October 2, 1981
Annual Shrimp Peel
Knights of Columbus Hall
607 E. Whitney
5:30 P.M.

October 12, 1981 (Dinner Meeting)
Houston Oaka Hotel (501 Westheimer Road at the Galleria)
David L. Stout
Mustache Production Company, Houston
"The Jurassic Rocks of the Smackover Formation - A Preliminary Report" Schedule: 6:30 PM, Dinner and Meeting 8:00 PM
Reservations (Telephone only, 771-8315) must be made or cancelled by noon Friday, October 9, 1981

October 28, 1981 (Luncheon Meeting)
Sheraton Houston Hotel (777 Pule Avenue)
Patrick T. Gordon
Gulf Oil Corporation, Midland, Texas
"Dwulifier Field, Chambers County, Texas - Effects of Growth Faults and Deltaic沉积 on Hydrocarbon Accumulation in a Stratigraphic Trap."
Schedule: 11:30 AM, Luncheon and Meeting - 12:00 Noon
Reservations (Telephone only, 771-8315) must be made or cancelled by noon Monday, October 26, 1981
HOUSTON GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
6916 Ashcroft
Houston, Texas 77081
771-8315

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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

HGS has an exemplary record in publishing, at a nominal price, information useful to the Gulf Coast geologist. Currently in inventory are no fewer than 4 field-trip guidebooks put out within the past 3 years, the 1979 oil-fields subsidence volume, and the 1980 photo directory, all for $10 or less. The rather pricey (comparatively) sets of stratigraphic cross-sections are selling steadily at $25. The 1977 printing of 1500 copies of the "alternate energy resources" volume ($15) is nearly exhausted, only 4 being left at this writing. There is still a small supply remaining of Abnormal Subsurface Pressure (2500 printed in 1971) for only a buck. As noted in last month's column, the "Delta" volumes have been reprinted due to popular demand, and an environmental study of the Houston area, edited by Evelyn Etter and Dan Duggan, is just off the press. All in all, an admirable list, even for the largest geological organization of its kind in the world.

However, there is one gapping hole in our inventory, an area in which many of our sister societies have far outdistanced us, and that is field studies. Our first and last volume, Typical Oil and Gas Fields of Southeast Texas appeared in 1961. By way of comparison, the Shreveport society, probably the most outstanding example, has published 6 volumes of Arkansas and Louisiana field studies since 1947. Their latest, published last year, boasts 30 fields for $35, a real bargain at slightly more than a dollar per field.

This impressive series comes from a society with an order of magnitude fewer members than ours. Of course, it can be argued with considerable justification that a small, tightly knit group, such as Shreveport, with most of the membership concentrated in the downtown area and none of the transportation nightmares of Houston, is better able to turn out a publication requiring many contributors. Then, too, there are a large number of independents and small companies in Shreveport, geologists of which presumably comprise the majority of authors, so that "company policy" or obtaining permission to publish is not a big factor. Apparently it is an obstacle here, since past attempts by dedicated members to solicit papers commonly were met with this artful dodge.

Last year, as publications chairman, I was requested by a representative of a major company for permission to reproduce a sizeable number of illustrations from Typical Oil and Gas Fields of Southeast Texas for inclusion in a training manual. Since this company has been solicited for papers and obviously recognized the merits of the earlier publication, I suggested (while granting permission) that they keep this in mind when next approached. The value of field studies to both beginning and experienced geologists in the region and to the Society is unquestioned, and yet previous attempts to elicit support for such a work from one-man operations to major companies have been, almost without exception, unsuccessful.

In an attempt to get this project off the ground (and in the face of more than one recommendation to declare the Research and Study Committee moribund and have it removed from the roster), I asked Claude Rust of Getty Oil Research to chair this committee. Claude accepted enthusiastically and expressed the opinion that a volume of field studies could be prepared and printed in a year to 18 months. An article on the R and S committee and Claude's method of approach to the problem will appear in next month's issue. Many of you know Claude personally and many more know him by reputation. I urge you collectively and individually to help justify his optimistic and positive outlook that HGS can produce another field-studies volume. Volunteer your time to write a paper or, if you have data available but no time or staff to do the job, let us know and we will get it prepared and presented.

With the cooperation of those of you who are managers and the efforts of the great number of members who have something to contribute, I sincerely believe that we can produce a work of considerable significance and add to our past leadership in the documentation of Gulf Coast geology.

Bill Bishop
President

HGS JOINS ECH

By decision of its Board of Directors, HGS is now a member of the Engineer's Council of Houston (ECH). Some of the objectives of ECH are: to advance public welfare, to cooperate with local educational institutions to encourage and improve education in sciences and engineering, to coordinate projects of mutual interest, to encourage active participation of the constituent societies and their individual members in community affairs, to assist in the formulation of public policies with respect to city and county affairs, and to advance the practice and prestige of engineering, science and allied technical professions.

The HGS Councilor to ECH is Dr. Andre P. Delflache, Summit Geophysical International, and the alternate is Ms. Claudia P. Ludwig, Phillips Petroleum.

.................................................................

