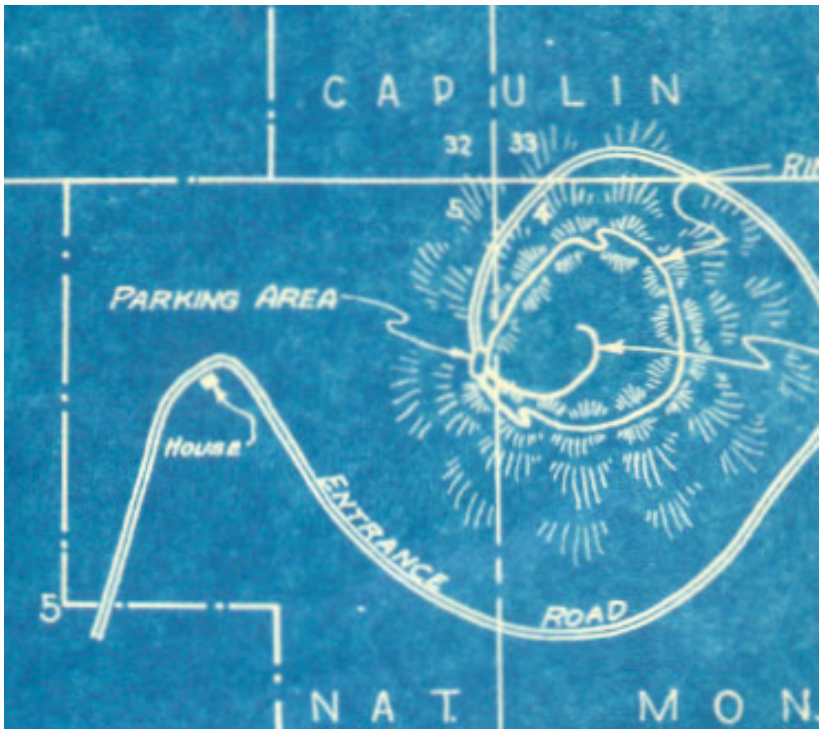


Fig. 5.10 Enlarged Blueprint of Capulin Mountain, Drawn by Stewart, July 1934. Property of Leonard Farr, Private Collection.

Fig. 5.11 Capulin Mountain, Circ. 1931, Photograph by Roger Toll. Property of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, (Charles Town: Historic Photographic Collections).

Fig. 5.12 Capulin Mountain Postcard, Copyrighted by J. R. Willis, Southwest Postcard Company, From Circ. 1931, Photograph by Roger Toll. Courtesy of Dr. Jon Hunner. In

response to Farr's November 18th letter and questions regarding the cabin or shelter, Pinkley replied, "When you destroy the old cabin we would be glad if you might store in your own yard any salvage materials which appear to have value."[136] By March of 1939, Farr reported having removed the cabin by dynamiting it and hauling any leftover valuable materials to his own yard for further disposition. The ground where the cabin was located was now completely cleared.[137] 1938 and early 1939 proved to be very busy times for Capulin, however, important resource identification and management planning had just begun for the monument and for the NPS in general.

5.3 Photographers & Naturalists

The early 1930s, although financially difficult times for the monument, brought photographers and naturalists along with the usual tourists. Many of the earliest photographs of the volcano were taken by Homer Farr, his family members, friends, and of course, the visiting tourists and naturalists. Local people, living near Capulin Mountain, remember taking family pictures with the volcano in the background. Professional photographers came to the monument, and much later during the 1960s, the National Park Service sent NPS Photographer Fred Mang Jr. to the volcano to take what would become the volcano's most publicized photos. The area was both scenic and unusual and attracted both the amateur and professional.

Roger W. Toll took several early photographs of the volcano, which later became the subject matter for a tourist postcard distributed by the Southwest Post Card Company (Figs. 5.11, 5.12, 5.13).

Fig. 5.13 Capulin Mountain, 1931, Photograph by Roger Toll, 1931. Property of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Negative WASO.H-145 (Charles Town: Historic Photographic Collections).

[136] Frank Pinkley, to the Custodian of Capulin Mountain National Monument, 3 December 1938. Typed Letter. National Archives and Records Administration, Denver, RG 79, File Box 57.

[137] Capulin Historical Binder, (Capulin, National Park Service, Intermountain Support Office Archives) 67. Retype of Homer Farr's Letters.

In 1938, the U.S. Department of Agriculture took an interesting aerial photograph of Capulin. *Science News Letter* used the photograph in an issue dated the same year. The original negative for the photo was lost, however, a copy of the negative was recovered in 1984 amongst the monument records. The photographer is unknown (Fig. 5.14).

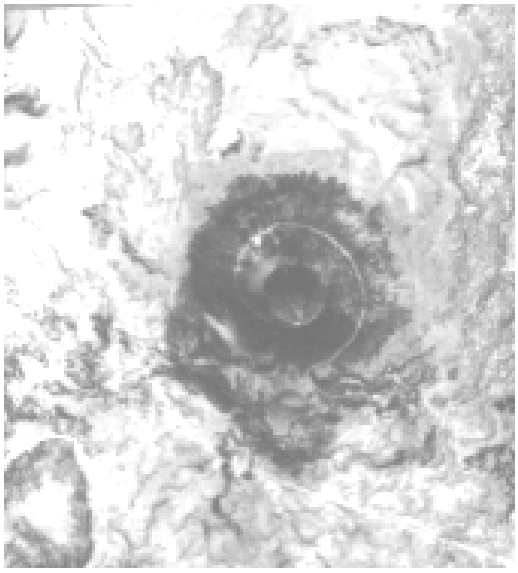


Fig. 5.14 Capulin Mountain, Aerial, USDA, 1938. Property of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Negative 27 (Charles Town: Historic Photographic Collections).

The late 1930s brought new attention to Capulin Monument. Custodian Homer Farr submitted another Works Progress Administration project proposal requesting $73,741 in June of 1939. His purpose was to "improve the road into Capulin Mountain National Monument and to provide labor to the unemployed."[138] His work description stated that he wished to develop the monument through the restoration and conservation of water, soil, forest, and wildlife. The plea for funding, although admirable and in correspondence with the National Park System's conservation efforts, was mistimed. As 1940 loomed, so did a change of leadership for NPS biologists. The biologists were to answer to the newly established Office of National Park Wildlife.[139] This change of authority diminished the conservation agenda of the NPS by taking away what modest power and voice the conservation biologists maintained within the NPS.

Without this voice, which advocated conservation over use as historian Richard Sellars explains, the NPS would resume a utilitarian approach and "two decades would pass before scientific resource management in the national parks would experience even a small resurgence."[140] Although somewhat untimely and short lived, Farr's request stirred interest in the monument from within the NPS, bringing several officials to the volcano. Naturalists, photographers, engineers, and landscape

[138] Homer Farr, to the Works Progress Administration, 5 June 1939. Typed Project Proposal. National Archives and Records Administration, Denver, RG 79, File Box 58.

[139] Richard W. Sellars, *Preserving Nature in the National Parks, A History* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1997), 146.

[140] Sellars, *Preserving Nature*, 147.

architects visited the monument providing much needed expertise. Along with new picnic areas, improvements to the road, and several other approved projects, Farr was given assistance in designing his long advocated Capulin information leaflet. Farr had designed several preliminary models. He, however, did not feel as though he was an expert and could correctly convey the appropriate scientific information that he wanted the leaflet to provide for his visitors. This needed scientific assistance and advice came from Natt Dodge.

5.4 Natt Dodge

Natt N. Dodge worked as a naturalist for the NPS. His easy manner gave him the ability to fit in at any function, and he was immediately well liked by Farr. Dodge spent many hours at the monument surveying wildlife, taking pictures, and helping Homer Farr to get the assistance and attention the monument needed. In 1938, Dodge took the following photograph of Capulin Mountain (Fig. 5.15).

Fig. 5.15 Capulin Mountain from the West, Circ 1938, Photograph by Natt Dodge. Property of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Negative 28 (Charles Town: Historic Photographic Collections).

Dodge took Farr's ideas for an informational leaflet and added his naturalist touch. After some deliberation and research, Dodge wrote to Farr in March of 1940 relaying the good news that 2,000 leaflets were on the way to Capulin Monument. The leaflets were temporary handouts until Farr could approve the final version. Dodge, with the help of Ranger Ed Alberts, chose to leave several illustrations out of the final version because of the difficulty involved in printing them. Dodge included in his letter to Farr that Capulin's leaflet would be the only one that headquarters

allowed to have illustrations, and the only one having two pages. [141] The original informational leaflet probably resembled the one page leaflets printed in the early 1940s. The leaflet shown here was printed after 1945 and uses a photograph taken by Natt Dodge (Fig. 5.16). Homer Farr is the standing figure in the photo.

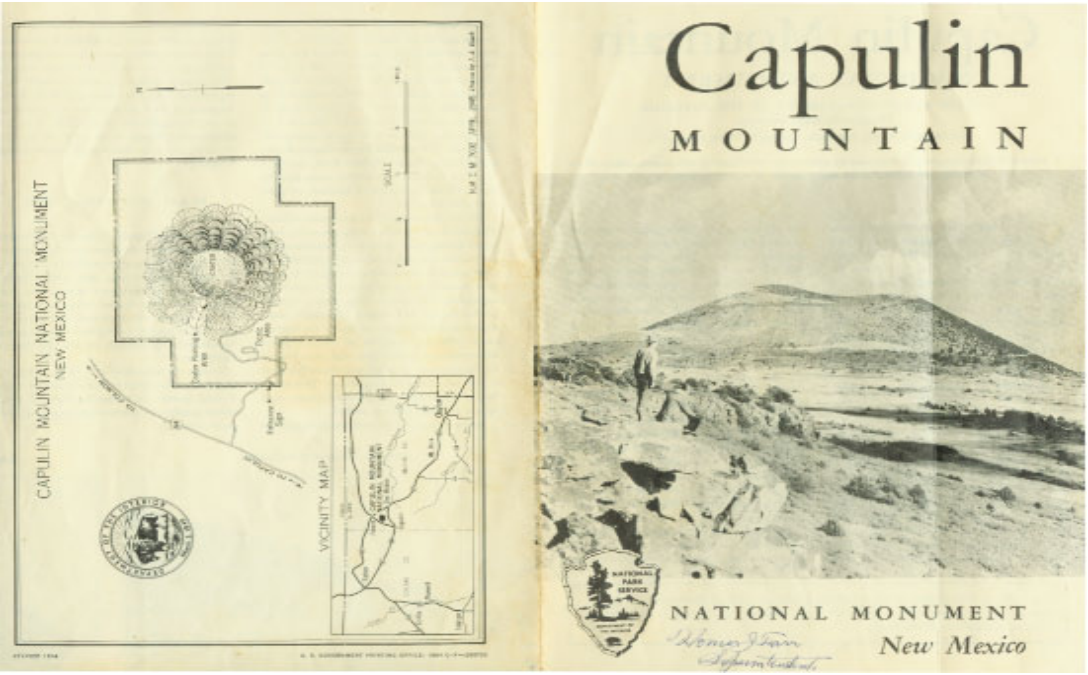


Fig. 5.16 Capulin Mountain Leaflet Signed by Homer Farr, Circ. 1945, Map Drawn by J.J. Black, Photo By N. Dodge. Property of Leonard Farr, Private Collection.

Farr was of course delighted with the leaflets, found no need for improvement, and replied to Dodge with the following gracious and appreciative letter (Fig 5.17).

When Superintendent Frank Pinkley retired his position in the late 1930s, Hugh M. Miller became the new Superintendent for Southwestern National Monuments, based in Coolidge, Arizona. He had served as Pinkley's assistant, spending a great deal of time working with Homer Farr at the monument. Miller's former duties, which required his presence at the monument, gave him a much better view of the natural environment and the monument's needs. Miller had assisted Farr in pinpointing important monument issues and devising a plan of action. He realized that the monument had to carefully identify its important natural resources and that Farr would need help with this endeavor.

