

## Foreword

Volume Four of the history of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) records a pivotal interval of transformation for the United States and the agency. The years from 1939 to 1961 were dominated by the Nation's engagement in major conflicts that included World War II, the Korean war, and the cold war. It was also a time of great national sacrifice, rapid expansion of industrial capacity, spectacular scientific and technological advancement, and international leadership. Mary Rabbitt and Clifford Nelson record and evaluate the important role of the USGS in supporting the Nation's efforts in war and peace at home and abroad. The agency assessed strategic mineral and energy resources, and, in some cases, managed their production from Federal lands. The USGS used improved photogrammetric methods to update and extend its topographic and geologic map coverage and provide critical information for the management of surface-water and groundwater resources. The agency also began using automated methods in recording and storing its data and producing its products. But the national need for the USGS to use its capacity to deliver applied science did not prevent the agency from investing in and delivering wide-ranging advancements in fundamental earth science. The authors also highlight many examples of the USGS' rapid development or adaptation and use of new instrumentation and methods that included airborne magnetometers and radiometers, advanced seismometers, stereoscopic plotters, the Orthophotoscope, and geophysical logging and geological sampling from deep wells.

Through the combination of USGS Pick and Hammer Club "poetry" and quotes from Members of Congress and Department of the Interior and USGS leaders, Mary Rabbitt and Clifford Nelson provide insight into the perspectives of the working scientists, managers, advisers, and politicians on issues ranging from science priorities and organizational structure to the varying degrees of the agency's effectiveness and efficiency. By doing so, the authors have provided current and future generations with a better understanding of the people and the actions that have molded this part of the history of this remarkable institution.

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