NOTICE

Bill Gibson wishes to donate a set of AAPG Bulletins, complete from 1950 to present, to a library or university. If you need the set, or know of an institution which would use it, please contact:

Mr. William C. Gibson
10618 Bayou Glen
Houston, Texas 77042
(713) 784-1065

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SOCIETY CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER

November 9, 1981
The Houston Grand Hotel
2525 West Loop South
HGS Evening Meeting
Frank W. Harrison, Jr.
President AAPG
Lafayette, Louisiana

PRICE SCHEDULES - HGS MEETINGS

Houston Oaks Hotel
Dinner .................................................. $18.00
Sheraton Houston Hotel
Luncheon ............................................. $12.00

RESERVATIONS (771-8315)
Please make reservations for the Monday evening meeting by the preceding Friday noon, and for the Wednesday noon meeting by the preceding Monday noon.
EVENING MEETING—OCTOBER 12, 1981
DAVID STOUDT—Biographical Sketch

David Stoudt received a B.S. in geology with honors from Waynesburg College, Waynesburg, Pa. in 1972, and a Master of Science from Texas A&M University in 1974. He holds the Houston Geological Society Best Student Award for his work at Texas A&M. From 1974 until 1977, he worked for Getty Oil in New Orleans and Houston, being involved in Gulf Coast Jurassic exploration, Nevada Basin and Range field work, and northern California Tertiary Basins. After a short period with Amoco, he became exploration geologist in the ArkLaTx and MaFla areas for Reserve Oil from 1978-1980. Since February 1980, he has been employed by Mosbacher Production Co., as exploration geologist working the Gulf Coast Cretaceous-Jurassic. Mr. Stoudt is a member of AAPG, HGS and RMAGS.

LATE JURASSIC REEFS OF THE SMACKOVER FORMATION

Algal and coral reefs are recognized in conventional cores of the Upper Smackover Formation from southwestern Arkansas eastward into the panhandle of Florida. Although only one reef has produced hydrocarbons in commercial quantities, attractive porosities and permeabilities exist (mean porosity of 15%, mean permeability of 20 md). These attractive reservoir characteristics result from fresh-water leaching, fracturing, or dolomitization. In addition, the reefs may have been positive structural features in localized areas during subsequent Smackover deposition and diagenesis.

Smackover reefs formed during periods of Late Jurassic maximum marine transgression (good circulation, clear water, normal marine salinity). They occur in three major paleogeographic settings: (1) the margins of Paleozoic highs protruding into the Smackover basin, e.g., Vocation Field in Alabama; (2) the upthrown sides of basement normal faults, e.g., Melvin Field and (3) the seaward edges of upthrown salt-cored fault blocks, e.g., Walker Creek Field in Arkansas, Hico Knowles and North Haynesville Fields in Louisiana, and West Paulding Field in Mississippi (Fig. 1). The buildups are commonly elongate, 3 to 40 meters (10 to 130 feet) thick and generally cover several square kilometers. The reefs occur higher (younger) in the stratigraphic section downdip. Also, the reefs are younger and have a more diverse biota in Arkansas and Louisiana than in Alabama and Florida.

Smackover reefs in Alabama and Florida were constructed by algae. Although vertical relief on the reef surface during growth may have been only a few meters, similar reefs in southern Arkansas and northern Louisiana have a vertical zonation suggesting an evolving reef community. These buildups of Tubiphytes are stromatolitic algal boundstones containing scattered corals toward the base. Diversity increases upward with the occurrence of abundant corals (Actinastrea, Complexastrea, Thamnasteria, and others), sponges, skeletal algae, and byrozoans. The reefs are commonly underlain and overlain by subtidal peloidal lime packstones containing oncolites and scattered fossils. These buildups can develop in close proximity to subtidal quartz sands.

* Please note the coauthors are: Lawrence R. Baria, Tideway Oil; Paul M. Harris, Gulf Research and Development; and Paul D. Crevello, Marathon Oil.

Fig. 1 Structural setting of late Jurassic Smackover reefs.
NOON MEETING—OCTOBER 28, 1981
PATRICK T. GORDON—Biographical Sketch

Pat Gordon received a bachelor's degree in geology from Texas A&M University in 1966 and a master's degree in geology from A&M in 1968. He spent the next two years as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army doing quantitative landform analyses at an army lab in Massachusetts and terrain intelligence estimates in Vietnam.

In 1970, Mr. Gordon became a geologist for Gulf Oil Corporation in Houston, exploring for oil and gas along the Upper Texas Gulf Coast. In 1975, he became Senior Geologist in charge of exploration in the Federal and State waters offshore Texas for Gulf. In 1976, he was promoted to Regional Geologist, supervising exploration in the Tertiary trends, both onshore and offshore, in Texas. Since 1979 he has been a Senior Regional Geologist with Gulf in Midland, Texas where he supervises exploration activities in southeast New Mexico.

DEVIILLIER FIELD, CHAMBERS COUNTY, TEXAS—EFFECTS OF GROWTH FAULTS AND DELTIC SEDIMENTATION ON HYDROCARBON ACCUMULATION IN A STRATIGRAPHIC TRAP.