Naturalist Natt Dodge was allowed to focus his efforts on Capulin from approximately 1938 on. He assisted Farr in completing the annual wildlife census in 1939. Dodge also helped Farr to compile his ideas regarding a crater rim museum, complete with telescope. Farr submitted this proposal for a museum to Frank Pinkley before Pinkley's retirement. Farr felt as though one of the monument's greatest

[141] Natt Dodge, to the Custodian of Capulin Mountain National Monument, 22 March 1940. Typed Letter. National Archives and Records Administration, Denver, RG 79, File Box 57

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Capulin Mountain. NATIONAL MONUMENT

~~Capulin New Mexico,~~

~~April 4, 1940,~~ 19

National Park Service Headquarters,
Cooldge Arizona,
Attention Mr Natt N Dodge, Naturalist,
for Park Service,

Dear Natt;

You don't know how this Monument and myself Appreciates all the work that you and Ranger Alberts have done in connection with the information Pamphlet for Capulin, and I am sure that the local community as well as the Tourists will appreciate them, We received the 2000 single sheets for the Monument and they are very good and are filling the need for the present, This Monument has long needed some information along this line for there is so much to see here if they (I mean the average Tourist) only knew what to look for and knew what it was when they saw it, I am returning the copy for the informational pamphlet for this Monument just as you sent it to me and will say that I could not add to or detract anything that you have done, it is all O K, and fine and as soon as you convienently get to would appreciate you running them out, I am only too happy to get them just like they are, Thanks a lot

Very Respectfully,
Homer,

RECEIVED APR 6 1940 CAPULIN MONUMENT

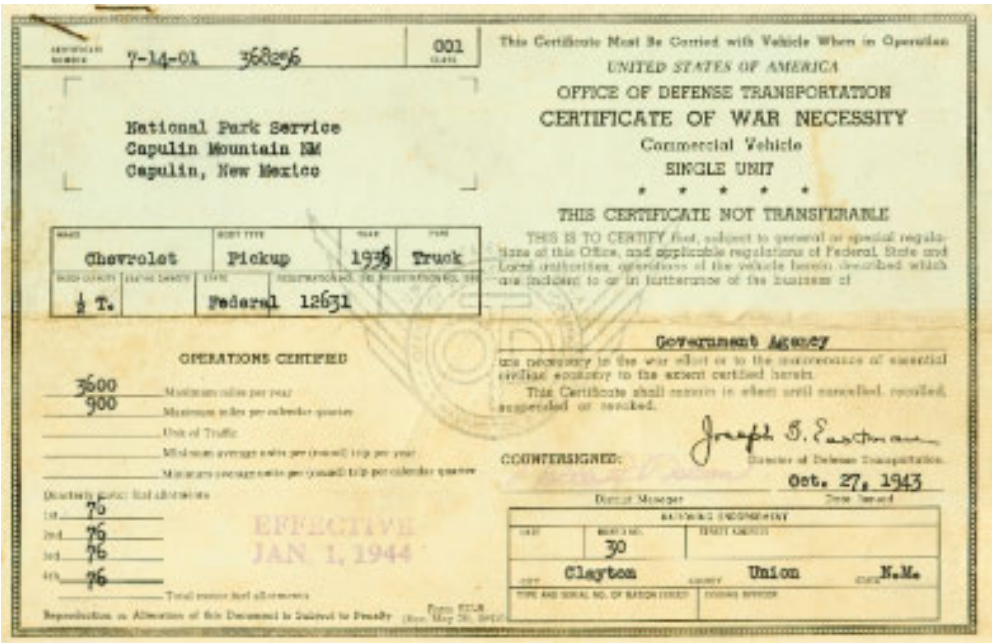
Fig. 5.17 Homer Farr, to Southwestern National Monuments Naturalist, 4 April 1940. Typed Letter. National Archives and Records Administration, Denver, RG 79, File Box 57.

resources, as mentioned earlier, was the view from the top of the crater, and he pressed the NPS to give the monument a visitor center at the rim and a telescope. Miller promised Farr that he would look into the matter. Unfortunately for many, U.S. involvement in World War II seemed inevitable. Lack of funding sources and major cuts within the NPS ended the monument's short rush of resource conservation and management activity. Capulin suffered along with the rest of the NPS, waiting hopefully for the end of the war, and for monetary relief.

Chapter 6 Visitor Facilities Planning

6.1 Visitor Center Development

In December of 1941, the entrance of the United States into World War II sent the National Park Service, as well as the U.S. in general, into a strict mode of rationing. Huge funding cuts left the NPS with approximately twenty five percent of its original personnel. Amenities and funding were limited to critical war time needs. The Civilian Conservation Corps was cut completely. [142] Capulin Mountain National Monument moved from a process of progressive conservation and management to survival mode. Every expenditure required justification (Fig 6.1).


7-14-01 368256 001

This Certificate Must Be Carried with Vehicle When in Operation

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

OFFICE OF DEFENSE TRANSPORTATION

CERTIFICATE OF WAR NECESSITY

Commercial Vehicle

SINGLE UNIT

* * * * *

THIS CERTIFICATE NOT TRANSFERABLE

National Park Service
Capulin Mountain NM
Capulin, New Mexico

Chevrolet	Pickup	1936	Truck
½ T.		Federal 12631	

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that, subject to general or special regulations of this Office, and applicable regulations of Federal, State and Local authorities, operations of the vehicle herein described which are incident to or in furtherance of the business of

Government Agency

are necessary in the war effort or to the maintenance of essential civilian economy to the extent certified herein.

This Certificate shall remain in effect until cancelled, recalled, suspended or revoked.

OPERATIONS CERTIFIED

3600 Maximum miles per year

900 Maximum miles per calendar quarter

Unit of Traffic

Minimum average miles per (round) trip per year

Minimum average miles per (round) trip per calendar quarter

Quarterly gasoline ration allowances

1st 76
2nd 76
3rd 76
4th 76

Total motor fuel allowances

EFFECTIVE JAN. 1, 1944

Reproduction or Alteration of this Document is Subject to Penalty

Joseph B. Eastman
Director of Defense Transportation

COUNTERSIGNED:

District Manager

Oct. 27, 1943
Date Issued

RATIONING ENDORSEMENT

30		
Clayton	Union	N.M.

Fig. 6.1 Certificate of War Necessity for Capulin Mountain's Pickup Truck, Oct. 27, 1943. (U.S. Office of Defense Transportation). Property of Leonard Farr, Private Collection.

Custodian, Homer Farr was determined not to lose sight of his dream, regardless of the state of the nation. He believed that the volcano's interesting history, geologic features, and breathtaking views merited a crater rim museum and several trail side exhibits. For several years he pushed the National Park Service to consider his ideas and eventually, they investigated the possibility of a crater rim exhibit and shelter and a trailside exhibit. Dr. C. P. Russell and Associate Architect Leffler Miller, along with several other Berkeley Headquarters staff members, researched the monument and submitted an official proposal. The proposal outlined ideas for a lookout shelter to be located at the crater rim (Figs 6.2, 6.3, and 6.4).

[142] Richard W. Sellars, *Preserving Nature in the National Parks, A History* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1997), 150-51.

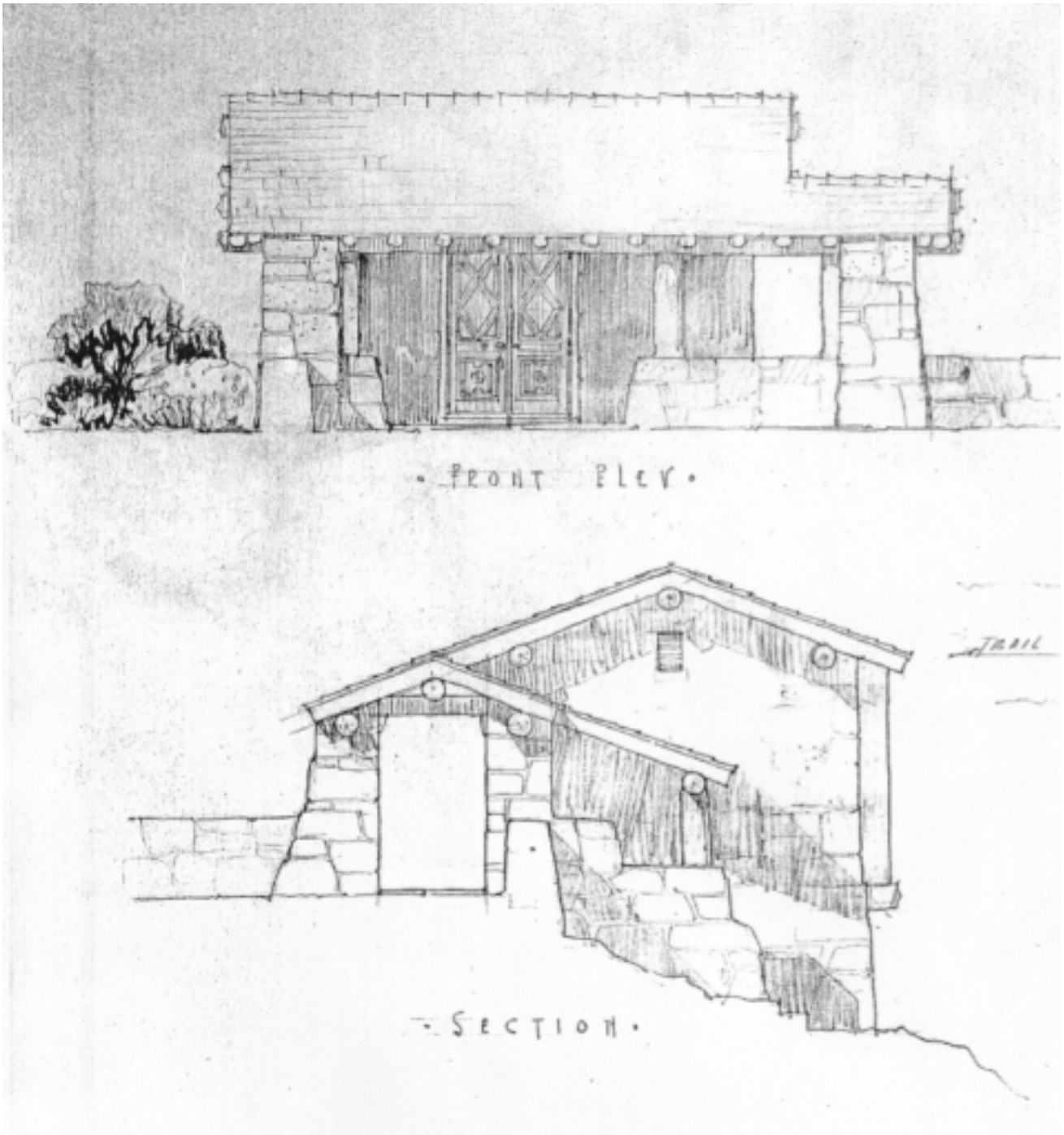
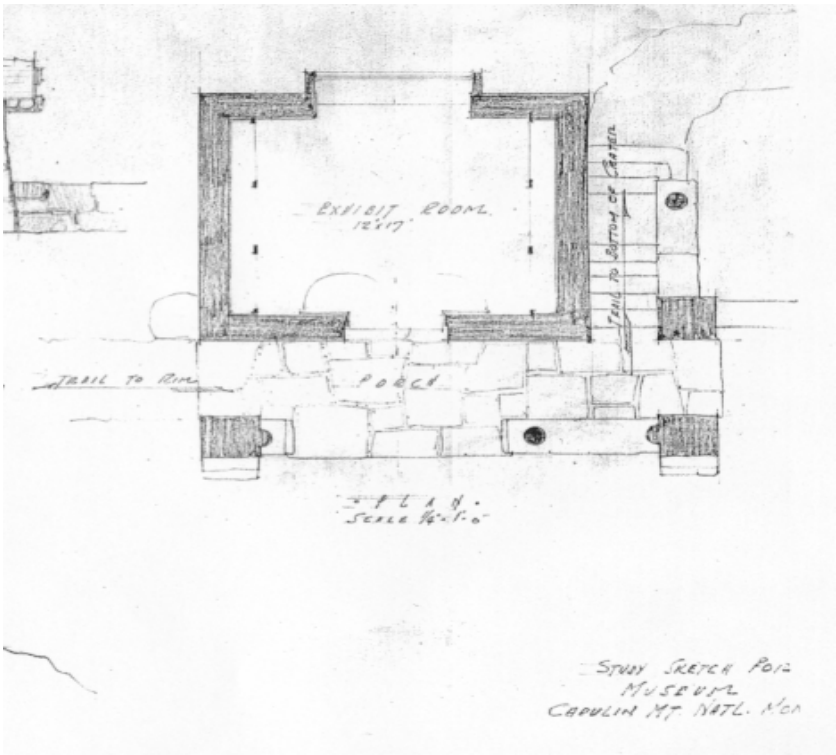
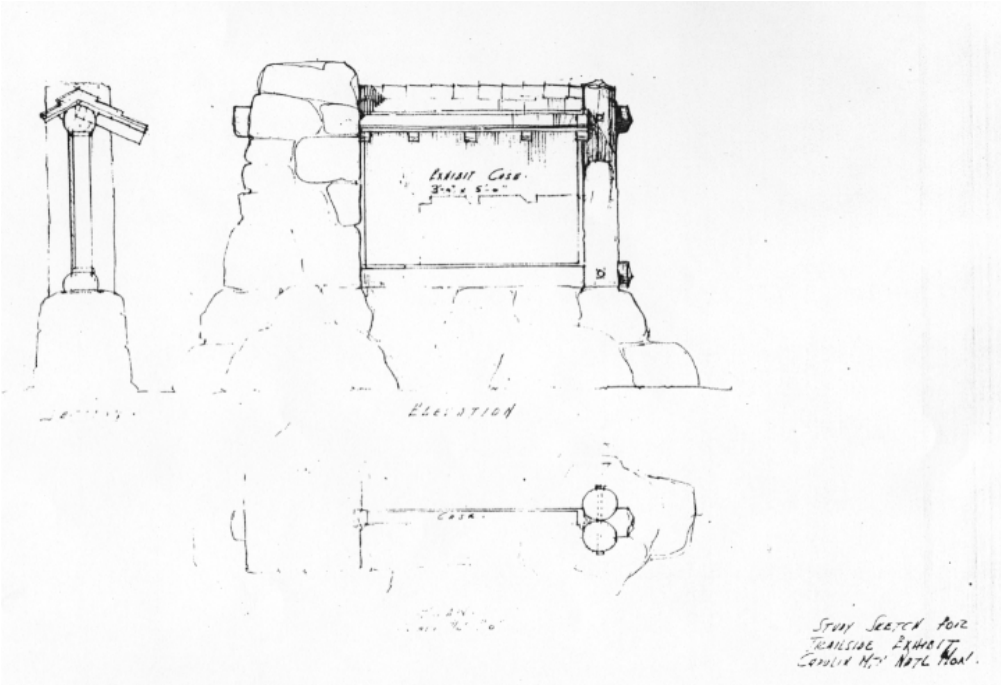


Fig. 6.2 Exhibit Plans for Lookout Shelter, Neal Butterfield, to the Custodian of Capulin Mountain National Monument, 2 August 1940. Typed Letter. National Archives and Records Administration, Denver, RG 79, File Box 58.





