

*In Memory of*  
**Lewis I. Rosenberg**

1962 – July 23, 2013

*Allen W. Hatheway*

**L**ew Rosenberg spent his professional career as a field-oriented engineering geologist involved in building two superb geologic “bridges” in his professional calling. The first was to link the now seldom-mastered art of field geologic mapping with the digital computer technology of forging seamless regional geologic maps.

Lew’s other devoted bridge was his ability to seek and live a fruitful, low-impact personal life in the New Mexican highlands of Bernalillo County. He and his devoted wife/partner, Doreen, raised thoroughbred dairy goats on a modest patch of piñon and scrub, steeped in the 500-year traditions of old New Mexico. Lew was a minimalist in terms of his own demands on the planet in his 52-year quest to better the ground across which he strode. Lew was just about as pure a stock of Old West pioneer as one can have the fortune to meet today.

Doreen emerged daily from this setting to serve as a pharmacist at the University of New Mexico Hospital. This institution fought as valiantly as did the Rosenbergs to overcome the devastation that visited Lew after he learned in the Spring of 2010 that the onset of his labored breathing was not the Valley Fever that many of us have experienced, but unanticipated lung cancer. Always a pragmatic scientist, and a non-smoker, Lew assigned his new malady to the secondary effects of the fuel-oil smudge pots of his childhood in the north San Fernando Valley family orange orchard, and a pair of chain-smoking parents. After a monumental struggle of three and a half years of advanced treatment, Lew “went west” on July 23, 2013, leaving Doreen with their rancho, their Highlands friends, the Thornberry dairy goats, his Ford farm tractor, and his lovingly restored Ford Bronco I.

Lew’s field geologic mapping has generated first-time, unified areal digital coverage of about 17,000 km<sup>2</sup> of the central California Coast Ranges (Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties), as well as detailed Quaternary fault mapping. For those who have field-mapped in the tick-ridden, rattlesnake-infested, brush-and-thicket terrain of this region, this accomplishment alone shows that Lew has been attentive to the wondrous mantra of the late



Tom Dibblee, worldwide master field geologic mapper of all time.

This unusual honor, bestowed by the (Tom) Dibblee Geological Center in their 2004 dedication to their new *Geologic Map of the San Luis Obispo 7.5-Minute Quadrangle*, best describes Lew’s calling: “This map honors Lew Rosenberg, for his years of dedication in helping others understand the geology of San Luis Obispo County and the Central Coast Ranges.”

Lew graduated from the New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology in 1984 with a degree in geology, and went back to California to seek a practice in engineering geology. While working in the San Francisco Bay area, Lew completed an MS in Geology at San Jose State University in 1993. He was a Professional Geologist, Engineering Geologist, and Certified Professional Geologist.

*Author’s Note: A more complete version soon will be crafted as a regular memorial in the GSA series, and we’ll do our best to even outstrip that for posting on AEG’s Legendary People webpage.*