Deviillier Field is an overpressured gas reservoir producing from upper Vicksburg (lower Oligocene) Loxostoma "B" age sands. These sands pinch-out near the crest of the structure, which is on the downthrown side of the Vicksburg Flexure. The field is 50 mi 80 km east of Houston in northeastern Chambers County, Texas.

The structure map of the lower Frio (upper Oligocene) shows south-southwest regional dip over the field. The isopach map of the upper Vicksburg shows north-northwest dip, and thickening of sands and shales into the Vicksburg flexure north of the field. Correlation of stratigraphic units indicates maximum growth across the flexure during upper Vicksburg time. Based on the regional stratigraphic framework, paleontologic data, and analysis of conventional and sidewall core data, the upper Vicksburg sediments appear to be deposited in a shallow marine environment. Based on analysis of composition, sorting, and grain size of cores and cuttings the field pay, the Loxostoma Sand, is interpreted to be a delta distributary mouth bar sand (Fig. 1). Pinchout of this sand facies against a prodelta shale facies has created a true stratigraphic trap.

The first year's production per well has averaged 1.0 Bcf gas and 13,000 bbl condensate; for the seven wells completed since the field discovery in 1975. Calculated open flows have ranged as high as 600,000 Mcf of gas per day from an average net-sand interval of 25 ft (7.6 m) at depths between 10,550, and 10,750 ft (3,216 m and 3,277 m). Most of the remaining undiscovered reserves in mature petroleum provinces will be found in similar small, but significant and economic, subtle traps.

DEPOSITIONAL ENVIRONMENTS

UPPER VICKSBURG
LOXOSTOMA SAND

Fig. 1 Depositional environments of Loxostoma sand.
REVIEW OF EXPLORATORY ACTIVITY

Gulf of Mexico, Offshore

Exploratory tests drilled in the offshore Gulf of Mexico as of July were slightly fewer than last year: 174 drilled during 1981 compared to 184 a year ago. Activity has increased somewhat in the eastern Gulf: although Exxon abandoned their test southwest of Tampa Bay, Odeco Oil & Gas is preparing to drill a 16,000' test on Charlotte Harbor Block 188, offshore west central Florida. Also, Mobil Oil is drilling ahead below 15,000' at their Pensacola Block 973 test.

The OCS Lease Sale #A66 held in New Orleans July 21 yielded high bids totaling $2,663,984,351 on 157 tracts encompassing 1,077,855 acres.

East Coast

The Cotton Valley sands at their Pensacola Block 973 test.

Onshore Gulf Coast

OCS Lease Sale #A66 held in New Orleans July 21 yielded high bids totaling $2,663,984,351 on 157 tracts

George's Bank in the Atlantic Offshore is finally being tested. Exxon is drilling a 15,500' test in 227' of water, at a site 110 miles east of Cape Cod. Shell Oil is also preparing to drill the George's Bank area 40 miles east of the Exxon test.

Gulf of Mexico, Onshore

Onshore drilling continues at a record rate with nearly a thousand more rigs running than a year ago. Completed exploratory tests totaled 1433 to July 1981 compared to 1284 at this time last year. In the southeastern states the two most active exploratory and development trends are the Austin Chalk, in southeast Texas, and the Tuscaloosa play in central south Louisiana. Giddings Field in the central part of the Austin Chalk trend has over 1000 producing wells and has produced over 34 million barrels of oil.

Recent discoveries in the Lower Tuscaloosa such as Hunt Energy's #1 Georgia Pacific in West Feliciana Parish continues to add impetus to this trend. This apparent Lower Cretaceous production appears to lie just shelfward of the Lower Cretaceous Washita - Fredericksburg reef. This is in contrast to the deep False River type Tuscaloosa production in West Baton Rouge Parish. Although the deep Lower Tuscaloosa play has been confined to the central Louisiana area, a recent discovery by Placid Oil in Waller County, Texas may be the forerunner of a similar Woodbine trend in southeast Texas. Placid's test was drilled in a fore-reef position and completed from open hole, 19,152 - 21,396', for AOF of 12.6 MMCFGPD. Bottomhole shut-in pressure was reported to be 21,128 psi.

The Jurassic Smackover continues to receive considerable attention, especially in Alabama and the Florida Panhandle. Gulf's Smackover discovery of Blackshear Field in Baldwin, Alabama has resulted in additional development drilling. The field appears to be associated with the Pollard fault system with structural and stratigraphic similarities to Jay-Escambia Fields to the southeast.

Farther west in the South Mississippi Basin, Placid has made location for a 23,500' Smackover test in Simpson County, Mississippi. This test is southwest of Piney Woods Field, which produces from a sandy facies of the Smackover.

Farther southwest in the deeper part of the South Mississippi Basin, Placid is preparing to drill an 18,000' Cotton Valley test in Warren County, Mississippi. The Cotton Valley sands are fairly thick, and massively bedded with rather low porosities. LL&E is also preparing to test the deep Cotton Valley sands at their #1 Mitchell, a 21,500' test at Tyldertown Field in Walthall, Mississippi.