Figs. 6.3 and 6.4 Exhibit Plans for Lookout Shelter, Neal Butterfield, to the Custodian of Capulin Mountain National Monument, 2 August 1940. Typed Letter. National Archives and Records Administration, Denver, RG 79, File Box 58.

Figs. 6.5, 6.6, and 6.7 Three New Signs, circ. 1940.
Property of Leonard Farr, Private Collection.

Inside the shelter, exhibits would explain the geologic science of the volcano while providing protection from the elements for visitors. A trailside exhibit explaining the Folsom discovery was also outlined in the proposal. This exhibit would provide a resting place for trail hikers. Both exhibits were to be made of native rock and were to be self operating.[143] Associate Park Planner Neal Butterfield wrote to Farr on August 2, of 1940, relaying the exciting information that the Director had approved the plan. However, the necessary funding was not available to complete the project. Farr would have to wait several more years. The proposal was filed away, but not forgotten. Farr, unfortunately, did not get the exhibits and shelter he desired, but the proposal and official visits brought support for other monument needs.

6.2 Park Amenities

Throughout the late 1930s and early 1940s, Farr received long awaited park supplies and materials from the NPS. Although seemingly minor supplies, many of the items were necessary for park maintenance. One twenty gallon and two twelve gallon garbage cans were shipped to Raton for Farr to pick up in late 1939.[144] The plans for these receptacles had been approved in previous years, but the funding was always absent. Farr had formerly used his own vehicle and receptacles to dispose of visitor trash on the monument. Three much needed road signs and park information signs were finished by a soon to be disbanded federal work camp at Bandelier National Monument. The group was supervised by H.B. Chase, who wrote to Farr requesting that he drive out to Bandelier and pick up the signs which were apparently too large to ship. The new signs were placed at the entrance to the monument, the bottom of the spiraling volcano road, and the side of the volcano road (Figs 6.5, 6.6, and 6.7).

Other signage was designed by the State Tourists Bureau in order to direct travelers from Highway 64 north towards Capulin Mountain.[145] This 1950 photo shows the sign that was delivered sometime in later April of 1940 (Fig 6.8).

Three latrines for Capulin Mountain were completed by another federal work camp located at Chaco Canyon National Monument in August of 1941. Farr was sent the materials to complete three camp tables, three fireplaces, three latrines or toilets, and was also given other minor signage for the monument roads.

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[143] Proposed Lookout and Museum & Folsom Trailside Exhibit, Circ. 1939. Typed Report., (Capulin, National Park Service, Intermountain Support Office Archives, Santa Fe), Record NPS CAVO, G, 10, PC11650.

[144] Frank Pinkley, to the Custodian of Capulin Mountain National Monument, 8 September 1939. Typed Letter. National Archives and Records Administration, Denver, RG 79, File Box 57.

[145] Homer Farr, to the Superintendent of Southwestern National Monuments, 19 March 1940. Typed Letter. National Archives and Records Administration, Denver, RG 79, File Box 57.

Fig. 6.8 Capulin Mountain Sign on Highway 64, circ. 1950.
Property of Leonard Farr, Private Collection.

After years of planning, Capulin Mountain National Monument still did not have an official onsite visitor center. Homer Farr and his family, however, owned a business at the base of the volcano in the town of Capulin. Here visitors could buy auto supplies, gas, water, wood, souvenirs, and pick up volcano information. An early photo shows Farr Motor Company around the 1940s (Fig. 6.9).

Fig. 6.9 Farr Motor Company circ. 1940. Capulin Historical Binder, (Capulin, National Park Service, Intermountain Support Office Archives).

Another photo from the early 1950s shows the Farr business with a newly added awning and signage advertising free volcano information (Fig. 6.10).

Fig. 6.10 Farr Family Business, circ. 1950.
Property of Leonard Farr, Private Collection.

The Farr family business became Capulin Monument's unofficial visitor center, offering information about the volcano, free camping, a clean and modern bathroom facility, supplies, and surprisingly, an occasional donkey ride. (Fig. 6.11).

Fig. 6.11 Donkey near the Farr Family Business, Homer Farr is standing near the head of the donkey. circ. 1948. Property of Leonard Farr, Private Collection.

Farr undoubtedly made a small profit from the sale of food and water and other tourist services, but his business also promoted the monument at his personal expense. As a part-time custodian for the NPS, Homer Farr exceeded his job expectations by spending hours with visitors, explaining the geology of the volcano and offering his expertise. In response to a 2002 historical questionnaire regarding Capulin, Homer Farr's daughter-in-law, Mary Elizabeth Brown Farr, and his eldest grandson, Leonard Jay Farr, described the difficult financial problems of the region. Both explained that the town of Capulin did not offer vast opportunities, in fact, the region was very difficult to survive in, and the family business barely paid its own bills at times.

Regardless of hard times, monument visitors were always treated with the utmost respect, and Homer Farr was dedicated to the Park Service and Capulin Mountain. Farr was also known for his sense of humor and ability to squeeze a smile out of the most dismal tourist. Visitors often enjoyed themselves so much that they would write letters of appreciation to the NPS and to Homer Farr. The beginning of World War II and United States involvement in the war changed the demographic makeup of visitors to the monument. Rationing and national hardship prevented the usual tourists from making their regular visits to the monument. In his final reports, before war rationing ended regular NPS reporting during the mid-1940s, Farr noted the drop off in visitation. These were difficult times for the monument, the NPS, and the United States. Limited funding and careful rationing of resources left the NPS and Capulin Monument in a short period of stagnated growth. However, by the end of the 1940s, a new plan for the NPS was on the horizon, a plan that would eventually lead to an NPS sponsored visitor center for Capulin Monument.

6.3 Mission 66

The end of World War II lead to a U.S. postwar economy that historians Richard Etulain and Michael Malone describe as "the greatest sustained prosperity that any nation has ever seen."[146] Tremendous economic growth meant that people had the money and time to travel. As a result, the parks system experienced a huge resurgence in visitation. Nationwide, tourists enjoyed their new economic freedom and leisure time by hitting the road and taking their families on vacations. The already stressed and deteriorating NPS infrastructures were straining under the new visitation population pressures. Like Capulin, many parks and monuments spent the 1940s merely surviving. No new management plans or development plans had been made for the volcano since 1940.[147] The great influx of visitors undoubtedly kept part time custodian Homer Farr very busy. Capulin Mountain's visitation more than doubled in a five year period, jumping from 14,098 visitors in 1945, to 29,100 visitors in 1950.[148] The trend was repeated throughout the NPS.

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[146] Michael Malone and Richard Etulain, *The American West, A Twentieth Century History* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1990), 220.

[147] Master Plan Development Outline, Capulin Mountain National Monument, New Mexico, 1952. Property of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior (Harpers Ferry: Harpers Ferry Center Reference Services) 2.

[148] Museum Prospectus, Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Area and Service History File D6215, 6.

In light of the new and returning visitors, the NPS no longer needed to concentrate on the development of tourism. Instead of the previous tourist campaign, the NPS needed to focus its resources on park infrastructure and visitor amenity development, which Capulin Mountain National Monument, along with many other parks and monuments, needed desperately. In *Preserving Nature in the National Parks*, historian Richard West Sellars explains that the Park Service scrambled to accommodate the incredible influx of visitors. Conrad Wirth, a planner and landscape architect for the NPS, "argued that development would save the parks. By the 1950s, the public was (in a phrase that Wirth claimed had been coined by the Service) 'loving the parks to death.' Development would control where the public went and prevent misuse....This idea became a fundamental principle of Wirth's Mission 66 program..."[149]

Conrad Wirth, newly appointed as NPS director in 1951, hoped that he could implement a plan which would enable the parks to build new infrastructure, visitor centers, and other public amenities. Wirth, however, approached his monetary problems in a different manner from his predecessors. Hoping to develop a large long term plan that would appeal to everyone, he asked congress "for an entire decade of funding," and surprisingly, he received it.[150] The billion dollar endeavor, to be implemented over a ten year period starting in 1956 and ending in 1966, was called Mission 66. Capulin Mountain National Monument, along with the rest of the NPS, benefited greatly from the new program which brought a different progressive architectural style to the NPS.

Unfortunately for Homer Farr, Capulin Mountain's longtime custodian, he was approaching retirement and would not personally usher in the coming expansion of funding, staffing, or new buildings. Capulin would get the visitor center that Farr had dreamed of for many years, but the original plans for a rustic building on the crater rim would not be used. Instead, a new modernist style of functionality would take its place. The modernist movement, which was sweeping the United States, appealed to Conrad Wirth on a utilitarian level, and he did not wish to use the old fashioned rustic style. He felt that park buildings should be simple service buildings that did not take away from the surrounding environment.[151] The former style of the NPS was a regional rustic style that lead to interesting buildings; however, Wirth had a budget to maintain, and he wanted efficient, progressive structures. Cecil Doty was one of the architects hired to carry out this new style.

6.4 Cecil Doty

Cecil John Doty served the NPS as an architect and engineer throughout most of his career (Fig. 6.12).

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[149] Richard W. Sellars, *Preserving Nature in the National Parks, A History* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1997), 181.

[150] Sara, Allaback, *Mission 66 Visitor Centers, The History of a Building Type* (Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2000) 3.

[151] Allaback, *Mission* 66, 11.

Fig. 6.12 Cecil John Doty, Circ. 1939, (National Park Service, Intermountain Support Office Archives, Santa Fe).

Raised on a farm in May, Oklahoma, Doty decided to attend college at Oklahoma A&M, graduating in 1928 with a degree in architectural engineering.[152] According to historian Sarah Allaback, Doty created or assisted in creating many of the park buildings and visitor centers in use today throughout the NPS. His extensive work, however, never brought him fame and fortune, instead, he played a distinctive role working behind the scenes. Doty received praise for several of his designs which incorporated natural adobe, wood, and other regional materials into the architecture. His building designs, however, gradually evolved along with the NPS desire to modernize its facilities. The long practiced era of regionally or culturally rustic building design progressively gave way to the non-intrusive utilitarian architecture of the early 1950s and 1960s.

These new architectural styles were not well liked by many who felt that the park buildings should be representative of local styles, instead of merely functionally operational facilities. Doty, however, managed the difficult assignment of placing the new modern Mission 66 buildings into the park environments without disrupting the natural beauty of the park. Cecil Doty completed plans for a visitor center, two residences, and a maintenance garage for Capulin Mountain in the late 1950s and early 1960s. The Mission 66 buildings would not be completed for several years, awaiting allocated funding from the NPS. During this waiting period, long-time custodian Homer Farr retired, leaving the volcano he had watched over and tended to for thirty-two years.

[152] Allaback, *Mission* 66, 215.

Chapter 7 Change & Growth

7.1 Homer Farr Retires

Born in Kansas in October of 1885, Homer Farr had come a long way from his family home to live at the base of Capulin Mountain. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, Farr realized that it might be time to retire from his work for the NPS. In a letter from General Superintendent John M. Davis, Farr was informed that he would reach mandatory retirement age in October of 1955.[153] Farr had served the monument well, while making friends and business acquaintances across the nation (Fig. 7.1).

