## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks is gratefully given to Dr. H. T. Hall who directed this research. I wish to acknowledge the debt of friendship I have to John Cannon, Jim Hoen, Dr. M. D. Horton, Karl Miller and Alan Webb who gave needed, if not always welcome, help on many of the problems associated with this research. Special thanks is given to Alan Webb who furnished the computer programs used in the X ray diffraction work.

I acknowledge the support of an NSF traineeship which took the financial worry out of my graduate work. This work was commenced on an NSF grant to Dr. H. T. Hall and completed on a U. S. Army Research Office, Durham, grant to him. Thanks is given for this support. I also wish to acknowledge general support of the BYU High Pressure Laboratory by the BYU Research Division.

This work is dedicated to my wonderful wife, Marilyn, and our children; LaRae, Craig, Steven and Jerry. Their love and faith in me have been an ever present and much needed source of encouragement and support.