In the North Louisiana Basin, exploration activity for Smackover and Cotton Valley objectives remains fairly high. Claiborne and Bossier Parishes, Louisiana and Columbia County, Arkansas are the most active.

Publishers Petroleum is planning to drill a 9,000' Smackover test along the west flank of the East Texas Basin in Navarro County. This location is updip from the Mexia-Talco fault system and is southwest of the John W. Smackover Field in Henderson County.

The deeper parts of the East Texas Basin are also experiencing continued Cotton Valley exploration with several deep tests active in Angelina and Houston Counties.

The west flank of the Sabine Uplift in Sabine County is being actively evaluated by Thomas D. Coffman who has eleven Cretaceous tests in various stages of drilling or completion. The Austin Chalk is probably the primary objective of these tests.

In the Gulf Coastal provinces of South Louisiana and South Texas, exploratory activity has continued to increase. In this area during the first three months of 1981, a total of 482 exploratory tests were drilled compared to 452 for the same period of 1980.

Most of the activity in these Tertiary Basins has been directed toward developing additional pays in producing fields. Several new field discoveries, however, have been completed during the last few months and some of these are as follows:

Upper Texas Gulf Coast

ANR Production has completed their #1 Southern Pines in Newton County from Claiborne perforations 5260-62 for 1.36 MMCFGPD.

Peninsula Resources has completed their #1 Hudson as a Wilcox discovery through perforations 8788-94 for IPF 546 MCFGPD plus 33 BOPD.

Middle Texas Gulf Coast

Paraffine Resources has completed their #1 Fagan in Victoria County. The well flowed at the rate of 466 MCFGPD plus 6 BOPD.

Lower Texas Gulf Coast

In the Lower Texas Gulf Coast area most of the new discoveries are deeper or shallow pool, or extensions of existing fields. Grace Petroleum has staked a deep test near North Amargosa Field in Jim Wells County. Their #38 Freeborn is scheduled for a T.D. of 21,000' possibly in Lower Wilcox or Upper Cretaceous.

South Louisiana Gulf Coast

In South Louisiana most of the discoveries also have been new pays in producing fields or extensions of existing fields. A second deep test in Plaquemines Parish, the Arco #2 Delacroix, has been staked. Along with their #1 Delacroix, also a 20,000' test, valuable information could be obtained on the deep potential in this area.

Dick Miller
Geomap Co.
LEASE ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTERIOR UNVEILS PROPOSED RULES FOR LEASING NPR

Rules covering oil and gas leasing in the National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska (NPR-A) have been proposed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The regulations provide for mitigation of reasonably foreseeable adverse effects on surface resources throughout the NPR-A; another stipulation applies to the special areas established by the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976. The regulations aim to ensure the United States will receive fair and equitable return on those resources, and a balance between energy development and environmental values.

MID- ATLANTIC OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE (OCS #59)

OCS sale #59 offering 253 oil and gas tracts totaling 1,440,376 acres in the waters offshore the Middle Atlantic States has tentatively been scheduled for December, 1981. Tracts are located about 64 to 113 miles offshore, in waters ranging from 295 to 7,792 feet in depth. Nineteen tracts would be for an initial term of five years. All others would carry 10-year terms, to allow the oil and gas industry time to apply for exploration and development techniques needed to operate in the deeper waters. Updated estimates made by the U. S. Geological Survey indicate a potential for 962 million barrels of oil and 7.6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in the area.

The sale would be the third in the Mid-Atlantic region. Sales in August 1976 (OCS #40), and in February 1979 (OCS #49), have produced 22 "dry holes" from 27 wells already drilled. Five wells have shown some gas, but no commercial discoveries have been announced.

INTERIOR LIFTS LEASING MORATORIUM ON MILITARY LANDS

The Department of Interior lifted the oil and gas leasing moratorium imposed by the last Administration on over six million acres used for military purposes. The moratorium had been in effect since November 1, 1979.

The Administration also announced support for the Hammerschmidt bill which authorizes 50 percent of the revenues from the military lands to go to the States in which the lands are located.

The termination of the moratorium affected bases such as Camp Swift in Texas, Ft. Chaffee in Arkansas, Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, Ft. Polk in Louisiana, and other bases all over the United States. Although the moratorium is removed and the acceptance of lease offers is resumed, leases may not be issued on acquired military lands until consent to such leasing is obtained from the military on a case-by-case basis.

100 MILLION ACRES IN ALASKA

The Interior Department is accepting applications from firms wishing to do oil and gas geophysical exploration on more than 100 million acres of land in Alaska.

Acres available for exploration includes generally all public lands and refuges south of the Brooks Range except for lands designated as units of the National Wilderness Preservation System, the National Park System, the National Wildlife Refuge System, and lands legally withdrawn from mineral exploration.

FIRST ALASKA ONSHORE FEDERAL OIL LEASE IN 15 YEARS

The first onshore Federal oil and gas lease offering in Alaska in 15 years will be held within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) in December, 1981.