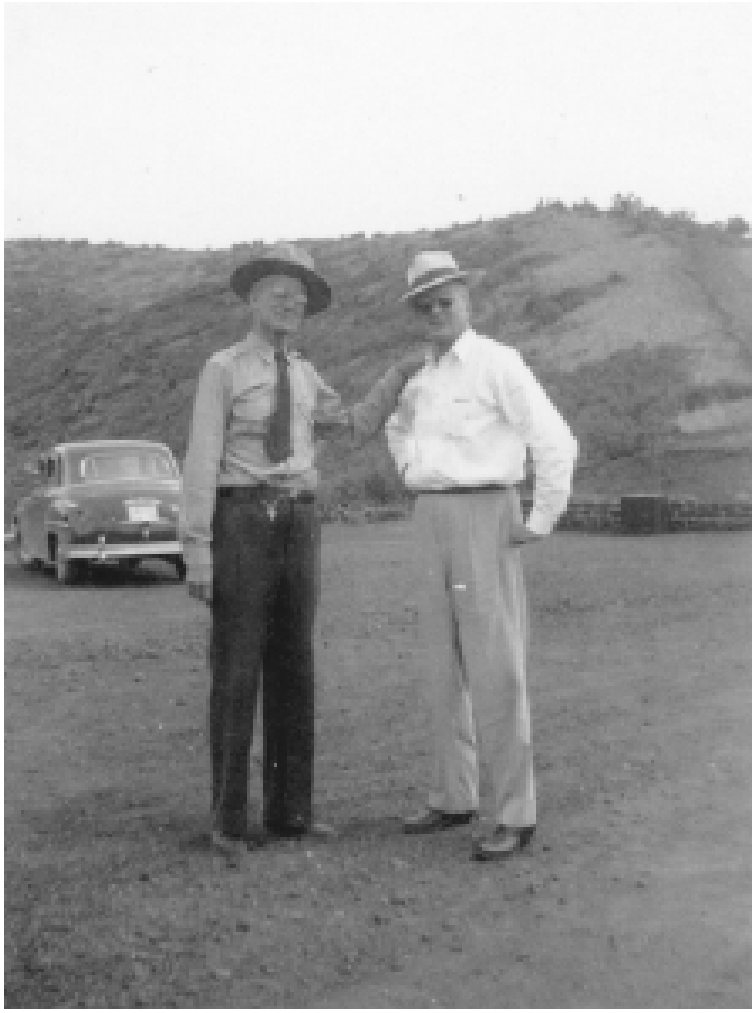

Fig. 7.1 Homer Farr, (left), with visitor J.N. McNeany. The photo was sent to Farr from McNeany's home in Enid, Oklahoma. circ. 1950. Property of Leonard Farr, Private Collection.

[153] John Davis, to the Custodian of Capulin Mountain National Monument, 25 October 1954. Typed Letter. Property of Leonard Farr, Private Collection.

Farr retired in 1955 at seventy years of age. He was given a certificate of honor, signed by Conrad Wirth, Director of the National Park Service. The certificate was awarded for commendable service (Fig. 7.2).

United States Department of the Interior

Honor Award

HOMER J. FARR

is hereby awarded this certificate of honor for

Commendable Service

Given under my hand and seal this thirty-first day of August 1955

By order of the Secretary of the Interior

Conrad L. Wirth

Director, National Park Service

Fig. 7.2 Department of Interior Certificate of Honor, awarded to Homer Farr, August 31, 1955, Property of Leonard Farr, Private Collection.

Farr's retirement unfortunately meant that he did not get to see the vast changes that Wirth's Mission 66 program would finally bring to the volcano. Capulin Mountain National Monument was about to be completely overhauled, receiving new facilities, paved roads, and a full time staff. Farr eventually moved to Beaumont, Texas to be near his children. He kept in contact with the monument through the mail and by phone and was occasionally asked to provide historical information and his opinion on past events by historians and NPS employees. His retirement marked the end of an era, and the opening of a new period of development for the monument.

7.2 Crater Rim Exhibit Shelter

In his 1952 report on Capulin, Naturalist L.P. Amberger pointed out the inadequacy of a "one man monument" and the need for better facilities. The report Amberger compiled recommended a combined headquarters building, small museum,

and an entrance station, to be located at the west entrance to the monument.[154] His report agreed with Farr and with Hugh Miller's later recommendations, that visitors should have access to exhibits and information covering Capulin Mountain, as well as other southwestern and NPS subjects. In 1954, the year prior to Farr's retirement, Assistant Regional Director Hugh Miller visited the monument and made his own observations in an inspection letter to the Regional Director. Miller eventually became the Regional Director, making his inspection even more important for later monument funding. He reported that the log entrance sign had deteriorated and would need to be replaced immediately. Highway signs leading to the monument were small and inadequate and also needed replacing as soon as possible.

The picnic area contained two well used picnic tables, two fireplaces, one poorly functioning pit toilet, and one garbage container. Miller refuted an observation made in the November 10, 1954 issue of *National Parks Magazine*, which indicated that the picnic area was littered. He pointed out several other inadequacies, however, and requested new garbage containers and an additional picnic table. The one pit toilet at the picnic area was also in disrepair and needed a door at the very least.

Miller examined the crater road and parking area and urged the NPS to construct a wayside exhibit and shelter. He found the pit toilet at the crater rim intolerable. He pointedly remarked that "nothing more astonishing in the way of public sanitation facilities can be found anywhere in the National Park Service than the roofless, doorless, stone-masonry structure which has served at Capulin for many years."[155] This statement laughably mirrored what Farr had been telling the NPS for countless years. In closing, Hugh Miller stated that Homer Farr "plans to retire at the close of August 1955. This will present a close to many years of faithful, loyal, and inadequately remunerated service and a remarkably successful effort to make the area available for the enjoyment of the public with only the meagerest funds."[156] Miller's observations and requests added to the numerous pleas for funding, infrastructure, staffing, and visitor amenities at the volcano, while pointing out how much Farr had accomplished with very little support.

After the demolition of the original visitor shelter or cabin, the only visitor facilities at the monument were picnic tables, pit latrines, and fireplaces. The only visitor information services were a self guiding tour at the crater rim and, of course, Homer Farr. For many years, Farr, working as a part time custodian, greeted visitors at his store, or at the rim of the volcano during the busy summer months, handing them informational pamphlets about the volcano. Influenced greatly by Hugh Miller's inspection in 1954, and his insistence on funding from the NPS, the plans for

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[154] L.P. Amberger, "Master Plan Development Outline, Capulin Mountain National Monument, New Mexico, 1952, Interpretation" (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records).

[155] Hugh Miller, Memorandum to the Regional Director, 10 November 1954. Typed Letter, Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Official Visits 1954-1966, File A5427.

[156] Memorandum, 1954, File A5427.

an exhibit or interpretive shelter at the crater rim parking area finally received funding.[157]

Homer Farr's long awaited crater rim shelter and exhibit received approval and backing in the early part of 1955. Construction on the exhibit shelter began in June of 1955, and was completed in August of that same year (Figs. 7.3, 7.4, and 7.5).[158]

Fig. 7.3 Exhibit Shelter at the Volcano Rim, Circ. 1955. Photographer unknown. Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports, File D2621.

[157] S.T. Carlson, to the Regional Chief of Operations, 31 August 1955. Typed Letter, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Official Visits 1954-1966), File A5427.

[158] Exhibit Shelter and three Pit Toilets Completion Report, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports), File D2621.

Figs. 7.4 Exhibit Shelter Stairs at the Volcano Rim, Circ. 1955. Photographer unknown. Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports, File D2621.

Figs. 7.5 Exhibit Shelter and Stairs looking towards the rim parking, Circ. 1955. Photographer unknown. Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports, File D2621.

A small interpretive exhibit showing the "Story of Capulin Mountain" was installed in the shelter (Fig. 7.6).

Fig. 7.6 Interpretive Sign, The Story of Capulin Mountain, 1956, Photographer Unknown. Property of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Negative WASO.A-145 Charles Town: Historic Photographic Collections.

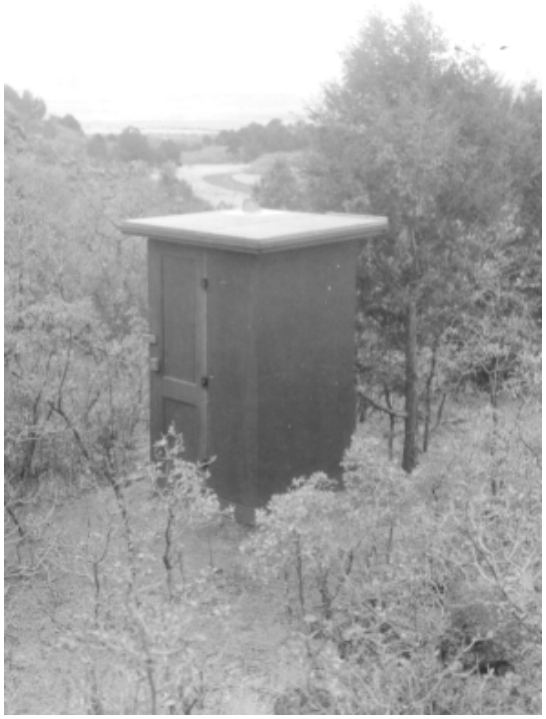
Figs. 7.7 Entrance Sign, Circ. 1955. Photographer unknown. Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports, File D2621.

Figs. 7.8 State Highway Sign, Circ. 1955. Photographer unknown. Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports, File D2621.

The long awaited shelter and crater rim exhibit provided an overview of volcanism as well as a short summary of local wildlife. The Folsom discovery and a few photographs of arrowheads also shared a corner of the bulletin board style exhibit. The shelter provided protection and information to the crater rim visitor. Besides the

immediate installation of the shelter, Hugh Miller's somewhat scathing inspection brought about other immediate changes for the monument. The volcano received a new entrance sign for the monument boundary, a new directional sign on State Highway 235, and three new pit toilets for the crater rim and picnic area (Figs. 7.7, 7.8, 7.9, and 7.10).

Figs. 7.9 One of Two New Crater Rim Pit Toilets, Circ. 1955. Photographer unknown. Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports, File D2621.



Figs. 7.10 Picnic Area Pit Toilet, Circ. 1955. Photographer unknown. Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports, File D2621.

7.3 New Infrastructure & Management

The later 1950s passed bringing new management to the volcano and several new custodians. Limited funding made the position of Custodian difficult to fill in the booming 1950s. NPS pay scales were unfortunately still catching up from the slow and stagnant period of the late 1940s. Lack of on-site living space for the new staff also became a deterrent. Glenn Wilson accepted the position of Custodian serving the monument from 1955 to 1957. Wilson was followed by Rudy Lukes, who served as Custodian from 1957 to 1958. The first Superintendent of Capulin Mountain National Monument was Merritt S. Johnston, who accepted the position in 1958 and served until 1961.

Johnston's staff consisted of one part-time caretaker, Mr. Wallace, and a seasonal ranger, Ranger Hamilton, who worked mainly in the summer and early fall.

Johnston witnessed the drilling of a water well off of the northeast corner of the monument, which struck water at 334 feet and was drilled to 359 feet.[159] During Johnston's service, the monument also received bids for electricity, phone lines, and other needed modernizations. A small trailer served as the temporary entrance station to the monument. In September of 1959, Johnston, with the help of Naturalist Natt Dodge, prepared a Museum Prospectus for Capulin Mountain National Monument. The prospectus presented an outline of the Monument's needs and summarized justifications for museum development.[160]

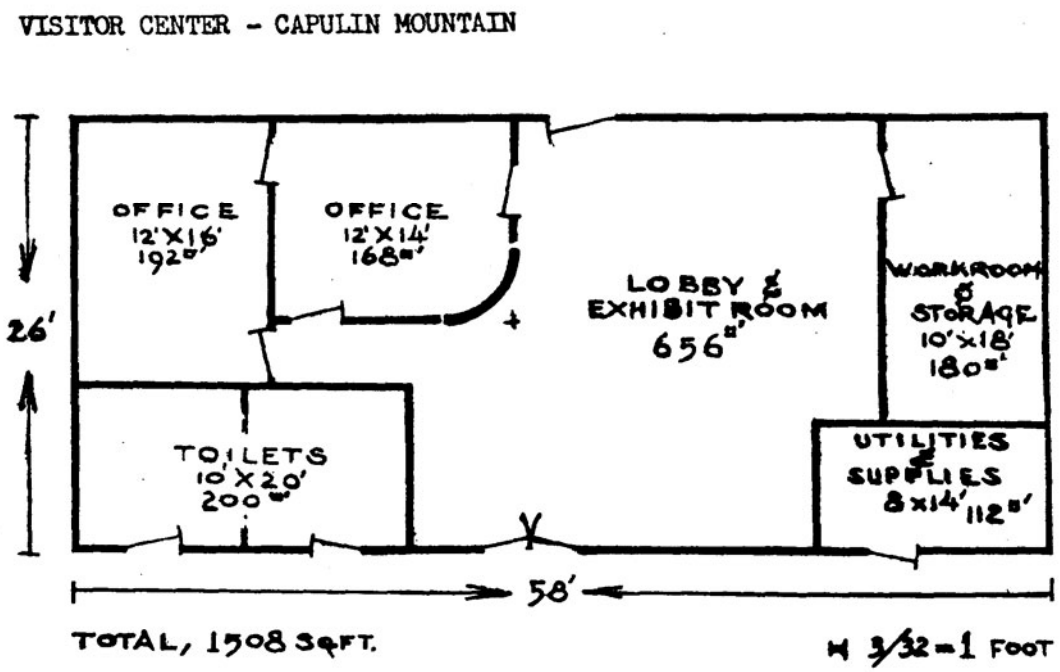


Fig. 7.11 Visitor Center Plan. Merritt Johnston and Natt Dodge, "Museum Prospectus, Capulin Mountain National Monument, 1959, Interpretation" (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records) File D6215.

In this prospectus, Johnston and Dodge proposed that the monument needed four full time staff members including a superintendent, a clerk, a naturalist, and a maintenance man. Along with these full time employees, two seasonal park rangers were recommended to insure that a uniformed person was on duty seven days a week. Dodge and Johnston urged the NPS, as did their predecessors, to build a permanent visitor center, including a superintendent's office, a naturalist's office, storage, bathroom facilities, a utility room, and of course, a large exhibit area and lobby. Their

[159] Merrit Johnston, to the Superintendent of Capulin Mountain National Monument, 27 April 1958. Typed Letter, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Official Visits 1954-1966), File A5427.

[160] Merritt Johnston and Natt Dodge, "Museum Prospectus, Capulin Mountain National Monument, 1959, Interpretation" (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records) File D6215.

estimated budget for this building totaled $40,000, 6,000 of which was proposed for planning expenses.[161] The prospectus included the following plan or drawing (Fig. 7.11).

In August of 1960, Coordinating Project Supervisor Donald S. Marley reported on his visit to Capulin Monument and his meeting with Merritt Johnston, Inspector Pingry, and Project Supervisor Novak, who was busy "laying out the retaining wall construction to be accomplished as soon as the project can be advertised and a contract awarded."[162] The four located suitable construction materials for the retaining wall, just off of Capulin property, however still on state property. Marley explained in his report that the regional office would pursue permission to use rocks and other building materials from the site. Johnston finished his term at Capulin Mountain as construction on the retaining wall began. The next big infrastructure changes for Capulin, many of which were carried over from previous years of careful planning, came during David G. Stimson's management. Stimson took the position of monument Superintendent in 1961, and stayed with the monument for many years, leaving in 1969. During his term, he managed and ushered in the final planning for Mission 66, the largest infrastructure change Capulin Mountain National Monument had ever undertaken.

7.4 Initial Mission 66 Construction

Planning for the new crater ascent road retaining wall, using Mission 66 funding, started in November of 1960. Final construction on the wall began in March of 1961.[163] Plans for the 1,000 cubic yards of retaining wall were prepared by E. Pingry, C. Novak, and W. L. Hall. Charles Denton and Son, from the nearby town of Raton, held the contract for the stone masonry project. Denton and Son accomplished the actual work on the wall, while Pingry and Hall supervised. The finished wall, completed in June of 1961, consisted of 1,065 linear feet of stone and totaled $55,000. Planning and surveying costs totaled $13,337, bringing the total project cost to $68,337.[164] Completion reports from this period of construction contain several historical photographs showing the monument road before construction, and after the completion of the retaining wall (Figs. 7.12 through 7.16).

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[161] Johnston, "Museum Prospectus, 1959.

[162] Donald Marley, to the Supervisory Engineer, 31 August 1960. Typed Letter, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Official Visits 1954-1966), File A5427.

[163] Natt Dodge, to the Regional Chief, Division of Interpretation, 24 March 1961. Typed Letter, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Official Visits 1954-1966), File A5427.

[164] Crater Ascent Road and Lunchground Road, October 6, 1961, Completion Report, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports), File D2621.

Fig. 7.12 Crater Ascent Road Before Retaining Wall Construction, Circ. 1960, Photographer unknown, Completion Report, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports), File D2621.

Fig. 7.13 Crater Ascent Road Construction, Circ. 1961, Photographer unknown, Completion Report, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports), File D2621.

Fig. 7.14 Crater Ascent Road Construction, Circ. 1961, Photographer unknown, Completion Report, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports), File D2621.

Fig. 7.15 Crater Ascent Road After Retaining Wall Construction, Circ. 1961, Photographer unknown, Completion Report, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports), File D2621.

Fig. 7.16 Completed Retaining Wall, Circ. 1961, Photographer unknown, Completion Report, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports), File D2621.

Immediately, in July of 1961, work began on four drainage and wash area walls, 1380 more feet of crater road retaining wall, crater rim parking enlargement along with a parking area retaining wall, and a deer ladder. The terraced walls making up the deer ladder were placed along an already existing deer path which crossed the crater rim road near a wash. The project contract was awarded to Elmer Starr, while C. Novak and W. L. Hall oversaw the project, as they had done with the previous retaining wall.[165] The total cost of these new projects amounted to $96,131. The project was completed and approved in October of 1961. The following photographs, from a Capulin Mountain Completion Report, show the work in progress and the completed projects (Figs. 7.17 through 7.24).

[165] Crater Ascent Road and Lunchground, January 4, 1962, Completion Report, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports), File D2621.

Figs. 7.17 and 7.18 Crater Rim Area Before Retaining Wall, Circ. 1961, Photographer unknown, Completion Report, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports), File D2621.

Fig. 7.19 Crater Rim Excavation for Retaining Wall, Circ. 1961, Photographer unknown, Completion Report, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports), File D2621.

Fig. 7.20 Completed Crater Rim Retaining Wall, Circ. 1961, Photographer unknown, Completion Report, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports), File D2621.

Fig. 7.21 Excavation for Additional Crater Road Retaining Wall, Circ. 1961, Photographer unknown, Completion Report, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports), File D2621.

Fig. 7.22 Completed Retaining Wall, Circ. 1961, Photographer unknown, Completion Report, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports), File D2621.

Figs. 7.23 and 7.24 Pre Deer Ladder and Completed Deer Ladder and Wall, Circ. 1961, Photographer unknown, Completion Report, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports), File D2621.

Over the next several years, Superintendent David G. Stimson had an extremely busy management job. Many more projects and changes received funding during his tenure. Projects included the reconstruction of the crater rim trails, telephone service, a new entrance road, a sewage and water system, new signage, a visitor center parking area, and a residence area which were all implemented during Stimson's term. In a letter to the NPS Chief Engineer dated August 1962, Coordinating Project Supervisor Donald Marley explained that everything for the layout of the new visitor center and residence area was complete. The only minor problem remaining was the removal of a shack or small building that had been sitting in the planned parking area.[166] Trail maintenance started the new group of projects. During trail reconstruction, trails were covered with two inches of crushed cinders, then a coat of asphalt, and topped off with a coat of finely crushed cinders (Fig. 7.25 through 7.30).

Fig. 7.25 Original Trail before Resurfacing, Circ. 1962, Photographer unknown, Completion Report, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports), File D2621.

[166] Donald Marley, to the Regional Chief Engineer, 1 August 1962. Typed Letter, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Official Visits 1954-1966), File A5427.

Figs. 7.26 and 7.27 Trail Reconstruction and Resurfacing, Circ. 1962, Photographer unknown, Completion Report, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports), File D2621.

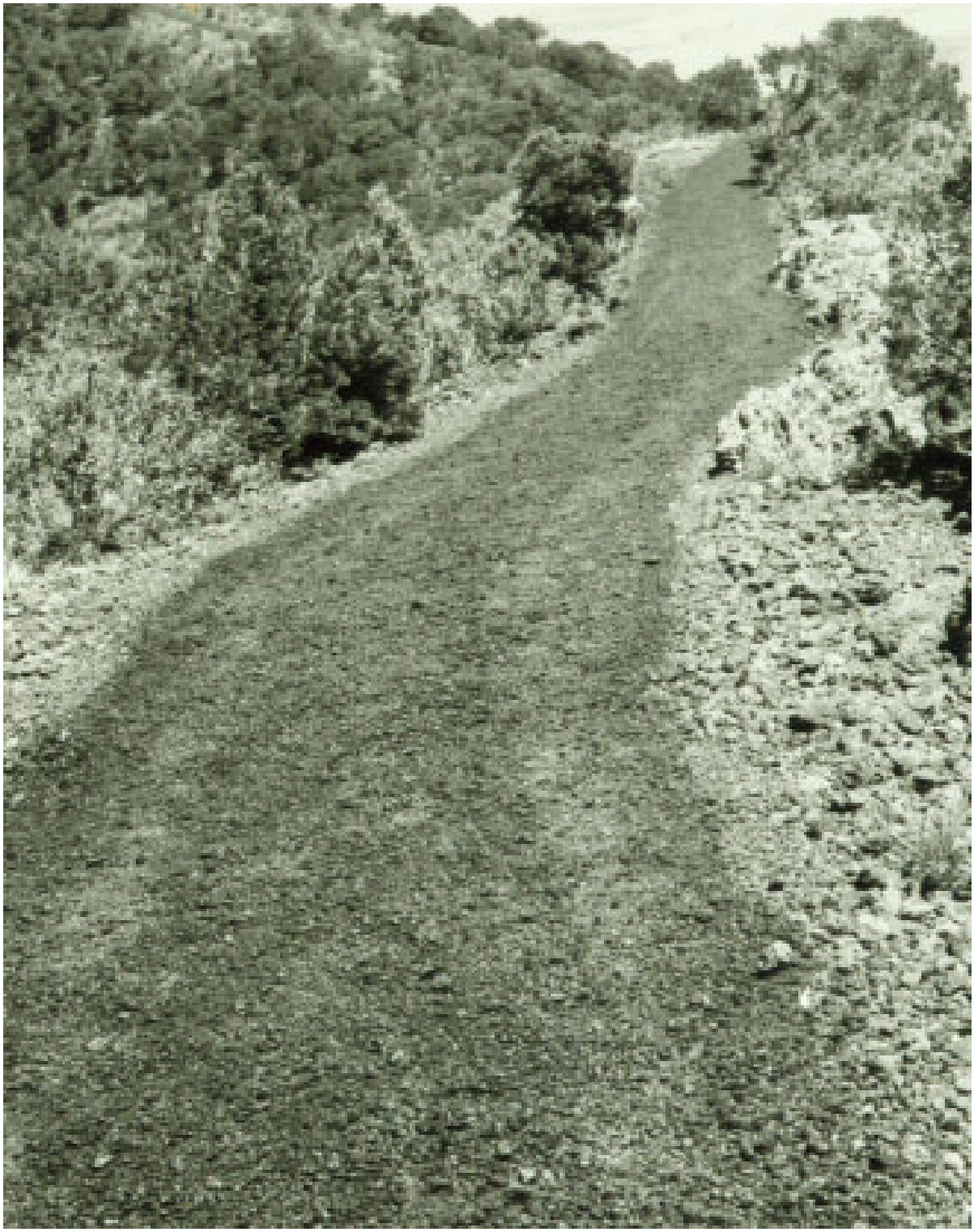
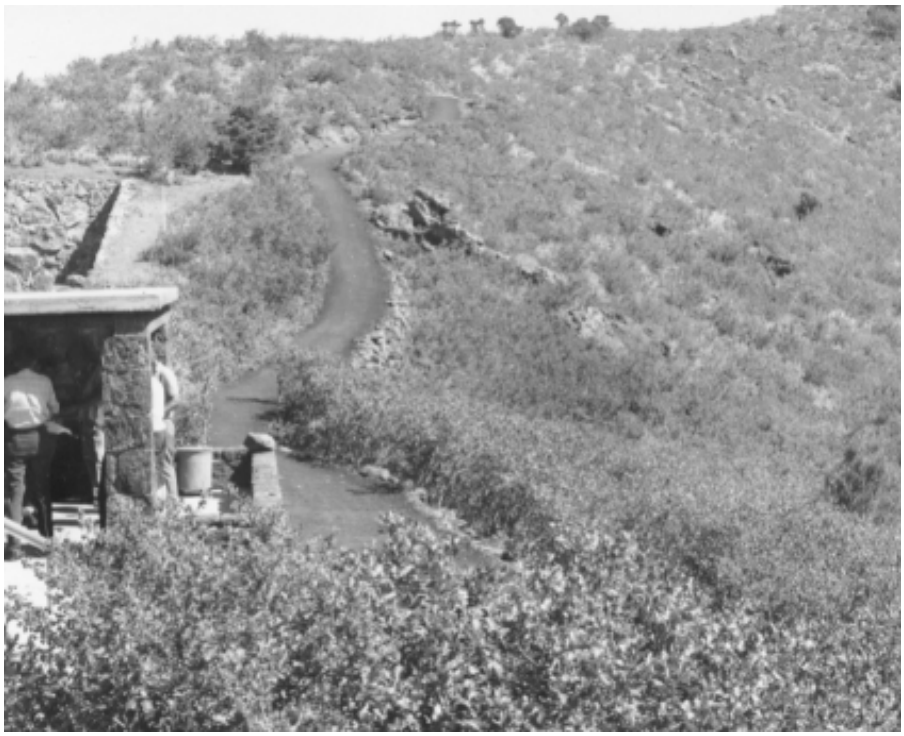


Fig. 7.28 Completed Trail, Circ. 1962, Photographer unknown, Completion Report, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports), File D2621.



Figs. 7.29 and 7.30 Original (top) and Relocated Shelter Trail, Circ. 1962, Photographer unknown, Completion Report, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports), File D2621.

The next project Stimson oversaw took place in the summer of 1963. Three and one half miles of telephone lines were strung connecting Capulin Mountain National Monument to Capulin Village (Figs. 7.31 and 7.32). The project was completed on June 28, 1963.

Fig. 7.31 Putting up Poles and Stringing Wire, Circ. 1963, Photographer unknown, Completion Report, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports), File D2621.

Fig. 7.32 Pole with Wooden Cattle Guard, Circ. 1963, Photographer unknown, Completion Report, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports), File D2621.

By June of 1963, the visitor center parking area and residence road were also completed (Fig. 7.33.)

Fig. 7.33 Visitor Center Parking and Residence Spur, Circ. 1963, Photographer unknown, Completion Report, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports), File D2621.