The onshore Alaska offering will put up for competitive bid 1.5 million acres out of nearly 5.8 million acres identified in February for environmental studies by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

"This offering ends the oil and gas leasing moratorium which has continued onshore in Alaska for 15 years, and is the first of several onshore offerings within NPR-A," Watt said. "We have tentatively set the second lease sale for late spring or early summer in 1982, and plan to offer about 500,000 acres at that time."

ALASKAN OCS SALE #57 - NORTON BASIN

Under a 5-year schedule of lease sales approved in June of 1980, OCS #57 is tentatively scheduled for September of 1982. The Department of the Interior, however, is considering a new 5-year schedule and under a draft proposal made available for public comment last April, OCS #57 is tentatively proposed for May 1982.

U.S. Geological Survey estimates the area may contain 330 million barrels of oil and 1.2 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

A draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) concerning a proposed sale of Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas leases (OCS #57) in the Alaskan Norton Basin is available for public review.

OFFSHORE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

OCS SALE #68

OCS Sale #68 is tentatively scheduled for June 1982 in offshore Southern California. The U.S. Geological Survey estimates may contain from 56 to 482 million barrels of oil and 0.138 to 1.3 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

The area is located from Point Conception to south of San Clemente Island. Tracts range as far offshore as 84 miles in waters up to 4,900 feet deep.

A draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) concerning a proposed sale of Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas leases (OCS #68) offshore Southern California is available for public review.

PROPOSED NOTICE OF SALE PUBLISHED FOR OCS SALE #66

A proposed notice of sale for 209 oil and gas tracts in the Gulf of Mexico totaling 1,081,553 acres was announced. The proposed Outer Continental Shelf lease sale (OCS #66) is tentatively scheduled for October 1981.

The tracts are 3 to 112 nautical miles offshore in waters from 6 to 1,640 feet (2 to 500 meters) deep. Included are 91 tracts ranging from 54 to 112 miles offshore the Naples/Tampa Bay area of Florida. The U.S. Geological Survey has estimated there may be 50 million barrels of oil and 569 billion cubic feet of natural gas in the area (conditional mean estimates).
SEPM RESEARCH CONFERENCE
Marriott Hotel (Market Center) Dallas, Texas
November 29 - December 2, 1981

The Gulf Coast Section of the SEPM will host its second annual research conference on the theme Recognition of Shallow Water Versus Deep Water Sedimentary Facies in Growth-Structure Affected Formations in the Gulf Coast Basin. The Conference will present 20 papers and one core workshop covering the following topics:

- Modern shallow and deep-water facies of the present Gulf of Mexico
- Use of micropaleontology and trace fossils in determining paleobathymetry
- Seismic stratigraphy
- Contemporaneous structure in late Cretaceous and early Tertiary sections of the Middle Texas Gulf Coast Basin
- Shelf edge evolution and filling of the Northern Gulf Coast Basin
- Depositional environment of selected Gulf Basin Mesozoic and Cenozoic formations
- Structure and stratigraphy of selected traps, reservoirs, and fields in the Gulf Basin
- Analysis of exploration strategies in growth-structure affected sections.

Registration Fee:  
Non-Members $100.00
Members 100.00
Students 25.00

Send Fee To: Ms. Sheila C. Barnette
Sohio Petroleum Co.
8303 S. W. Freeway
Houston, Texas 77074

(ENROLLMENT LIMITED TO 300)

FROM THE U OF H

The Department of Geology is pleased to announce that two $50,000 grants have been received during the past year. One grant, from The Cullen Foundation, will help establish an image processing laboratory. The other grant, from the W. M. Keck Foundation (named for the late William M. Keck, Sr., founder of Superior Oil Company), was used to purchase a VAX-based, Digicon package to improve our seismic processing. The Image Processing and Computer Laboratories will cooperate with the established Seismic Acoustics Laboratory (SAL) in conducting research in 3-D seismic modeling and data processing.

The SAL, established in 1977 by Dr. Fred Hilterman (Geology) and Dr. Keith Wong (Electrical Engineering), is a consortium in which more than 40 U.S. and foreign companies provide financial support. The current principal investigators, Dr. John A. McDonald (Geology) and Dr. Gerald H. F. Gardner (Electrical Engineering), have extensive experience in exploration geophysics as well as in 3-D research.

The Department of Geology is presently consulting with the administration of the University of Houston to create a set of Allied Geophysical Laboratories. Such a structure will not only allow us to better interact with the local, national and international geoscience community but also will enable much more efficient and effective training of our undergraduate and graduate geophysics students.

CALLS FOR PAPERS

AAPG-SEPM-EMD Annual Meeting, June 27 to July 1, 1982, Calgary, Canada. The separate and joint technical presentations are centered around the theme, Resource Round Up. Author candidates are requested to submit titles and abstracts by November 1. The general chairman is N. Gale Kock, Petro-Canada, P. O. Box 2844, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P 3E3

SPE/DOE Third Joint Symposium on Enhanced Oil Recovery, April 4-7, 1982, Tulsa, Oklahoma. The program will include papers on the major recovery processes including "Chemical", "Gas/Miscible" and "Thermal". Papers are also solicited for less familiar methods including "process mechanisms", "case histories" and "geological-petrophysical aspects." The deadline for submission of abstracts to SPE Headquarters is November 2, 1981, attention R. J. Blackwell. This symposium is recognized worldwide as a major forum on enhanced oil recovery technology and yearly attracts almost 2000 participants.