Charles Denton and Son of Raton won the contract for the road paving and the infrastructure project in late 1962. Denton was also awarded the contract for the water and sewage disposal system, as well as underground utilities and drainage systems. Superintendent Stimson oversaw the project as well as Novak, Matteson, and Hall. As part of this project, the entrance road to the monument was also moved and paved (Figs. 7.34 and 7.35).

Figs. 7.34 and 7.35 New Entrance, Before and After, Circ. 1963, Photographer unknown, Completion Report, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports), File D2621.

Twelve new signs were established at the monument in 1964 including several small interpretive signs, directional signs, and a new park entrance sign (Figs. 7.36 through 7.39).

Figs. 7.36 & 7.37 New Entrance Sign Construction, Circ. 1964, Photographer unknown, Completion Report, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports), File D2621.

Fig. 7.38 New Entrance Sign, Circ. 1964, Photographer unknown, Completion Report, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports), File D2621.

Fig. 7.39 Crater Trail Interpretive Sign, Circ. 1964, Photographer unknown, Completion Report, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports), File D2621.

Throughout the early 1960s, funding for new infrastructure and basic park amenities seemed unending. Mission 66 provided the NPS with the resources to improve parks and monuments nationwide. Capulin Mountain National Monument finally received many of the improvements and necessities that Homer Farr and others had requested for years. Still, the monument lacked basic facilities for staff and visitors. The building of a visitor center and adjacent residences for park employees proved to be the most substantial, and certainly one of the most important, changes made in the monument's built environment.

Chapter 8 Interactions with the Community

8.1 The Visitor Center

The Mission 66 era of new and modernized park facilities led to the final design of the Capulin Monument visitor center and nearby residences. Not only did the Mission 66 program provide funding for the facilities, but the philosophy of the time, as stated earlier, led to the specific style and use of the buildings. Functionality, conservation, and centralization were key aspects of the Mission 66 era of design. As historian Sarah Allaback points out, the very term "visitor center" was coined by Mission 66 planners who wished to convey the then contemporary idea of a centralized, all-use building, instead of the older style of separate, non-centralized structures.[167] Efficiency and resourcefulness lead planners and architects, like Cecil Doty, to envision the non-invasive, yet intriguingly placed buildings.

By 1963, finalized building plans, along with the completed paving of the parking area and the installation of utilities, left only one more step, construction of the buildings. One visitor center, a garage, and two residences were all to reside in what plans called the headquarters area. Costs for the construction of a visitor center, comfort station (for the picnic area), two residences, a maintenance shop, along with other support utilities and ground improvements, totaled $172,871. Sutherland Construction Company of Colorado Springs, Colorado won the bid and began construction in 1963 (Figs. 8.1 and 8.2).

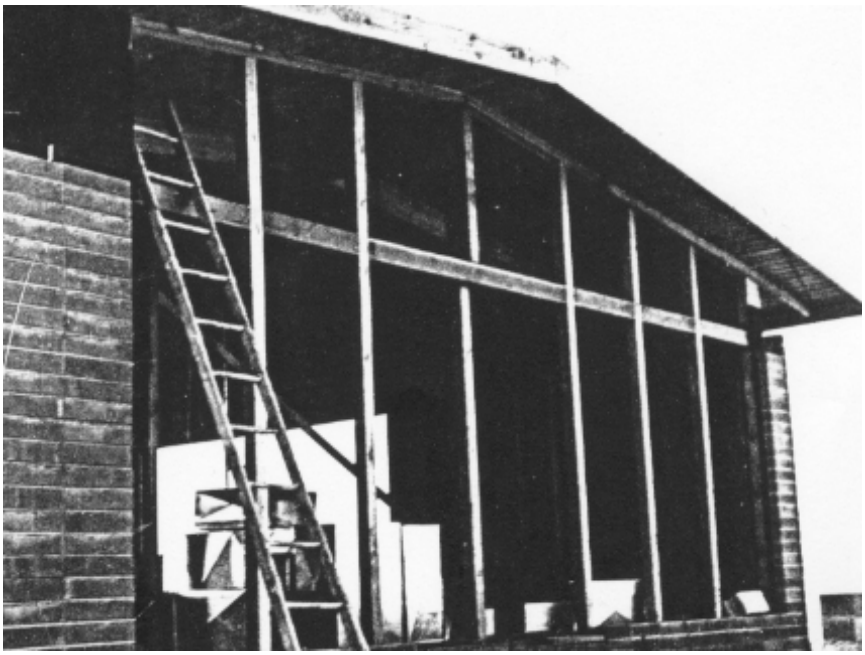


Fig. 8.1 Construction of Visitor Center North Wall, Circ. 1963, Photographer unknown, Completion Report, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports), File D2622.

[167] Sara, Allaback, *Mission 66 Visitor Centers, The History of a Building Type* (Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2000) 24.

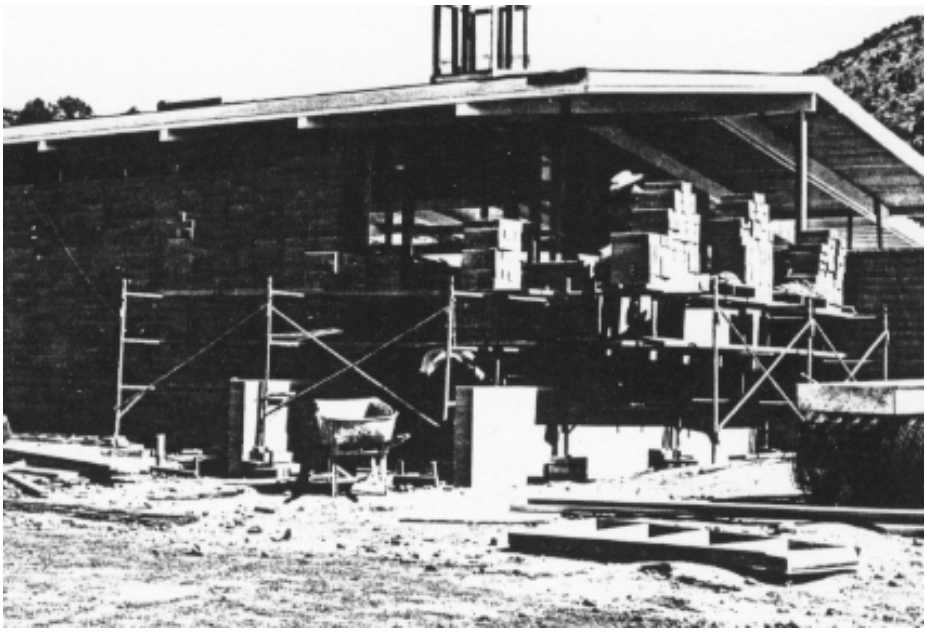


Fig. 8.2 Construction of Visitor Center West & South Walls, Circ. 1963, Photographer unknown, Completion Report, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports), File D2622.

The project was completed and the final inspection made on December 6, 1963.[168] The visitor center consisted of concrete block walls, tiled concrete floors, and a simple but modern single story design (Figs. 8.3 and 8.4).

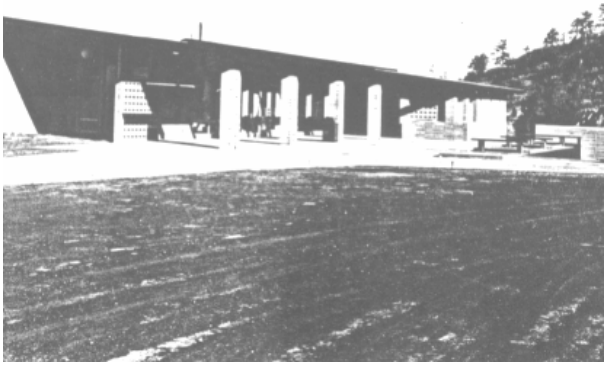


Fig. 8.3 Capulin Mountain Visitor Center, Circ. 1963, Photographer unknown, Completion Report, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports), File D2622.

[168] Construction of Visitor Center, Garage, Residences, March 30, 1966, Completion Reports, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports), File D2622.

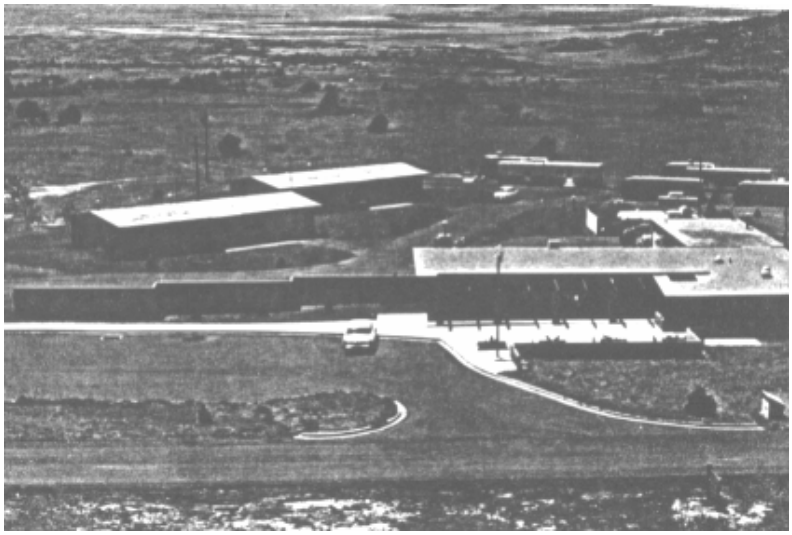


Fig. 8.4 Two Residences (left) and the Visitor Center, Circ. 1963, Photographer unknown, Completion Report, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Completion Reports), File D2622.

The buildings followed the new NPS ideal of non-intrusive utilitarian architecture. Later photographs give another view of the visitor center which has undergone very minimal external change since 1963 (Fig 8.5 and 8.6).

Fig 8.5 Capulin Mountain Visitor Center, Photo by Fred Mang Jr. 1969. Property of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Negative WASO, 69-449-1, (Charles Town: Historic Photographic Collections).

Fig 8.6 Capulin Mountain Visitor Center, Photo by Lail. 2002.

The visitor building, as mentioned previously, was designed by architect Cecil Doty who collaborated with staff and used building ideas from other parks and monuments to complete his plan. The center housed offices, restrooms, a visitor exhibit area, and storage rooms. Behind the main visitor building, the garage and maintenance room held maintenance and repair items. Also behind the visitor center, two residences provided housing for monument staff. The finalized completion report for the headquarters area, which included the above described buildings, was signed by Superintendent David Stimson in September of 1966. The buildings were built to serve their purpose well and were located in a centralized area, as prescribed by Mission 66 planners. Exhibit planning for the center had been underway for some time. Installation and editing of the long anticipated visitor exhibits became the next big step for Capulin Mountain.

8.2 Exhibits & Visitor Programs

Official Mission 66 plans for the visitor center exhibits began in the early 1950s. Letters describing what could be done and what could not, passed back and forth between the NPS Western Museum Lab, the Regional Director, Park Superintendents, designers, and virtually everyone who had any interest in the exhibits or visitor center. Finally, a general idea of visitor interests and NPS ideals evolved into a museum prospectus. The overall plan consisted of six exhibits which would give the visitor a glimpse of geology, local history, the volcano's history, and the NPS

in general. The following sketches were designed by the NPS Western Museum Lab, turned into final exhibits, and shipped to Capulin Mountain National Monument in February of 1964. The sketches are placed in the order that a visitor would encounter the actual exhibit upon entering the visitor center (Figs. 8.7 through 8.11).

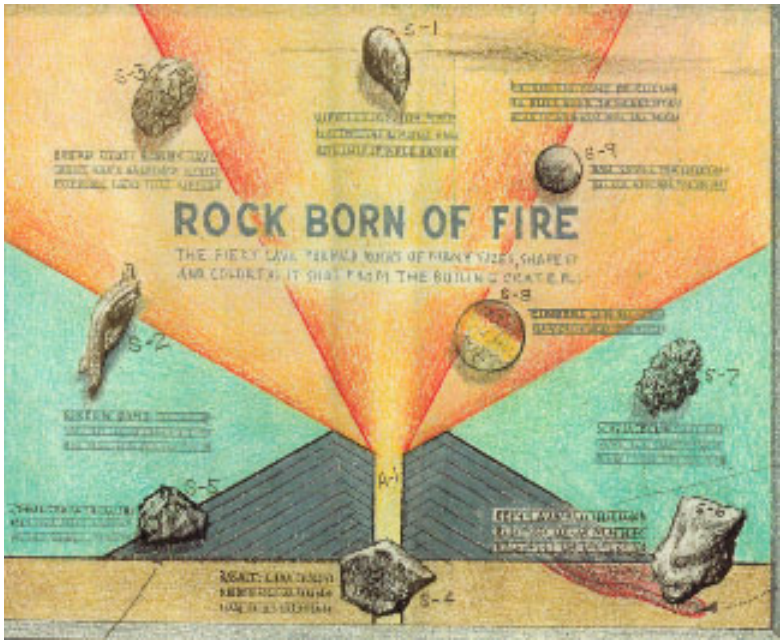


Fig 8.7 Exhibit Sketch "Rock Born of Fire," Sketch Artist Unknown, 1964. Property of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, (Charles Town: Historic Photographic Collections).