The third Circum-Pacific-Energy and Minerals Resources Conference, to be held August 22-28, 1982, will focus attention on the development of energy and resources of the Circum-Pacific Region. The theme is "Resources for the Eighties". The program will feature papers on the following topics: Hydrocarbons, Energy Minerals, Hard Minerals, Geothermal and Renewable Energy. The technical program chairman is Allen Mabra, c/o AAPG Convention Department.

GSA FOUNDATION, INC. ESTABLISHED

The Geological Society of America Council has established an independent foundation whose function is to promote the Science of Geology. The objectives and purposes of the Foundation are:

1. to promote research both directly through research grants and indirectly through studies in related sciences
2. to disseminate information through lectures, publications, courses and other means
3. to support student studies of geology through loans, gifts, and scholarships, and reward students with prizes and awards
4. to carry on programs of continuing education
5. to work with and support other organizations having similar objectives (including contributions from the Foundation)

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2. Current funds to expend, generally within a year of the gift

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DEEP WATER CLASTICS: A CORE WORKSHOP

An SEPM core workshop developed by C. T. Siemers (University of Wyoming, Laramie), R. W. Tillman (Cities Service Research, Tulsa) and C. R. Williamson (Union Oil Research, Brea) is being offered twice at the Marriott-West Loop in Houston during January 1982. Registrations are being accepted by the SEPM Headquarters, P. O. Box 4756, Tulsa, OK 74104, for your choice of Friday, January 8 or Saturday, January 9 presentations.

Deep Water Clastics: A Workshop to provide the participants with a "hands on" opportunity to view cores from a variety of deep water depositional settings. Emphasis of the course is on the application of process sedimentology in the interpretation of depositional environments from the study of cores and associated subsurface data. A wide range of genetic units will be displayed, which will include features such as density deposits, debris flows, submarine tractive deposits, slump features, and deep water biogenic structures. The core displays and brief lectures will demonstrate use of such genetic units as interpreting the vertical sequence to generate predictive sedimentary models. Two themes will be put forth throughout the course: (1) application of the basics of depositional environments and (2) utilization of cores for the calibration of associated wire-line logs, seismic sections, and other subsurface data. The course notes contain comprehensive discussions of each core sequence, complete sets of photographs of all cores displayed, detailed lithologic sketches of the core sequences, and sets of wire-line logs through the cored intervals.

Preregistration fees are $110 for professionals, $100 for full-time students and include course notes, refreshments at breaks, and lunch. You may call the SEPM Headquarters at 917-743-9765 to reserve a place in the class.

ANTON L. HALES SYMPOSIUM

The Geosciences Program of The University of Texas at Dallas will sponsor a Symposium entitled Some Recent Advances in Geophysics on October 5-6, 1981 in honor of Professor Anton L. Hales on his 70th birthday.

The Symposium will consist of two days of invited talks by internationally known geophysicists from academia and industry on recent developments in geophysics with an emphasis on seismology. Topics will include recent COCORP results, modelling reflection seismograms, heterogeneous earth structure, attenuation of seismic waves, and global tectonics.

For additional details and registration information contact the Geosciences Program, The University of Texas at Dallas, P. O. Box 688, Richardson, Texas 75080. Phone: (214) 690-2406.

1980 DRILLING STATISTICS

The United States began the 1980's with a definite movement toward energy independence, with increases in exploratory drilling activity, discoveries of oil and gas, and especially important, in the number and success of new-field wildcat drilling, according to a report released by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists for North American Drilling Activity in 1980.

Exploratory drilling in the United States in 1980 increased 13.7 percent over 1979, while 1980 new-field wildcat wells increased 9.7 percent over 1979. More importantly, the percentage of exploratory wells productive of oil or gas reached an all-time high of 30 percent in 1980, and the success rate of new-field wildcat wells (becoming producers) was 19.1 percent, 1 percent over 1979.

New-field wildcats are the most significant kind of exploratory tests because of high risks in drilling but a great potential for discovering new and large reserves. A new-field wildcat is a well located on a structural feature or other type of trap which previously has not produced oil or gas.

The AAPG report indicated that total drilling activity in the United States increased 21.8 percent from 1979 to 1980, with a footage increase of 18.8 percent. During 1980, the U.S. petroleum industry drilled 54,723 miles of hole in a total of 62,462 exploratory, development, stratigraphic and service wells.

The greatest activity in the United States, accounting for 66.8 percent of all U.S. wells, was in Texas (19,253 wells), Oklahoma (9,073), Kansas (5,161), Louisiana (4,956), and Ohio (3,269).

The report also showed increases in drilling in Canada and Mexico in 1980. Canadian activity increased 22.7 over 1979, with a 34.7 percent footage increase. The Canadians experienced an all-time high of 58.3 percent success for new-field wildcat discoveries.