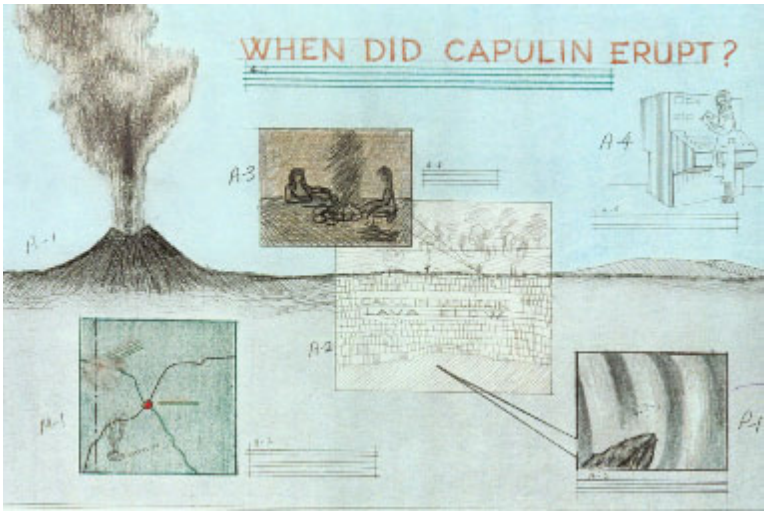


Fig 8.8 Exhibit Sketch "When did Capulin Erupt," Sketch Artist Unknown, 1964. Property of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, (Charles Town: Historic Photographic Collections).

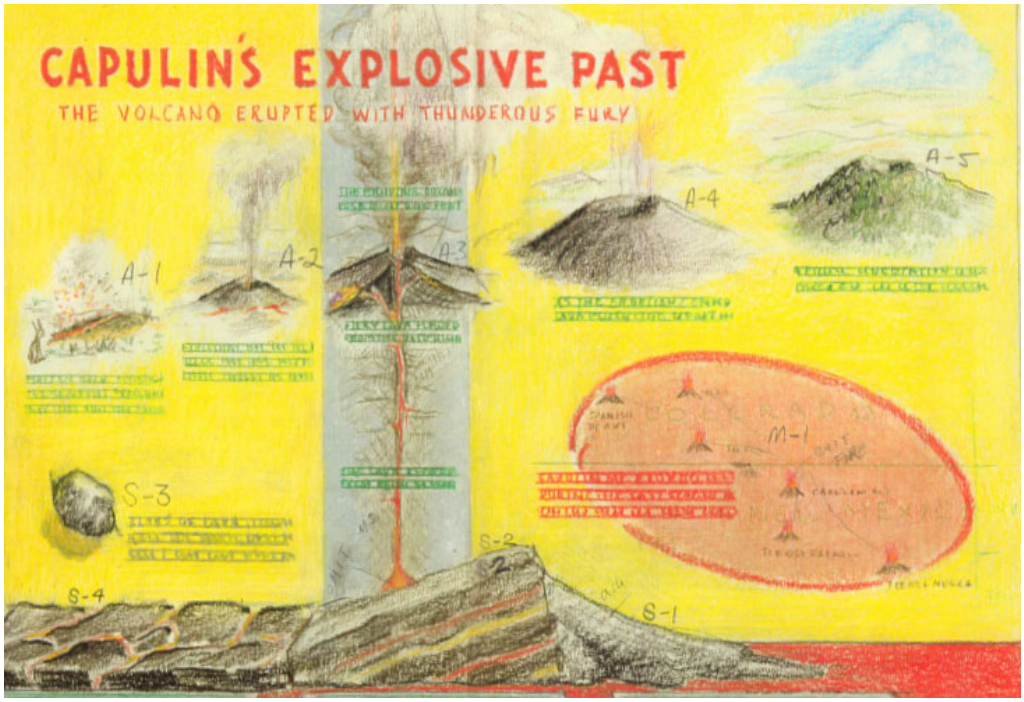


Fig 8.9 Exhibit Sketch "Capulin's Explosive Past," Sketch Artist Unknown, 1964. Property of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, (Charles Town: Historic Photographic Collections).

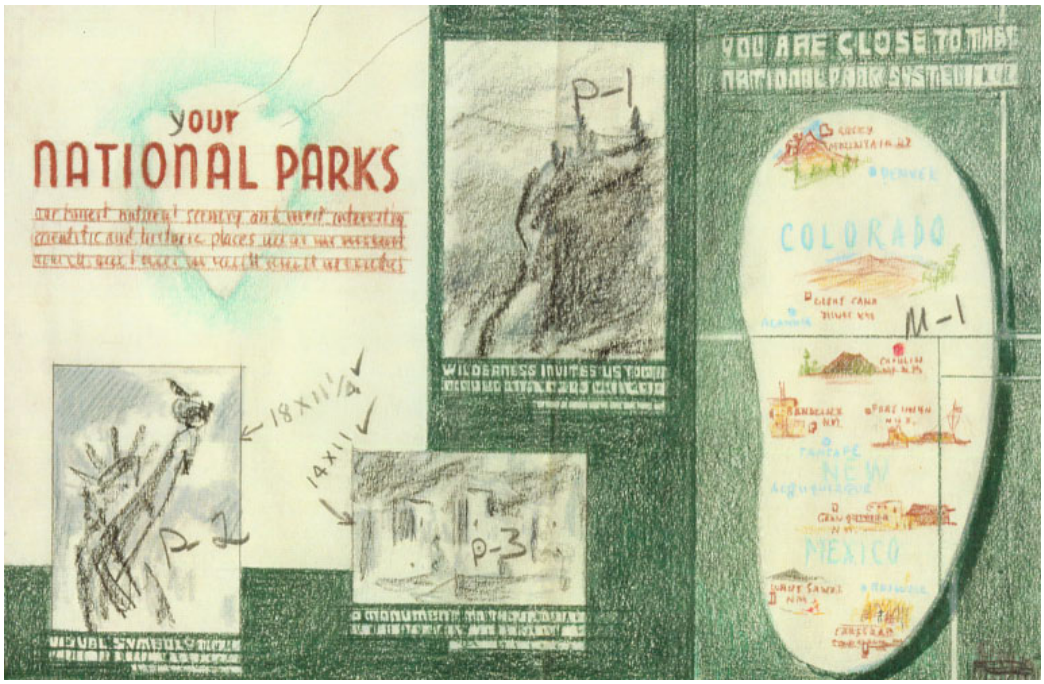


Fig 8.10 Exhibit Sketch "Your NPS," Sketch Artist Unknown, 1964. Property of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, (Charles Town: Historic Photographic Collections).

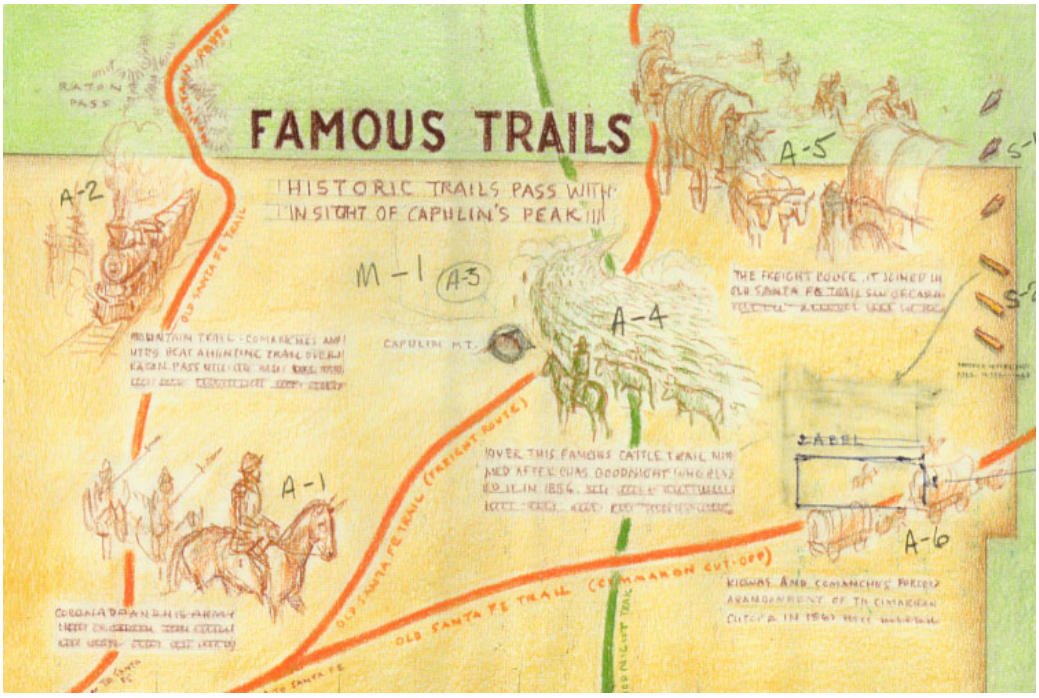
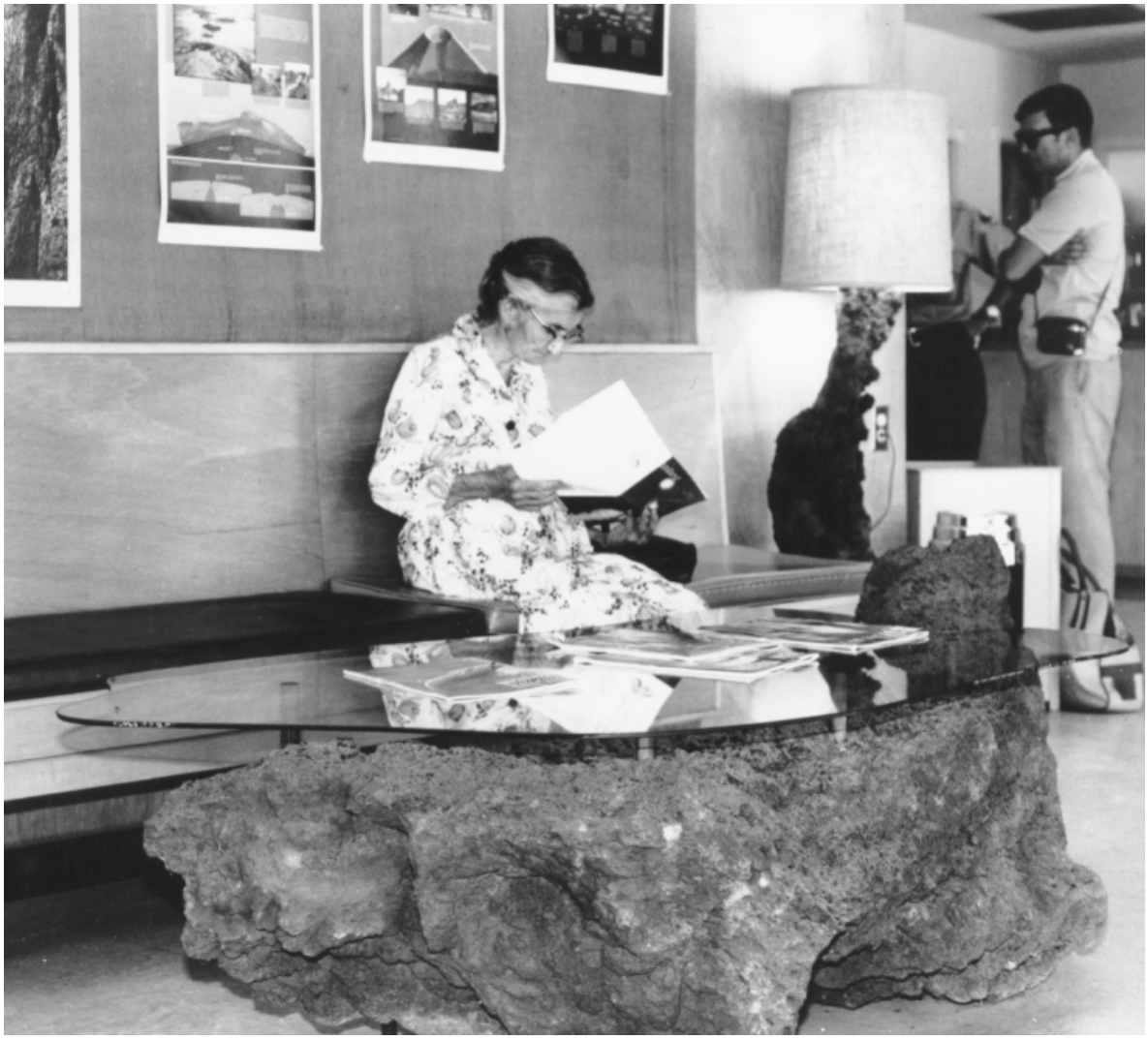


Fig 8.11 Exhibit Sketch "Famous Trails," Sketch Artist Unknown, 1964. Property of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, (Charles Town: Historic Photographic Collections).

A large volcanic bomb was also placed on exhibit, and can be seen in the following photos. The final exhibits were framed in black plastic display cases with glass coverings (8.12 and 8.13).