In Mexico, 1980 drilling activity increased 30.3 percent over 1979, with a footage increase of 28.3 percent.

With 62,462 wells drilled in the United States, 9,188 in Canada and 434 in Mexico, the 1980 total for North American drilling activity was 72,084 wells, an increase of 22.0 percent over 1979.

The AAPG Committee on Statistics of Drilling reports North American drilling statistics annually. The committee chairman, Robert R. Johnston, is with Chevron U.S.A., Inc. in San Francisco.
PROFESSIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

PROFESSIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS may be sent to Mrs. Virginia Lee Bick, 2632 Yorktown, Suite 544, Houston, 77056 or telephoned to her at (713) 840-9562 or 961-0406. Due to shortage of space, only news regarding members of the HGS or new locations of companies may be printed in the Bulletin. Information should arrive approximately six weeks prior to publication of the Bulletin. Sorry, no photos can be used.

John A. McCravey, formerly onshore district geologist with Diamond Shamrock has joined Warren Energy, Inc. His new phone number is 784-9363.

John Aubrey and Rich Fiore have joined Highland Resources, Inc. as exploration geologists for East Texas and the Texas Gulf Coast respectively. Aubrey previously worked for Bartling and Associates and Crown Central. Fiore has been with Amoco and Moore McCormick Energy.

Sandefer Oil and Gas, Inc. has moved its offices to the 23rd floor of the new First City Tower downtown. Sandefer Oil and Gas is an independent oil and gas company exploring along the Gulf Coast of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and the state of Oklahoma.

North America, Inc. and its affiliated companies will move to new offices located at 1155 Dairy Ashford, Suite 100, Houston, 77079. Telephone number (713) 497-2540.

American Royalties, Inc. have relocated its offices to Capital Bank Plaza in Allen Center, 333 Clay Street, Suite 3440, Houston, 77002. (713) 751-0034.

John C. Hibbeler has joined Mitchell Energy Corporation as vice president-regional exploration manager. He is responsible for the energy subsidiary’s geological operations in North Texas and Oklahoma. Hibbeler previously was associated with Shell Oil Company for 21 years in various geological and petroleum engineering assignments.

Chapman Cronquist announced the opening of a downtown Houston office at C & I Building.

IS HOUSTON CHOKEING ON ITS SUCCESS?

The Houston area has an air pollution problem and a traffic pollution problem. Nearly two million vehicles clog Harris County roads, traveling forty-seven million miles per day, and we are adding another 112,000 cars per year. Most of the time, these vehicles have only one person in them. These vehicles produce 47,000 tons of hydrocarbon pollution per year, added to industry’s 170,000 tons per year.

Can we ever have clean air in Houston? Researchers are not sure but they have made many suggestions: voluntary car efficiency inspection program; improvements in mass transit; restrictions on heavy trucks during rush hours; bicycle and pedestrian lanes; employer sponsored van-pools; and staggered working hours.

There is clearly no single answer to the air pollution problem. You can find out more about it, and some possible solutions by calling 228-0037, for a brochure or to arrange for a speaker and presentation on this subject. If you would personally like to help, call the Clean Air Coalition at 862-1669. (Expert assistance is especially needed.) Lastly, the City of Houston currently has a program of inspecting auto exhaust and efficiency at various shopping centers for free. Call 795-4994 for information and dates of testing.

DIRECTOR OF CERTIFIED PETROLEUM GEOLOGISTS


The Directory is a listing of nearly 1,800 geologists certified by the AAPG’s Division of Professional Affairs. The Directory offers each geologist’s name, business and business address, education and professional history, and home address. A special feature that makes the Directory a handy reference is the geographical index of geologists, with listings by country, state and city.

To qualify for certification, a geologist must have a geology degree from an approved college or university, a minimum of eight years of experience in petroleum geology and the endorsement of both members of the AAPG and the geologist’s own business community.

Also included in the Directory are the AAPG Code of Ethics, the DPA’s requirements for certification, the bylaws of the DPA and a complete list of officers and committees of the DPA.

Another interesting feature of the Directory is the table of the geographic distribution of certified petroleum geologists, indicating the number of CPG’s in each state and country.

Accurate, up-to-date and easy to use, the Directory is a valuable reference for potential oil and gas investors, for whatever geographic area they need consultation.

The sponsor of the Directory, the AAPG, is the world’s largest professional geological association, dedicated to the science of geology, especially as it relates to the world’s energy resources. Its international membership includes over 29,000 members in 30 countries.

For more information, contact: Ronald Hart, AAPG Bookstore, 1444 South Boulder, P. O. Box 979, Tulsa, Okla., 74101. The price of the Directory is $40.

HOUSTON GEOLOGICAL AUXILIARY NEWS

Sara Owen Gemoets will present a book review to the Houston Geological Auxiliary at the fall luncheon, September 30. Contact: Mrs. Bruce Frazee, 9906 Knobak Dr., Houston, 77080.

NEW ORGANIZATIONS

The Young Producers Forum is an organization of young engineers, landmen and geologists; whose purpose is to bring together the future leaders of the oil and gas industry. The functions are educational (primarily through guest speakers at luncheons), development of business and social contacts, and to represent the oil industry to political leaders, media representatives and civic groups.

The organization was started in early 1981 under the auspices of the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA). Other groups have been organized in Shreveport, Abilene and Tulsa. The Houston address:

Americana Building, Suite 1023
811 Dallas St.
Houston, Tx. 77002
(713) 650-1544
GUEST AND AWARDS NIGHT, JUNE 18, 1981

DeWitt Van Siclen (left) and James A. Wheeler (right) display their awards for distinguished service to HGS.

Wayne Z. Burckhead (right) displays the Honorary Life Member Award, presented by Jack O. Collins.

Chet Baird bids adieu to a very successful and satisfying year at the helm.

Members and guests enjoy the social fete.
To be eligible for active membership, an applicant shall: (1) have a degree in geology or an allied science from a recognized college or university and shall be directly engaged in the application of geology, or shall (2) have been engaged in geological work during at least the preceding five years.

PLEASE PRINT

LAST NAME FIRST INITIAL

To the EXECUTIVE BOARD:

I hereby apply for ☐ ACTIVE ☐ ASSOCIATE membership in the HOUSTON GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY and pledge myself to abide by its Constitution and Bylaws.

Signature:

This application must be endorsed by two active members.

Name (print): __________________________ Signature: __________________________

Name (print): __________________________ Signature: __________________________

HGS DIRECTORY & MEMBERSHIP FILE

Annual dues, $15.00 must accompany application. HGS operates on a fiscal year: July 1 - June 30.

Upon completing this application, please return entire form along with your Dues to:

Houston Geological Society
6915 Ashcroft
Houston, Texas 77081
771-8315

OUTLINE OF EXPERIENCE: ____________________________________

SPACE BELOW TO BE USED FOR PROCESSING ONLY

Action of Membership Committee:

Received: ____________________________ Approved for ☐ ACTIVE ☐ ASSOCIATE membership

Membership Chairman: ____________________________ Date: __________

Action of Executive Board:

Approved: ____________________________ (Secretary) Date: __________
DELTA'S IN THEIR GEOLOGIC FRAMEWORK

AND

DELTA'S - MODELS FOR EXPLORATION

NEW

HOUSTON AREA ENVIRONMENTAL GEOLOGY: SURFACE FAULTING, GROUND SUBSIDENCE, LEGAL IMPLICATION.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Liability for Geological Hazards
- Legal Responsibilities of Consultants
- Origin and Mapping of Surface Faults
- Ground Water Withdrawal and Land Subsidence
- Photographs of Houston Area Faults and Fault-Related Damage
ENTERTAINMENT AND MORE ENTERTAINMENT

This is your Society and the function of the Entertainment Committee is to fulfill the needs of you, the members of the Society. I'd like to have some feedback as to what we are doing right and how we can improve in the future.

Please check the form below and return it in the envelope provided, along with your computer sheet.

The first four events are traditional with the HGS. Please check them if you want them to continue. If you would like to see additional events sponsored by the Entertainment Committee, either check them or list them below.

☐ Shrimp Peel
☐ Annual Barbeque
☐ Annual Golf Tournament
☐ Annual Tennis Tournament
☐ Halloween Party
☐ Christmas Party
☐ Mexican Fiesta
☐ Valentine Dance
☐ Other ________________________________

What are we doing that you like? ________________________________

What have we done that you don’t like? ________________________________

How can we improve in the future? ________________________________
BULLETIN COMMITTEE

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR
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SUSAN CONGER, Gulf Oil Exploration and Producing Company, P. O. Box 1635, Houston, Texas 77001, Ph. (713) 754-7695

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE
CLAUDIA LUDWIG, Phillips Petroleum Company, P. O. Box 1967, Houston, Tx. 77001 Ph. (713) 669-3666

HOUSTON GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Houston Geological Society, was founded in 1923 and incorporated in 1975. Its objectives are to stimulate interest and promote advancement in geology for this area, to disseminate and facilitate discussion of geological information, to encourage professional interrelationships among geologists in the area, and to aid and encourage academic training in the science of geology.

The Bulletin is published monthly except July and August. Subscription price for nonmembers is $15 per year. Single copy price is $1.50. Claims for nonreceipt in the contiguous U.S. should be made within 2 months of the date of issue; claims from elsewhere within 4 months.

Communication about manuscripts and editorial matters should be directed to the Editor. Inquiries concerning advertising rates should be directed to the Advertising Chairman. Applications for membership in the Houston Geological Society may be obtained from the Society office, 6916 Ashcroft, Houston, Texas 77081.

COVER PHOTO

LANDSAT scene of East Texas showing Palestine salt dome and Elkhart graben. Faults buried beneath recent sediments appear as linear features. Note the clearly visible effect of faulting on the flood plain configuration. Interpretation by Z. Berger; LANDSAT imagery courtesy of Exxon Production Research Co.

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October 1981

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**Event Information**

### Houston Geological Society Bulletin, October 1981

- October 1981
- Houston, TX
- Various events and meetings listed for the month.
- New Associate Members added.

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