Figs 8.12 & 8.13 Final Exhibits, Photo by Fred Mang Jr. Circ. 1964. Property of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, (Charles Town: Historic Photographic Collections).

Over the years, the visitor center exhibits changed as new information, display items, and funding became available. NPS ideas about what was important to the monument and the public also changed along with monument superintendents, rangers, and naturalists. This photograph shows a visitor seated at the front of the visitor center near a new bulletin board and a lava based table (Fig. 8.14).



Figs 8.14 Visitor Center and Visitors, Photographer Unknown. Circ. 1970. Property of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Neg. 74-1971-2 (Charles Town: Historic Photographic Collections).

Throughout all, Superintendent David Stimson continued to persevere, pushing the monument to complete all of the essential facilities and infrastructure needs as soon as possible. Stimson did an incredible job of organizing and overseeing the monument's needs. He worked diligently to bring everything together. Stimson

carried out numerous management duties for the monument while requesting staffing, employee uniforms, trail markers, and an endless list of other needed items. As the new visitor center came together, staffing issues for the park were overwhelming. Reports from this extremely busy time at Capulin Mountain explain how badly new staffing was needed in order to keep the current staff, such as maintenance man Jay Ellis and several others, from going back to "the 100 hour a week plan."[169] However, in the midst of the chaos and over-worked employees, new visitor programs developed along with the center and the monument.

In late September of 1964, the new visitor center found itself under fire from Robert Barrell who visited the monument and found the exhibits confusing and "not good." His words were not taken lightly and the exhibits experienced the first of several revisions. Gradually, however, the monument staff learned that differences of opinion on what should be displayed were as numerous as visitors to the monument. It was determined that a new plan should be developed over time, as changes were deemed important by the staff and naturalist. In the mean time, most of the visitor center displays would remain pretty much the same. Near the visitor center, thanks to Cecil Doty's interesting placement of the building, a short nature trail was designed utilizing the lava squeeze up and other interesting features located directly beside the center. Photographs show a modern version of the nature trail as of 2002 (Figs. 8.15 through 8.17).

Fig 8.15 Path from Visitor Center to 10 Minute Nature Trail, Photo by Lail. 2002.

[169] Franklin Smith, to the Assistant Regional Director, 17 February 1964. Typed Letter, (Capulin: Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records, Official Visits 1954-1966), File A5427.

Fig 8.16 Nature Trail Marker Describing a Lava Squeeze Up, Photo by Lail. 2002.

Fig 8.17 Lava Squeeze Up on the Visitor Center Nature Trail,
Photo by Lail. 2002.

Other visitor trails were reconstructed, updated, and even received new interpretive signage similar to the visitor center trail. The completed crater rim trail markers or posts lead the visitor on a one mile self-guided tour around the crater rim, with the help of a trail booklet and twenty-seven numbered trail markers. The booklet

cost twenty five cents if the visitor wished to purchase it to take home, otherwise they could just borrow the guide for the trip around the crater trail. Each numbered marker or post had a corresponding descriptive and informative paragraph in the booklet. This self guided tour gave the visitor an interpretive self-paced tour, while minimizing the need for more staffing on the crater rim. The booklet shown here was printed in 1967 but most likely looks very similar to the earlier version printed in 1964 (Figs 8.18 and 8.19).

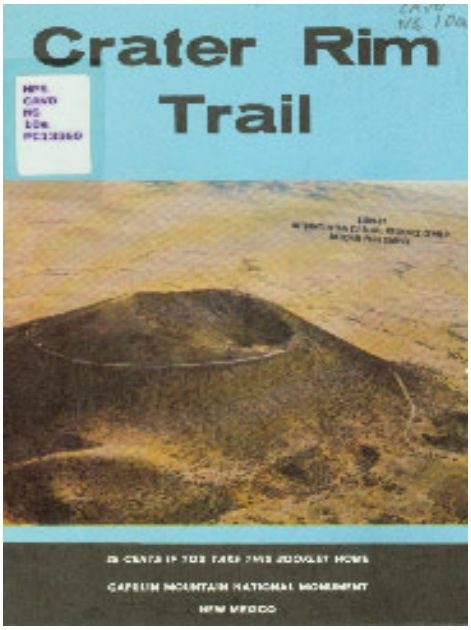


Fig 8.18 Crater Rim Trail Booklet, 1967, Property of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, in Cooperation with Southwestern Monuments Association, Globe: Arizona (Santa Fe. Intermountain Support Office Archives).

POST 5. CRATER VIEW.

Although the crater looks oblong from this viewpoint and every point around the rim, the aerial photograph opposite the first page of this booklet will show you it is almost a perfect circle.

The cinders which make up this cone are obviously favorable for plant growth. Look across the crater and a little to your right. From the highest point down to the bottom there was almost no vegetation in 1910, but now the slope is nearly covered. Most of the growth of trees and shrubs on Capulin Mountain has occurred during the last half century. There are many theories for this.

POST 6. SHRUBS LEANING INTO THE WIND.

Look on up the trail. See how the shrubs (pinyon) are leaning away from the crater. This is true almost all the way around the rim. When you face Post 6, if you will turn a little to your right you will be facing our prevailing wind, which is from the southwest. The shrubs on up the trail are leaning into the wind. Apparently the wind comes into the crater on the low side, where your car is parked, whirls around the inside of the crater and spills out over the rim.

3

Fig 8.19 Trail Booklet Sample Text, 1967, Property of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, in Cooperation with Southwestern Monuments Association, Globe: Arizona (Santa Fe. Intermountain Support Office Archives).

The new trails and amenities brought local boy scout troops, college geology field trips, and even local high school groups to a monument not previously frequented by locals. Excitement in the community was created not only by the new monument buildings and exhibits, but also by the prospect of growth and jobs in a somewhat economically depressed region. As visitor numbers increased, so did visitor programs and amenities. In the late 1970s, the visitor center acquired an auditorium for viewing an informative program designed for the monument. The program, which could be resplayed with each new visitor, consisted of a video about Capulin Volcano and volcano formation in general (Fig. 8.20).

Fig 8.20 Visitor Center Auditorium, Photo by Lail. 2002.

8.3 Boundary Issues

Along with the exciting new infrastructure and job growth, Capulin Mountain National Monument was also growing in acreage. During his tenor as Superintendent, Stimson managed to oversee the acquisition of ninety-five more acres of land to be added to the monument in 1962.[170] The next addition to the monument happened over twenty years later in 1987 under Superintendent Clark D. Crane. This addition totaled seventeen and one half acres of BLM land. The same act also declared Capulin

[170] Boundary Revision Act (76 Stat. 436), Capulin National Monument, Congressional Record, (5 September 1962). 392.

Mountain National Monument to be officially renamed Capulin Volcano National Monument.[171] The old sign was quickly modified to display the new monument name (Fig. 8.21).

Fig 8.21 Capulin Volcano Entrance Sign, Photo by Lail. 2002.

Throughout Capulin Monument's existence, concern over cattle grazing, tree cutting, and cinder mining have raised issues of boundary adjustment. The monument boundaries do not encompass the entire volcano base, which prevents total protection of the volcano and the surrounding supportive landscape. Lava flows, clearly visible from the top of the volcano and aerial photographs are also without NPS protection. In an attempt to surmise what options the NPS had in regards to acquiring new lands, Capulin Superintendent Mary J. Karraker recommended a boundary study in the early 1990s. The study created an immediate reaction in the community around the volcano. Spurred by the belief that their land would be somehow stolen from them, an anti-expansion group formed.

The group called themselves the "Folsom United" and elected chairmen Bill Berg and Dino Cornay to represent them. Dianne Brown served as the treasurer and secretary. Ben Doherty, who coined the group's name, also proclaimed their mission statement which was printed in the *Union County Leader* as follows:

> Folsom United resolves to adamantly oppose any expansion alternative of the Capulin Volcano National Monument, and further resolve that we continue a community wide effort to defeat that expansion proposal.[172]

Old resentments towards the monument fueled local suspicions that the NPS was trying to steal land or acquire properties illegally. The group refused to believe that there was a possible logical reason for considering an expansion. Newspapers

[171] Boundary Revision Act (101 Stat. 1547), Capulin National Monument, Congressional Record, (31 December 1987). 392.

[172] *Union County Leader.* February 8, 1995.

throughout the region ran the opposition's views, but the NPS was not represented. The true anger of the group seemed to stem from the feeling that they were not advised that this study was going to take place. Berg even stated in several news articles that the local government, undoubtedly referring to his group, was not involved in the boundary study and should have been consulted.

NPS staff felt that they had been wrongfully represented in the press and that they were merely investigating the further protection of the volcano. They were not planning a hostile takeover or a sneak attack on local land owners. The NPS gradually retracted the study, hoping to quell the terrible misunderstanding. The boundary issues are still spoken of in the community around Capulin Volcano. Some residents, to this day, unfortunately refuse to speak with NPS staff or anyone who they feel might represent the monument.

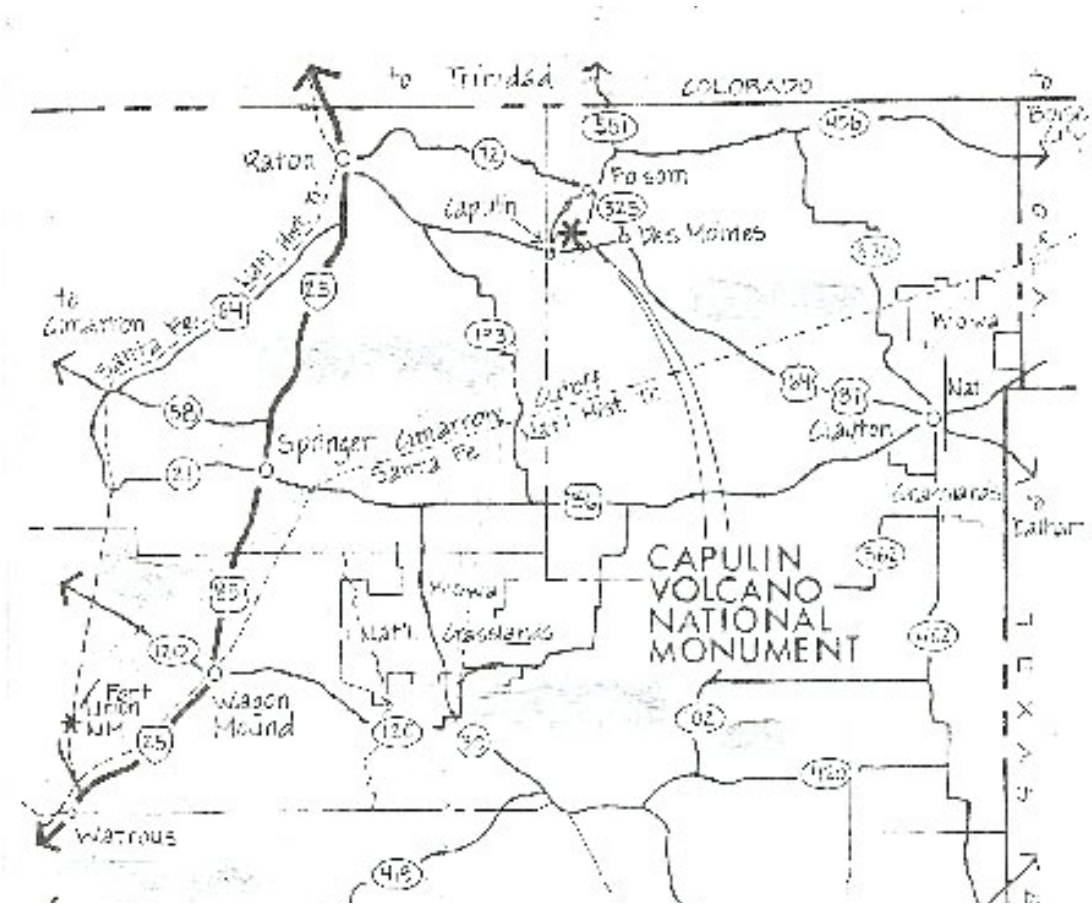


Fig 8.22 Capulin Volcano National Monument vicinity map, National Park Service, 1988.

Conclusion

Capulin Volcano National Monument has an extensive history of cooperation, conflict, and adaptation. The volcano has witnessed geologic changes as well as numerous demographic changes. The fragile and often controversial balance between preservation and visitor use continues into present day park management issues. Whose welfare should the National Park Service take into account when making decisions regarding Capulin Monument and the surrounding area, and how can visitors enjoy the monument without destroying it? There are many facets to these seemingly simple questions. Throughout all, the volcano remains intact, a reminder of the past and a monument not only to incredible geologic formation, but also to critical conservation efforts in the face of change and controversy.

9.1 Capulin Volcano, Photo by Lail. 2002.

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Denver National Archives - D
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Harper Ferry Center - HC
Fort-Worth National Archives - F
Fray Chavez Archives - FC
National Park Service Intermountain Support Office - SF
New Mexico State Library - SL
Capulin Volcano National Monument Library - CL
Capulin Volcano National Monument Administrative Records - CAD
Raton Public Library - RP
Raton Clerks Office - RC
Raton City Hall Mapping Department - RM
Clayton Assessors Office - CAS
Clayton Clerks Office – CC
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